

Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Aliganj, Jor Bag Road,
New Delhi - 110003.
Dated: 24-01-2025

To
The Addl. Chief Secretary (Forests),
Government of Odisha,
Bhubaneswar

Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 87.520 ha of forest land for construction of Hidsing Irrigation Project including Alternate Road in Angul Forest Division under Angul District by Executive Engineer, Cuttack Investigation Division, Cuttack of Water Resource Department, Govt. of Odisha (Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/20559/2016) –reg.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the State Government of Odisha's letter No. FE-DIV-FLD-0025-2024-11966/FE&CC dated 05.07.2024 submitted through PARIVESH 1.0 portal on 30.12.2024 on the above subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government in accordance with Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and to say that after examination of the proposal the following information / documents is required for further necessary action in the instant matter:

- i. The proposal was accepted by the Nodal Officer in 2017 and now after lapsing of almost of 7 years it has been submitted to the Ministry for approval on PARIVESH 1.0. The reasons with cogent and valid justification for submitting the proposal with such extraordinary delay shall be submitted.
- ii. As per the guidelines issued by the Ministry vide letter No. FC-11/118/2021-FC dated 25.01.2024 the State Govt. shall complete the procedures laid down in the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, the minutes of the meeting of Project Steering Committee (PSC), shall be attached with part-IV of forms and processing of proposals, through Conservator of Forests, for completing the procedural/technical purposes". The compliance in this regards is required.
- iii. As Schedule-I species reported in the area, comments of PCCF (Wildlife) and CWLW Odisha on the likely impact of the project on the movement of wildlife needs to be furnished by the State. Further, comments may also be furnished

on the adequacy of mitigation measures like Site Specific Wildlife Management Plan or Comprehensive Integrated Wildlife Management proposed for the area.

- iv. The State Government has not uploaded the copy of the approval letter for Catchment Area Treatment Plan on Parivesh portal. The same need to be uploaded.
- v. The State Government has not uploaded site suitability certificate over 94.216 ha (NFL CA land) on parivesh portal. The same need to be uploaded.
- vi. As per the DSS analysis, proposed CA over 94.216 ha of non-forest land is falling inside the Reserve Forest boundary. In this regard the State Govt. shall certify that the proposed CA land is non-forest land.
- vii. KML file of the additional compensatory afforestation over 140.743 ha degraded forest land has not been provided/uploaded. The same shall be provided.
- viii. The State Government in their forwarding letter has reported that total 4425 number of trees and 1598 number of poles enumerated to be felled in the forest land. However, DFO in Part-II on PARIVESH has reported that total 514 nos. of trees enumerated to be felled. This needs clarification and correction in the form.
- ix. Shape/KML file of the forest land proposed for diversion over 87.52 ha is not available on PARIVESH portal. This needs to be uploaded.
- x. As reported by the State Govt. that administrative approval given by the Central Water Commission, Govt. of India vide their letter No. M&A/AP-1/2012/13-15 dated 04.01.2013, in this regard the State Govt. shall provide the comments whether the said approval is valid as on date.
- xi. The State Govt. / user agency shall furnish a report from the State Dam Safety Organisation (SDSO) regarding all technical aspects wrt the of the dam. The recommendations shall be implemented by the user agency to avoid any possible unforeseen conditions. In this regard an undertaking shall be provided by the user Agency.
- xii. Further, the State Government shall provide a copy of approval of the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) on the recommendations made by the State Dam Safety Organisation (SDSO) and submit the same.
- xiii. The site is also coming within Eco Sensitive Zone of Satkosia TR and as per the information provided the proposal for seeking WL clearance is under process. As the KML file of the proposed diversion is not available therefore, it is not known that how much area is falling in ESZ and whether FC and WL clearance can be processed in parallel or WL clearance is required first as

per the guidelines. In this regard the State Govt. shall provide their comments.

In view of above, the State Government is requested to furnish information/ documents as indicated above, for further consideration of the proposal in the Ministry.

Yours faithfully,

(Dr. Dheeraj Mittal)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

- i. PCCF (HoFF), Department of Forests, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
- ii. Dy. DGF (Central), Regional Office of the MoEF&CC at Bhubaneswar.
- iii. Nodal Officer (FCA), Department of Forests, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
- iv. User Agency
- v. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi for uploading on PARIVESH portal.