



3rd July 2010

My dear Smt. Yeddyrappaji -

It has been brought to my notice by the media and various other stakeholders that mining is continuing in the forest area of Sandur near Bellary, Karnataka in complete violation of the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) resolution issued on May 10, 2010 which clearly and explicitly directed that such mining be stopped. This is a complete and blatant contravention of the FAC directive. As you know, the FAC is a statutory committee of the Government of India and I am sure you will agree that violation of its order is a matter of very serious concern.

To reiterate, after thorough deliberation, the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) had recommended the following course of action in the matter ML No.2010 on which illegal extraction has been carried out by 3 mine owners, viz M/s SB Minerals, M/s Trident Minerals and M/S Veeyam Minerals:-

- 1.The State Government of Karnataka should be instructed to undertake survey and demarcate the area under ML 2010. Permanent heavy pillars should be constructed, numbered as geo-referenced with a soft and hard copy of map.*
- 2.All the mines in the area both contiguous to ML 2010 and otherwise in radius of 1 km of ML 2010 should be instructed to erect heavy boundary pillars numbered and geo-referenced with a soft and hard copy map and provide mandatory safety zone of 7.5 mt width all around the inner side of the boundary of these mining lease areas. These safety zones should be planted by suitable species to provide green boundary. The survey and demarcation including erection of pillars should be got completed within a period of one month and safety zone be planted during rainy season.*
- 3.Till the work of demarcation and survey in these mines is completed, the forest clearance of these three mines viz. M/s S.B. Minerals (ML No.2550), M/s Trident Minerals (ML No.2313) and M/s Veeyam Pvt. Ltd (ML No.988) will remain temporarily withdrawn. The withdrawal will be considered to be revoked only after a detailed report is submitted by Karnataka Forest Department, narrating the compliance in all the individual cases.*

4. The State Forest Department will ensure that during period, no transportation of the minerals is allowed till removal of withdrawal of approval.

5. The forest offence cases OC registered so far in respect of these mines should be investigated vigorously and taken to their logical end. Further responsibilities should be fixed on erring officials during whose period these irregularity has taken place and cases has not been concluded. Action taken report against these officials should be submitted along with the request for revoking of withdrawal of forestry clearance of these mines.”

I am in complete agreement with the above.

Taking *suo moto* notice of the media report and the FAC resolution, I am requesting you to take action to ensure that this is stopped with immediate effect and provide us with an Action Taken Report on this by 10th July 2010.

I am confident that you will extend us full cooperation in the matter, a sentiment you have always expressed in the past.

With regards, *Warm personal*

Yours sincerely,
Jairam Ramesh
(Jairam Ramesh)

Shri B.S. Yeddyurappa
Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka