

F.No. 22-2/2020-IA.III  
Government of India  
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change  
Impact Assessment Division

ParyavaranBhawan,  
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Date: 29th April, 2020


Subject: Pr-embedded prior Environmental/Forest Clearance for the identified mineral block with proven reserves (proposed mining lease areas)- regarding

This is in reference to the discussion with Ministry of Mines dated 13.03.2020 and subsequent DO letter of Secretary (Mines), Government of India, vide D.O. No. 6/4/2020-M.VI, dated 24.01.2020 and 16.03.2020 regarding auctioning of mineral blocks with per-embedded clearances.

The matter has been examined in the Ministry and it is to inform that State Governments/Union Territory administrations, after identifying the mineral blocks with proven reserves, may apply as project proponent, seeking prior environmental clearance (EC) under the provisions of Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2006. The States/UTs concerned, after obtaining such prior environmental clearance from the Ministry or SEIAA, as the case may be, may transfer the said prior-EC to a new user agency (successful bidder holding Letter of Intent), identified by the States/UTs through the process of auctioning or any other legitimate means, as per the provisions of Clause 11 of EIA Notification, 2006.

Similarly, it is also informed that the existing provisions under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 provides for State Governments/Union Territory administration to apply as User agencies seeking prior approval for use of forest land for non-forestry purposes in respect of identified mineral blocks. After obtaining such approval, State Governments/Union Territory administrations may transfer the said approval as per the relevant provisions under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, and Rules & Guidelines made there under, to a new user agency (successful bidder holding Letter of Intent), identified by the States/UTs through the process of auctioning or any other process as prescribed by the government.

This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.

  
(Sharath Kumar Pallerla)  
Scientist 'F'/Director  
IA (Policy)

To  
Secretary, Ministry of Mines, Government of India  
Copy to:  
1. PPS to Secretary, EF&CC  
2. PPS to DGF&SS, MoEF&CC