

Agenda No. 128-12 :

(File No. 6726/2019)

Existing Lime stone mine at SF No. 767 to 790 and 791/2 over an extent of 31.092 Ha in Ramayanpatti Village, Thirunelveli Taluk, Thirunelveli District, in the state of Tamil Nadu by M/s.Krishna Mines – For Terms of Reference Under Violation notification dated 14th March 2017 and 8th March 2018 .

(SIA/TN/MIN/ 27609/2018) dated: 02.05.2017.

The proposal was placed in the 128th SEAC Meeting held on 15.04.2019. The project proponent gave detailed presentation. The salient features of the project as presented by the proponent are as follows:

M/S. Krishna Mines are having two contiguous mining leases, namely G.O.Ms.1081 (OLD)/ RC.No.8480 (NEW) - over 31.092 Ha of lease area named as Patta land lease and in operation since year 1963 and G.O.M.S.NO.48 (OLD)/115(NEW) - over 12.12 Ha of Mine lease named as Poramboke lease and in operation since year 1958, adjacent to each other, in Ramaiyanpati village in Tirunelveli Taluk and district, Tamil Nadu. The mining operations are planned on a contiguous working basis as such.

This proposals towards obtaining specific ToR towards obtaining environmental clearance for G.O.Ms.1081 (OLD)/ RC.No.8480 (NEW) over an area of 31.092 Ha. Limestone from this mine is supplied to India Cement's Sankarnagar cement plant located about 8.0 km, East (By Road) from the mine site.

The lease area falls between latitude N8° 47' 39.9" to N8° 48' 01.7" and Longitude from E77° 40' 10.5" to E77° 40' 34.4" and falls in Survey of India Toposheet No. 58 H/9. It does not include any forest lands. No ecologically sensitive features like national parks, biospheres, elephant corridors, Tiger reserves, flight paths of migrating fauna,

etc., occur in buffer area of the project. The area does not come under CRZ category. The peak limestone production from this lease would be 4.55 Lakh Tonnes per annum. The anticipated life of the mine is about 23 years.

The mining Lease covered under R.C.No.8480 (G.O.M.S.1081 old) dated 11-6-2004 was originally granted vide G.O.M.S. 2557 dated 10-5-1962 for a period of 20 years from the period of Lease deed execution on 28-1-1963 and the lease expired on 27-1-83. Subsequently the first renewal of the mining lease was extended for twenty years from 28-01-1983 which got expired on 27-1-2003 vide G.O.No.1081 dt.2-9-1983.

The Second renewal was granted vide letter Rc.No.8480/MM4/2002 dt.11.06.04 with effect from 28.01.2003 to 27.01.2013. Now, the project proponent has applied for renewal of above mining lease for 20 years from 2013.

Mining plan including (Progressive Mine closure plan) for the period 2013 -14 to 2017-2018 was prepared and was approved by IBM vide their letter no TN/TNL/MP/LST-1860-SZ/1373 dated 02.09.2013.

Initially Form – 1, TOR and feasibility report was submitted to MOEF, New Delhi. While appraising the project to the Expert Appraisal Committee for Terms of Reference (TOR), it was observed by the MoEF, EAC Committee that, this is a case of violation of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has taken action as per the OM dated 12.12.2012 & 27.06.2013. The mining activities in the mining lease area has been stopped as per the direction of MoEF&CC vide their letter dated 4.4.2014. Further as directed by MoEF&CC, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board had initiated credible action by way of filing a complaint vide CC No. 280 of 2014 under section 200 of Cr.P.C. for Offence U/s 15 r/w 16 & 19 (a) of the Environment (Protection) Act 1986 before the Hon'ble Judicial Magistrate-V Court, Tirunelveli. Vide letter dated 10.09.2014.

ToR for this project has been issued by MoEF&CC by their letter No. J-11015/06/2014-IA.II(M) dated 25th November 2014. Based on the TOR issued, draft EIA / EMP report was prepared and Public Hearing / Consultation was conducted on 20.11.2015 at Meeting hall (2nd floor), District Collectorate, Tirunelveli, through District Collector- Tirunelveli, District Environmental Engineer- Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board. Final EIA/EMP report incorporating the public hearing proceedings was submitted to SEIAA, Tamil Nadu. As this project falls under violation category, Form 1, Feasibility report and Proposed Terms of reference was uploaded under violation on 02.05.2017. File was transferred to SEIAA-Tamil Nadu on 08.06.2018.

The SEAC noted the following:

1. The Proponent, M/s. Krishna Mines has applied for Tor to SEIAA-TN on 08.06.2018 for the Existing Lime stone Quarry at SF No. 767 to 790 and 791/2 over an extent of 31.092 Ha in Ramayanpatti Village, Thirunelveli Taluk, Thirunelveli District, Tamilnadu For Terms of Reference Under Violation notification dated 8th March 2018 and 14th March 2017 of MoEF & CC.
2. The project/activity is covered under Category "B1" of Item 1(a) "Mining of Mineral Projects" of the Schedule to the EIA Notification, 2006.

The proponent has requested for issue of Specific Terms of Reference for assessment of Ecological damage, Remediation plan, and Natural and Community Resource Augmentation Plan towards preparation as an independent chapter in the EIA/EMP report towards obtaining environmental clearance & the proponent has requested to exempt from the public hearing since the public hearing was already conducted on 25.11.2015..The committee decided that the proponent request for public hearing exemption may be sent to MoEF&CC for clarification since the public hearing conducted on 25.11.2018 which is beyond 3 years as stated in the MoEF&CC's Office Memorandum dated 29.08.2017.

Further course of action will be taken on the proposal after the clarification received from the MoEF&CC