

Sub: Proposal for diversion of 469.18 hectares of forest land in (12) r.fs. Of eluru forest division for Chintalapudi Lift Irrigation Scheme package – i & ii, in favour of Chief Engineer, Godavari delta system, Dowleswaram, Government of Andhra Pradesh–regarding.

1. The Government of Andhra Pradesh, Environment, Forests, Science & Technology (Section. II) vide their letter No. 3733/Section. II/2016 dated 09.08.2016 submitted a fresh proposal to obtain prior approval of the Central Government, in terms of the section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 469.18 hectares of forest land in (12) R.Fs. of Eluru Forest Division for Chintalapudi Lift Irrigation Scheme Package – I & II, in favour of Chief Engineer, Godavari Delta System, Dowleswaram Government of Andhra Pradesh.
2. **The above subject proposal was placed before FAC in its meetings held on 9-10 November, 2016 and 20.07.2017.**
3. The FAC in its meetings held on 9-10 November, 2016 examined the purpose wise break up forest land proposed for diversion as given below.

S.N	Patch No.	Purpose of the area required	Name of the Reserved Forest	Extent in (Ha.)
i	Lift 2 pressure main. Link canal 1 and 2 and formation of saddle bounds	To lift the water to the Main Canal.	Karakapadu RF	65.140
ii	Main Canal from km. 0.000 to km.1.356	For Main Canal Excavation for Irrigation purpose		
iii	Main Canal from km. 29.351 to km. 31.152 & Jalleru bund.	For Main Canal Excavation for Irrigation purpose and formation	Bedadanuru RF	135.890
vi	Main Canal from km. 48.350 to km. 51.650	For Main Canal and distributaries Excavation for Irrigation purpose	Darbagudem RF	53.780
v	Man Canal from Km61.147 to Km 62.417	For Main Canal Excavation for Irrigation purpose	Erraguntapally RF	16.780
vi	Distributaries from Km 0.000 to 36.00	For the Distributory system	Marlagudem RF	17.260
vii	Distributaries from Km 36.000 to 68.00	For the Distributory system	AR Palem RF	5.650
			Chintalapudi RF	61.170
			Singagudem RF	9.230
			Bhogulu FB	5.310
			Ramasingavaram RF	38.040
			Thadikellapudi RF	33.640
			Nallajerla RF	27.340
			Grand Total	469.180

4. The **FAC** in its meetings held on **9-10 November, 2016** also took into consideration the Site Inspection Report of Regional Office, Chennai and **FAC after thorough deliberation desired to obtain the following essential information from the State Govt.**

1. The Catchment Area Treatment Plan with cost projections as due be provided
2. The duly approved R& R Plan be provided.
3. The complete details of having followed mandated procedure as per Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, including copies of Gram Sabha Resolution (vernacular and translated) be provided.
4. Only 250 Ha of the 508.39 Ha of non- forest land provided is suitable for Compensatory Afforestation (CA). Alternate Compensatory Afforestation land be provided in lieu of the remaining area proposed to be diverted along with site suitability certificate for the entire CA land. The CA scheme to be revised accordingly

5. The above recommendation was communicated to the State Government of Andhra Pradesh vide Ministry's letter dated 16.12.2016 (**Pg. 379/c**). The State Government of Andhra Pradesh, Environment, Forests, Science & Technology (Section. II) vide their letter No. 3733/Section-II/2016 dated 22.06.2017 (**Pg. 380-622/c**) has forwarded their reply . The information sought and reply thereof are as given below:

S. No.	Observations raised by GoI, MoEF&CC	Reply furnished by PCCF & HoFF
1	The catchment area treatment plan with cost projection as due be provided.	In this regard the state government informed that the user agency has submitted that in the 1 st phase the revised requirement of Forest land is limited to canals and pressure main works duly deleting Jallery bund, spill channel and saddle bund portion. As much there will not be any submergence of Forest area in Jalleru Reservoir system in the 1 st phase. Hence, the CAT plan does not arise in the 1 st Phase. However, CAT plan will be submitted during the 2 nd phase proposals. However, the copy of the approved CAT plan has not been submitted.
2	The duly approved R&R Plan be provided	In this regard the state government informed that the user agency has submitted that in the 1 st phase, the revised requirement of Forest land is limited to canals & pressure main works. As such the rehabilitation and resettlement plans does not arise in the 1 st phase. However, R&R plan will be submitted during the 2 nd phase proposals, as there will not be any submergence in the 1 st phase. However, the copy of the approved R & R plan has not been submitted.
3	The complete details of having followed mandated procedure as per Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006. Including copies of Grama	In this regard the state government informed that the user agency has submitted necessary documents under Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 including Grama Sabha Resolutions duly signed by the

	Sabha Resolutions (vernacular and translated) be provided.	Collector & District Magistrate, West Godavari. The copy of the same may kindly be seen at (Pg. 385-488/c).
4	Only 250 ha of the 508.39 ha of non-forest land provided is suitable for Compensatory Afforestation (CA). Alternate compensatory afforestation land be provided in lieu, of the remaining area proposed to be diverted along with site suitability certificate for the entire CA land. The CA scheme to be revised accordingly.	In this regard the state government informed that the Chief Conservator of Forests, Rajahmundry vide letter dt.09.06.2017 has submitted the revised CA scheme for 519.88 ha for Rs.924.59 Lakhs as per the revised requirement of forest land in the 1 st phase submitted by the Divisional Forest Officer, Visakhapatnam and CCF/CF, Vishakhapatnam for the non-forest CA land identified for 519.88 ha and handed over in Vishakhapatnam. The excess land of 519.88-347.64=172.24 ha may be adjusted in the next phase of the project. The copy of the same may kindly be seen at (Pg. 496-622/c).

6. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, Andhra Pradesh in his letter 4th cited, has reported that the demand of the project is increased by the Government of Andhra Pradesh vide G.O.Ms.No.94, Water Resources Department, Dt.03.09.2016 and accordingly the requirement of forest land also increased from 2704 ha to 3642 ha in which the Jalleru reservoir component of forest land also increases from 1938 ha to 2875 ha as the capacity of the reservoir is increased from 8 TMC to 20 TMC extending the irrigation facilities to Krishna District also. In the process of phasing out the project the Water Resources Department Authorities i.e. the user agency proposed to obtain the Forest Clearances phase wise as noted below:-

S. No.	Category	Forest land required in (Ha)	Remarks
1	First Phase	347.64	Jalleru Reservoir Component is withdrawn in this phase
2	Second Phase	3294.36	The Jalleru Reservoir component will be included in this phase.
	Total	3642.00	

7.

The State Government has also reported that the Water Resources Department has come up with proposal for diversion of 347.64 Ha (i.e. 469.18 Ha – 121.54 of Forest land in First Phase duly deleting the Jallery Bund – 56.02+ Spill was-60.74 + Saddle bund -4.78 which will be executed in second phase. With the above change, the requirement of

Forest land in 1st phase is only 347.64 ha as it is the linear stretch for canal and pressure mains. Hence, as reported by the User Agency, impounding of water and submergence of forest area in Jalleru reservoir does not arise in first phase.

8. It is also imperative to mention here that the State Government has not yet furnished the CAT Plan, R&R Plan stating the above reasons. The purposed-wise break-up for 347.64 ha may please be seen at [page 459-491/c](#).
9. It was also pointed out here that the DFO Visakhapatnam in his inspection note stated that the entire area of 519.88 ha identified for CA is not suitable for plantation through semi- mechanical plantation method as there is good nature growth and removal of their natural forest will lead to excessive soil erosion (Page 520-524/c) and there is only possibility of ANR model of planting in the following area:-

S. N.	Identified Area with Location	Suitable for ANR	Excavation of continuous contour trenches	Page no.
1.	140.28 Ha. (Rayapurayapeta) village	100 ha	30 ha	520/c
2.	54.08 Ha (Cheeralapalli village)	30 ha	20 ha	521/c
3.	60.72 ha (Gandhavarman villages)	30 ha	30 ha	522/c
4.	202.42 ha (Tunnapala Village)	150 ha	40 ha	523/c
5.	62.38 ha (Bhogpuram village)	-	40 ha	524/c
Total	579.88 ha	310 ha	160 ha	

10. It was also observed by the then AIGF (RP) that now project is to be taken of in 2 phases apparently and CAT plan, R & R Plan, have not been provided stating that during phase I on canals pressure main works are involved and there will be no submergence. It may be noted that this has resulted in reduction of area from initially purposed 469.18 ha for 347.64 ha, but second phase with requirement of 3294.36 ha will be taken up later. It prima facie appears that canals pressure mains will be taken up Ist , later other works including reservoir will be taken up. **The issue of concern is that by permitting this project in apparent piece meal basic *fait accompli* situation may arise.**

The instant proposal of lift Irrigation has been modified and no apparent reason Justification exist for taking the matter up in phases and present modification. The State Government may be asked to clarify whether the phase I can survive if phase II is not considered favorably.

FAC Recommendation on 20.07.2017:

11. The matter was considered by the FAC in its meeting held on **20th July, 201** and it was observed that the project proponent had initially made proposal for diversion of 469.198 ha of forest land and submitted the Ministry based on which the proposal was considered in the FAC on 09/10th Nov., 2016 **following which the FAC sought further information from the State Government:**
- (i) The compliances received from the State in response were examined and it was observed that the initial proposal of 469.198 ha have now reduced to 347.64 ha.
 - (ii) It was also mentioned by the State Government officials that there would a second phase requiring 3294.36 ha.
 - (iii) The FAC considered the submission and during discussion with the State Government officials present and sought clarification as to **whether the present proposal for 347.64 ha could survive as a standalone project or not.**

After detailed deliberation, the FAC recommended to defer the proposal till clarification as sought above, is received.

12. After FAC meeting held on 20.07.2017, No information has been received from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh in this regard. However, the project proponent vide their letter No. CE/GDS/OT1/AEE.8/CHLIS/210 dated 01.08.2017 has informed that the Government of Andhra Pradesh desires to obtain the clearance for diversion of total forest land i.e. 3642 Ha (approximately) required for the scheme in phased manner as detailed below :

- I.** In Phase-I, an extent of 347.64 Ha required for execution of Canal, Pressure main and distributary system
- II.** In phase-II, proposal for diversion of forest land to an extent of 200 Ha (Approximately) required for Jalleru Reservoir Bund, link bounds will be submitted within two months.
- III.** In phase-II, proposal will be submitted for diversion of balance forest area i.e. 3094.36 Ha required for submergence of Jalleru Reservoir within six months after identification of CA land, CAT and R&R Plan.

In view of above, the user agency is requested to kindly approve the proposal for diversion of 347.64 ha of forest land in (12) R.F's of Eluru Forest Division for Chintalapudi Lift Irrigation Scheme in favour of Chief Engineer, Godavari Delta System, Downlaiswaram so as to facilitate early completion of Canal works, Pressure Main & Distributary system of the scheme in the first phase, which is already under the consideration of the MoEF & CC.

13. It is noted that the State Government as well as project proponent has not clarified whether the present proposal for 347.64 ha could survive as a standalone project or not, as sought by FAC in its meeting held on 20.07.2017.

As desired by the Competent Authority, the above facts related to the proposal may be placed before FAC meeting scheduled to be held on **17.08.2017**.