

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FOREST ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD
ON 15th January, 2019

Agenda No. 1

F. No.8-70/2018-FC

Sub: Diversion of 40.5084 ha. of forest land in favour of ADM- cum- Dy. DIR ADMN c/o ADM Office Bilaspur for the construction of proposed AIIMS at Kothipura, within the jurisdiction of Bilaspur Forest Division, District Bilaspur, State of Himachal Pradesh (Online Proposal No. FP/HP/DISP/35397/2018)-regarding

1. This was considered in Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) meeting held on 19.12.2018. FAC had made the following observations:
 - (i) It is not clear why such a big area is required for the instant proposal;
 - (ii) KML file of the proposed forest land be submitted;
 - (iii) No justification has been provided by the UA/State Govt. for the use of forest area for dumping site-1 (4.5 ha) and dumping site-2 (3.5 ha).
 - (iv) A technical person/officials conversant with the layout plan and specification of the proposal may attend the upcoming FAC meeting.
2. The above shortcomings were communicated to the State Government of Himachal Pradesh on 02nd January, 2019 and reply of the same is received.
3. After analysing the reply from the state, the proposal was again placed before the FAC in its meeting on 15.01.2019. The corresponding detailed agenda note may be seen at *parivesh.nic.in*.

Decisions of FAC

The FAC after thorough deliberations and discussions, recommended for grant of in-principle approval for the diversion of of 40.5084 ha. of forest land in favour of ADM- cum- Dy. DIR ADMN, Bilaspur for the construction of proposed AIIMS at Kothipura, within the jurisdiction of Bilaspur Forest Division, District Bilaspur, State of Himachal Pradesh with general, standard and following Specific conditions:

- i. The User Agency shall manage the unused area within the diverted forest area as green cover, planting with local species in consultation with the State Forest Department.
- ii. After dumping is completed, the proposed dumping sites shall be reclaimed in a phased manner and shall be kept as green cover at the cost of the user agency.



Agenda No. 2

F.No.8-36/2018-FC

Sub: Proposal for diversion of 841.538 hectares of forest land for non-forest purpose under Forest Conservation Act. 1980 for the proposed Parsa Open Cast Mine (SMTPA) in favour of M/s. Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited (RRVUNL), in Surguja and Surajpur Districts in the State of Chhattisgarh.

The above stated agenda item was considered by FAC in its meeting on 15.12.2019. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at parivesh.nic.in.

Decisions of FAC

The FAC deliberated on the SIR submitted by the sub-committee with respect to the ToR. The recommendation of the State Government, opinion of the ASG that 'FAC can consider the proposal' and the report of the sub-committee against the whole background and agenda note of the proposal, were discussed in detail. FAC also noted that the State Government representative in the sub-committee could not participate during the site visit.

During the meeting the Additional CS (Forest) of Govt. of Chhattisgarh was present. He was of the opinion that the site inspection should be taken up again with a larger committee and over a longer duration. FAC observed that, no additional information is expected to be obtained by one more site inspection. Moreover, FAC had decided to take up the site inspection as a matter of abundant precaution and felt that there is no further need to carry out any more site inspection. FAC noted that the proposal has been submitted by the State Govt and had categorically recommended for grant of Forest Clearance, and ASG has also given his considered opinion that there is no legal impediment for grant of Forest Clearance.

Accordingly, based on the report of the sub-committee, all facts of the proposal and considering the inputs received from the Additional CS (Govt of Chhattisgarh), User agency and APCCF (Regional Office), FAC **decided to recommend for grant of in-principle approval**, with general, standard and following Specific condition:

- i. The State Government shall reconfirm the presence/absence of VDF in the north-eastern part of the proposed forest land under diversion and scope of excluding the same from the proposal.



Agenda No. 3

File No. 8-72/2018-FC

Sub: Proposal for diversion of 136.8623 ha. of Reserve Forest Land for shifting of Thrissur Zoo from Thrissur to Puthoor at Pattikkad Forest Range, Thrissur Forest Division, Thrissur District, Kerala State.

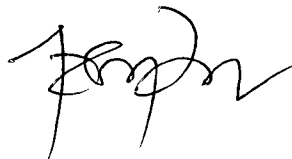
1. The state Government of Kerala vide their letter No. C2/126/2018/F&WLD dated 26.11.2018 submitted above proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
2. The Site Inspection Report has been submitted by the Regional Office, Bengaluru on 17.12.2018.
3. After analysing the proposal and the Site Inspection Report, the same was placed before the FAC in its meeting on 15.11.2019. The above stated agenda item was considered by FAC in its meeting on 19.12.2018. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at *parivesh.nic.in*.

Decisions of FAC

The FAC during the deliberations noted that, the activities that have been taken up so far before formal approval under FCA was obtained, are basically forestry components, hence do not come under the purview of violation.

After thorough deliberations and discussions with User agency, **recommended for grant of in-principle approval** for the diversion of of 136.8623 ha. of Reserve Forest Land for shifting of Thrissur Zoo from Thrissur to Puthoor at Pattikkad Forest Range, Thrissur Forest Division, Thrissur District, Kerala State with general, standard and following Specific conditions:

- i. NPV for 15% of the total area proposed to be diverted shall be paid by the UA.
- ii. For CA, double degraded forest land equal to 30% of the total area (A zoo involves both forestry activities such as ex situ conservation, rescue center, breeding of endangered species, nature education and non-forestry activities such as cafeteria, parking. Therefore, it has been decided that for the purpose of diversion 15% of the activities shall be considered as non-forestry activities) shall be identified and the cost of CA over the identified land shall be deposited by the user agency in the designated fund.
- iii. The land under the existing zoo, after its shifting to the new site, shall be handed over to the forest department.



Agenda No. 4

File No. 8-55/2018-FC

Sub: Proposal for diversion of 120.838 ha of forest land for iron ore mining under Section 2 (ii) and for according permission under Section 2 (iii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for entire forest land 126.401 ha including safety zone area of 5.563 ha in favour of M/s Essar Steel India Ltd within their allotted Ghoraburhani-Sagasahi Iron Ore Block of 139.165 ha located in village Sagasahi, Kalmang, Ghoraburhani and Mendhamaruni PRF-I in Koira Tehsil and Koira Range under Bonai Forest Division of Sundargarh District, Odisha.

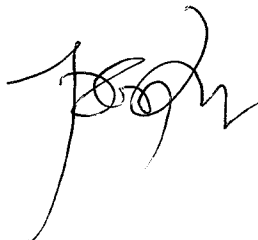
The above stated agenda item was considered by FAC in its meeting on 15.01.2019. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at parivesh.nic.in.

Decisions of FAC

During discussions, FAC noted the alleged violations of excavations in 0.5 ha area. Since these were old excavations, it was decided that same should not be attributed to the UA.

The FAC after thorough deliberations and discussions, **recommended for grant of in-principle approval** for the diversion of 120.838 ha of forest land for iron ore mining under Section 2 (ii) and for according permission under Section 2 (iii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for entire forest land 126.401 ha including safety zone area of 5.563 ha in favour of M/s Essar Steel India Ltd within their allotted Ghoraburhani-Sagasahi Iron Ore Block of 139.165 ha, located in village Sagasahi, Kalmang, Ghoraburhani and Mendhamaruni PRF-I in Koira Tehsil and Koira Range under Bonai Forest Division of Sundargarh District, Odisha, with general, standard and following specific condition:

- i. The 5.563 ha of proposed safety zone shall be maintained as tree cover and should be enriched with indigenous species.



Agenda No. 5

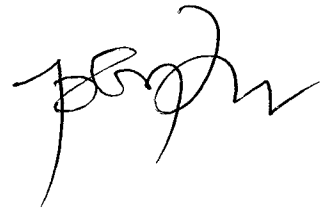
File No. 8-176/1997-FC (Vol.)

Sub: Diversion of 29.41 ha of forest land (20.89 ha fresh forest land and 8.52 ha of forest land for re-diversion out of already diverted forest area of 227.89 ha for Kulda OCP of Mahanandi Coalfields Ltd.) in Sundargarh Forest Division of Sundargarh District, Odisha for construction of Basundhara Coal Washery (10 MTY) by M/s Mahanadi Coalfields Limited.

The above stated agenda item was considered by FAC in its meeting on 15.01.2019. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at parivesh.nic.in.

Decisions of FAC

The FAC after thorough deliberations and discussions, **recommended for grant of in-principle approval** for the diversion of 29.41 ha of forest land (20.89 ha fresh forest land and 8.52 ha of forest land for re-diversion out of already diverted forest area of 227.89 ha for Kulda OCP of Mahanandi Coalfields Ltd.) in Sundargarh Forest Division of Sundargarh District, Odisha for construction of Basundhara Coal Washery (10 MTY) by M/s Mahanadi Coalfields Limited with general and standard conditions.

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Agenda No. 6

File No. 8-02/2019-FC

Sub: Removal of Sand and Silt accumulated at Pampa-Thriveni near Sabrimla, Kerala State

The above stated agenda item was considered by FAC in its meeting on 15.01.2019. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at parivesh.nic.in.

Decisions of FAC

The FAC observed the special nature of the issue, which was a result of unprecedented flood in Kerala in the last season. After thorough deliberations and discussions, it **recommended for grant of one-time permission** for the removal of sand and silt accumulated at Pampa-Thriveni near Sabrimla, Kerala State with general and following specific conditions:

- i. No NPV and cost towards CA shall be levied.
- ii. During the removal, utmost care should be taken so that no damage to flora and fauna is caused.

confirmed over email

Deepak Mohanty
(Member)

confirmed over email

Dr. Sanjay Deshmukh
(Member)

Absent
(S. D. Vora)
Member

[Signature]
(A. K. Mohanty)
Inspector General of Forests (FC)

confirmed over email
(Saibal Dasgupta)
Addl. Director General of Forests (FC)

Absent
Additional Commissioner (Soil Conservation)
Ministry of Agriculture (Member)

[Signature]
(Siddhanta Das)
Director General of Forests & Special Secretary
