



सत्यमेव जयते

भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & CLIMATE CHANGE
समन्वित क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय



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To

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Government of Goa,
Secretariat Annexe,
Secretariat, Porvorim,
Goa -403 521.

Subject: Diversion of 120.875 ha. of forest land for Castlerock to Kulem Railway Doubling Track under Wildlife & Eco-Tourism (North) and North Goa Forest Division in favour of (South Western Railway) Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd - reg.

Sir,

Please refer to the State Government's letter No. 6-853-2019-20-FD dated 31/07/2019, 10/02/2020 and 29/05/2020 seeking prior approval of the Central Government in accordance with Section '2' of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in respect of the above project. The in-principle (Stage-I) approval to the project was accorded by the Central Government vide letter of even number dated 4th February, 2022. The State Government vide letters of even number dated 26/11/2021, 02/12/2021, 10/01/2022, 14/03/2022 and 08/04/2022 has reported compliance to the conditions stipulated by the Central Government in the in-principle approval.

After careful consideration of the proposal of the State Government, I am directed to convey Central Government's final approval (**Stage-II**) under Section '2' of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 120.875 ha. of forest land for Castlerock to Kulem Railway Doubling Track under Wildlife & Eco-Tourism (North) and North Goa Forest Division in favour of (South Western Railway) Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd, subject to the following conditions:-

1. The legal status of forest land shall remain unchanged.
2. The boundary of the forest land to be diverted shall be suitably demarcated on ground at the project cost as per the directions of concerned Divisional Forest Officer.
3. Compensatory Afforestation (CA) over double the extent of degraded forest land in Sutagatti, Iddalahonda, Ramadurg, Kakati, Suldhal & Shigeholi villages of Gokak and Kakati taluks of Belagavi District, Karnataka in lieu of all the three proposals of railway projects (i.e. 1.9089ha, 15.6077ha. and 120.875ha.) shall be

raised and maintained by the State Forest Department at the cost of the User Agency. The State Government shall obtain prior permission of Central Government for change of location and schedule of compensatory afforestation, if any.

4. The additional amount of the Net Present Value (NPV) of the diverted forest land if any becoming due after revision of the same by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in future, shall be charged by the State Government from User Agency and the same shall be transferred to the designated Adhoc CAMPA Account.
5. User Agency shall restrict the felling of trees to minimum number in the diverted forest land and trees shall be felled under the strict supervision of the State Forest Department.
6. The KML file of the area diverted, SMC works and CA area shall be uploaded on the e-green watch portal with all requisite details before issue of final approval by the State Government.
7. All statutory clearances including Environment Clearance, if applicable shall be obtained before commencing the work in forest area.
8. The conditions stipulated by the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife and Chief Wildlife Warden shall be strictly complied with.
9. Speed regulating signage will be erected along the railway line at regular intervals in the Protected Areas / Forest Areas.
10. The mitigation measures as proposed by CES, IISc in Caranzol to Kulem stretch of the railway track must be implemented for safe passage of animals.
11. Suitable soil moisture conservation works needs to be taken up on either side of the track, wherever vulnerable.
12. To address the apprehensions of the people as well as to prevent spillage of ore, coal, etc., all the rakes of the freight trains shall have a spill proof/ sealed cover, which is presently absent.
13. The Management Plan of the National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary, which is under preparation, shall include the implementation and monitoring of the mitigation measures suggested by the CES, IISc / Wildlife Institute of India and CWLW based on which approval of NBWL has been accorded.
14. Further, provision for long term monitoring of the impact of the project, the effectiveness of the mitigation measures undertaken and analysis of course-corrections required if any should be part of the Management Plan to ensure long time well being of the forests & wildlife.

15. The Railway authorities shall issue standing instructions to its staff and officers concerned to closely co-ordinate and co-operate with the local State Forest Department officials during and after the project implementation.
16. No labour camp shall be established on the forest land.
17. Sufficient firewood, preferably the alternate fuel shall be provided by the User agency to the labourer after purchasing the same from the State Forest Department or the Forest Development Corporation or any other legal source of alternate fuel.
18. No damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused.
19. The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without prior approval of Central Government.
20. No additional or new permanent paths will be constructed inside the forest area for transportation of construction materials for execution of the project work.
21. The forest area shall be used for the purpose for which it is granted. The total forest area utilized for the project shall not exceed 120.875 ha.
22. The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agency, department or person without prior approval of the Central Government.
23. The period of diversion under this approval shall be co-terminus with the period of lease to be granted in favour of the user agency or the project life, whichever is less.
24. The concerned Divisional Forest Officer, will monitor and take necessary mitigative measures to ensure that there is no adverse impact on the forests in the surrounding area.
25. The User Agency shall submit the annual self -compliance report in respect of the above stated conditions to the State Government and Integrated Regional Office, Bangalore by the end of March every year.
26. Any other condition that the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change may stipulate from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection and development of Forest and Wildlife.
27. Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and action would be taken as prescribed in para 1.21 of Chapter 1 of the Handbook of comprehensive guidelines of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 as issued by this Ministry's letter No. 5-2/2017-FC dated 28.03.2019.

28. The State Government and user agency shall comply the provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, NGT order & Hon'ble Court Order (s) pertaining to this project, if any, as applicable to the project.

Yours faithfully,

S. K. Shambhu
(M.K.Shambhu)

ok Deputy Inspector General of Forests (Central)

Copy to:-

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Forest Department, Government of Goa, Panaji (GOA), PIN- 403001.
2. The Deputy Conservator of Forests (Monitoring & Evaluation)/Nodal Officer (FCA), Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Forest Department, Government of Goa, Panaji (GOA), PIN- 403001.
3. The Additional Chief Secretary to Government of Karnataka, Forest, Ecology & Environment Department, M.S.Building, Dr.Ambedkar Veedhi, Bangalore – 560 001.
4. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Forests Department, Govt. of Karnataka, Aranya Bhavan, 18th Cross, Malleswaram, Bangalore – 560 003.
5. The Deputy Chief Engineer, South Western Railway, Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd, Opposite Railway High School (EM), Gadag Road, Hubli -580 020.
6. Guard file.

S. K. Shambhu
(M.K.Shambhu)

ok Deputy Inspector General of Forests (Central)