The Board issued CFE order dt. 08.06.2007 in favour of M/s. Raghuram Cements Ltd., for Limestone Mining Division, in Kamalapuram and Erraguntla Mandal, Kadapa District to mine Limestone 2.25 million metric tons per annum. The mine lease area is 827.57 Ha. The Board stipulated condition no.14 as following:

"Industry shall do mining operations by leaving at least 300 meters distance from the state highway road."

The industry obtained Environmental Clearance dt. 18.10.2007 from MoE&F, GoI, New Delhi for Limestone Mining of capacity 2.25 million metric tons per annum in favour of M/s. Raghuram Cements Ltd. The Ministry has not stipulated any condition regarding buffer zone between the state highway and the boundary of the mine area.

The industry obtained Environmental Clearance dt. 10.12.2008 from MoE&F, GoI, New Delhi for expansion of Limestone Mine, Cement Plant and Captive Power Plant in favour of M/s. Raghuram Cements Ltd. The Ministry has not stipulated any condition regarding buffer zone between the state highway and the boundary of the mine area.

Subsequently, the Board issued CFE expansion order dt. 21.08.2009 in favour of M/s. Bharathi Cement Corporation (formerly M/s. Raghuram Cements Ltd.) to expand Cement Plant (5 million metric tons per annum), Limestone Mining (5 million metric tons per annum) and installation of Coal based Captive Power Plant (70 MW). The Board stipulated condition no.28 as following:

"Industry shall construct Cement plant by leaving at least 500 mts from any nearby village habitations. Greenbelt shall be developed in this area and industry shall do mining operations by leaving at least 300 meters distance from the state highway road."

Now, the industry vide letter dt. 08.07.2019 informed that as per the Regulation no.164[1A][c], Metalliferous Mines Regulation, 1961 – By adopting Control Blasting, the workings can be done up to 50 m.

It was informed that this would help them in
- Better blending of limestone or ROM
- Better Scientific Mining and Systematic Development of Mine
- Better Reserves utilization and enhancement of Mine life
- Optimizing Operational performances

It was also informed that they are practicing Controlled blasting using No-nels, the fly rock and vibrations are well within control.

In view of the above, the industry informed that the present working benches have reached the 300m from the state highway and hence they requested to permit them to operate the benches further on northern side, i.e., up to 50m of the state highway, within the regulation as specified in 164[1A][c] of Metalliferous Mines Regulation, 1961.

**Head Office Remarks:**

1) The Regulation no. 164[1A] of Metalliferous Mines Regulation, 1961 read as following:

(1-A) In the case of an opencast working the blaster shall not charge or fire a shot –

   (a) unless he has taken the precautions laid down in sub-regulation (1).
   (b) unless sufficient warning, by efficient signals or other means approved by the manager, is given over the entire area falling within a radius of 300 metres from the place of firing (hereinafter referred to as the danger zone) an also he has ensured that all persons within such area have taken proper shelter, and
(c) Where any part of a public road or railway lies within the danger zone, unless two persons are posted, one in either direction at the two extreme points of such road or railway which fall within the danger zone who have, by an efficient system of telephonic communication or hooter or loudspeakers or other means approved by the Chief Inspector or Regional Inspector intimated clearance of traffic to the blaster and have also warned the passersby & whenever possible the vehicle also, if any, which have passed by such road or railway: Provided that if blasting is done in such a manner approved in writing, by the Chief Inspector or Regional Inspector, that the flying fragments from blasting cannot project beyond a distance of ten metres from the place of firing, the provisions of clauses (b) and (c) need not be complied with,

2) The Board might have stipulated 300 m safe distance in the CFE orders as mentioned above keeping in view of the danger zone of radius 300 m. However, as per the Regulation [1-A][c] of Metalliferous Mines Regulation, 1961, mining can be done up to 50 m as requested by the industry, if they do the blasting in such a manner approved in writing by the Competent Authority.

3) The Board issued amendment to CFE vide order dt. 30.07.2019 with above condition.

The item is placed before the CFE Committee for ratification.