



Government of India/ भारत सरकार
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change/ पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
Eastern Regional Office/ पूर्वी क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय
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No. 5-ORA/365/FCE

SPEED POST

10.10.2018

To

Shri Sandeep Sharma,
Asst. Inspector General of Forests (FC),
Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change,
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi-110003.

Sub: Site inspection report in respect of diversion of 341.23 ha of forest land in the Bolangir forest division under Bolangir district, Odisha for construction of Upper Lanth Medium Irrigation Project.

Ref: Ministry's letter No.8-59/2018-FC dated 7th September, 2018.

Sir,

With reference to the subject cited as above, I am directed to inform you that the site inspection of the above mentioned project was carried out by the undersigned on 18.09.2018 and 19.09.2018. The site inspection report along with the relevant enclosure is attached herewith for kind information and necessary action.

Yours faithfully,

Encl: As above

(SUMAN MOHAPATRA)
CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS (C)

SITE INSPECTION REPORT IN RESPECT OF DIVERSION OF 341.23 HA OF FOREST LAND IN THE BOLANGIR FOREST DIVISION UNDER BOLANGIR DISTRICT, ODISHA FOR CONSTRUCTION OF UPPER LANTH MEDIUM IRRIGATION PROJECT.

The site inspection of the above project was carried out by me on 18.09.2018 and 19.09.2018 along with DFO, Bolangir Forest Division, Range Officer, Lathor Range, Shri K. Sethy, Executive Engineer, Water Resources Department, Shri Prithviraj Pattnaik, Consultant, DCS Pvt. Ltd. and others from user agency.

1. Legal status of the forest land proposed for diversion:

Legal Status	Forest area (in ha)
Reserved Forest	285.259 ha
Revenue Forest	55.971 ha
Total	341.230 ha

2. Item-wise break-up details of the forest land proposed for diversion:

The item wise details of forest land proposed for diversion is furnished below:

Legal Status	Forest area (in ha)
Reserved Forest	285.259 ha
Revenue Forest	55.971 ha
Total	341.230 ha

3. Whether proposal involves any construction of buildings (including residential) or not. If yes, details thereof:

As stated in Point No 2.

4. Total cost of the project at present rates:

As reported the estimated cost of the project is Rs 4899 lakhs.

5. Wildlife:

As reported by the DFO, Bolangir Forest Division, wild mammals like Sloth Bear, Hyena, Jackal, Squirrel, Indian hare, Common langoor, birds like Myna, Parakeet, Dove, Sparrow, reptiles like Cobra, Common Krait, Banded Krait, Indian Garden lizard are seen in the area. During short duration of inspection they were however not visible.

Whether forest area proposed for diversion is important from wildlife point of view or not:

As reported by the DFO, Bolangir Forest Division, there is no rare and endangered species of flora and fauna in the area.

6. Vegetation:

a) Total number of trees to be felled:

As reported in the site inspection reports of RCCF, Bhawanipatna Circle and DFO, Bolangir Division, 32,177 number of trees in Bender 1 RF, 63,742 number of trees in Bender II RF



and 5,625 number of trees in Revenue Forest of different species and sizes have been enumerated all of which may be required to be felled.

The forest area has been put under Eco-value-class III with density of vegetation being 0.7 in Bender I RF & Bender II RF and 0.5 in Revenue Forest. This has been verified during my site inspection also.

Effect of removal of trees on the general ecosystem in the area:

As there are a large number of trees to be felled, it will naturally adversely affect the general eco-system in the area.

b) Important species:

The important species noticed in this area are Sal, Bel, Dhaura, Mango, Amla, Teak, Neem, etc.

Number of trees of girth below 60 cm.

About 19,107 numbers of trees of girth below 60 cm in the forest land.

Number of trees of girth above 60 cm.

About 82,437 numbers of trees of girth above 60 cm in the forest land.

However, the user agency has furnished an undertaking to submit tree enumeration in the non forest land during compliance of Stage I approval order.

7. Background note on the proposal:

As a drought proofing measure and to provide extensive irrigation, Upper Lanth Medium Irrigation Project has been contemplated to provide relief to a tribal pocket in Bolangir district which has only 3 % irrigation coverage.

The proposed Upper Lanth Medium Irrigation Project is located in Belpara and Khaprakhhol blocks of Patnagarh Sub Division of Bolangir district in the state of Odisha which is inhabited mostly by people belonging to SC, ST and other backward classes. As stated by the State Government, the proposed irrigation project would improve the agriculture output and economy of the region. The site is located about 75 kms away from Bolangir town. The nearest rail head Kantabanji of South Eastern Railway is only 32 kms away from the site. River Lanth originating from Gandhamardan mountain range forms the western boundary of the Bolangir district and it is a tributary of river Tel which drains into river Mahanadi in Mahanadi basin of Odisha. It envisages construction of earthen dam with central concrete spillway across the river.

The total land requirement of this Medium irrigation project is 877.203 ha which includes 341.230 ha of forest land and 535.973 ha of non forest land including private land of 396.141 ha. The forest land of 341.230 ha includes 285.259 ha of RF land (Bender-I RF 39.760 ha +

Bender-II RF 245.499 ha) and 55.971 ha of Revenue forest land spread over 13 villages of Belpada and Khaprakhol tehsil of Bolangir district.

8. Compensatory afforestation:

State Govt. has reported that it has identified 341.238 ha of non-forest land in 13 no. of villages under Patnagarh and Belpada Tahasil of Bolangir district for raising compensatory afforestation in lieu of 341.230 ha of forest land proposed for diversion for this irrigation project. It has been reported that out of 341.238 ha of non-forest land, 292.845 ha of non-forest land has already been mutated in favour of State Forest Department. The Collector, Bolangir vide letter dated 27.05.2018 has approved site selection proposal for Upper Lanth Irrigation Project pertaining to the balance 48.393 ha of Gochar land in village Kapani and Budamunda for the purpose of C.A. The mutation process for the allotted balance non-forest land is reportedly under progress.

Land schedule for identified non-forest land for C.A. has been duly authenticated by DFO, Bolangir. The DGPS map of the identified C.A. land has been submitted.

The DFO, Bolangir has prepared a compensatory afforestation scheme to take up ANR with Gap Plantation over 341.230 ha @ 1000 plants per ha with 10 year maintenance along with fencing around the plantation.

The CA site at Bagaudara village was visited by me during inspection. The area identified for plantation at the site is 33.715 ha. The major species noticed at the site are Karada, Dhaura, Kendu, Salai, Moi, Bheru, Koro, etc.

a) Whether land for compensatory afforestation is suitable from plantation and management point of view or not:

The DFO, Bolangir has furnished the land suitability certificate pertaining to non-forest land identified/mutated for the purpose of C.A.

b) Whether land for compensatory afforestation is free from encroachment/other encumbrances:

As reported by PCCF, Odisha, 292.845 ha of forest land has been mutated in favour of forest department. The Tehsildar, Belpada has intimated that balance 48.393 ha is free from encroachment and encumbrance.

c) Whether land for compensatory afforestation is important from Religious/Archaeological point of view:

Not reported.

d) Land identified for raising compensatory afforestation is in how many patches, whether patches are compact or not:



State Govt. has identified 341.238 ha of non-forest land in 101 numbers of plots with compact patches (as observed through DSS) in 13 villages under Patnagarh and Belpada Tahasil of Bolangir district for raising compensatory afforestation.

e) Map with details:

Submitted.

f) Total financial outlay:

The C.A. Scheme has been technically approved by PCCF, Odisha with a total financial outlay of Rs.3,56,23,600/-.

9. Whether proposal involves violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 or not. If yes, a detailed report on violation including action taken against the concerned officials:

No violation of F.C. Act, 1980 has been reported by the DFO, Bolangir.

10. Whether proposal involves rehabilitation of displaced persons. If yes, whether rehabilitation plan has been prepared by the State Government or not :

State Govt. has reported that due to construction of this project, land of two villages namely; Pandikimal and Jamjuri in the district of Bolangir will come under submergence.

As reported, 342 nos. of families are to be displaced for the this project which includes 22 families of SC category, 110 families of ST category and remaining 210 families belonging to other communities.

It has been submitted by the user agency that R&R Scheme earlier prepared during March, 2001 as per Govt. of Odisha R&R Policy, 1994 was approved by MoTA, GoI. In view of latest demographic figure, it has been ascertained that 975 families (ST 595, SC 39 and Other 341) will be displaced owing to this irrigation project. The user agency has undertaken that revised R&R Scheme will be prepared and got approved before displacement of habitation for execution of the project. The rehabilitation and resettlement of above families is proposed to be implemented at project cost as per approved R&R policy of Govt. of Odisha.

The revised Rehabilitation and Resettlement plan duly approved by the competent authority should be submitted by the user agency.

11. Reclamation plan:

Not applicable.

Details and financial allocation:

Not applicable.

12. Details on catchment and command area under the project:

Catchment Area Treatment Plan for this irrigation project has been furnished by the user agency. The CAT Plan has been formulated for an outlay of Rs.135.36 lakh. The said plan has been verified by DFO, Bolangir. The CAT Plan has provision for ANR plantation @ 200

plants/ha over 45 ha and AR Plantation @ 1600 plants per ha over 76 ha, grass land development including grass cover over 15 ha and other SMC measures. The CAT Plan has been technically approved by APCCF (Nodal), Odisha with an estimated cost of Rs.1,52,34,900/-. The CAT Plan shall be executed by the user agency at project cost.

13. Cost benefit ratio:

As stated by the State Government, the cost benefit ratio is 1:1.844. This will however be revised later. The revised cost benefit analysis report should be furnished by the user agency.

14. Recommendations of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests/State Government:

Recommended by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests/State Government.

15. Recommendations of Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Central) along with detailed reasons:

Appended separately.

16. Conservator of Forests (Central) shall give detailed comments on whether there are any alternative routes/alignment for locating the project on the non-forest land:

As reported by State Government, out of three different sites examined for the project, the forest area applied for diversion is the barest minimum and unavoidable. During inspection, it was observed that the other two alternatives contain more forest land with almost equal density.

17. Utility of the project:

As stated by the State Government, as a drought proofing measure and to provide extensive irrigation, Upper Lanth Medium Irrigation Project has been contemplated to provide relief to a tribal pocket in the district which has only 3 % irrigation coverage.

Numbers of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribes to be benefited by the project:

18. Not reported.

a) Whether land being diverted has any socio-cultural/ religious value:

Not reported.

b) Whether any sacred grove or very old growth trees/forests exist in the areas proposed for diversion:

Not reported.

c) Whether the land under diversion forms part of any unique eco-system:

As stated by DFO, Bolangir Forest Division, no protected archaeological/heritage site/defence establishment is located in the area.

19. Situation with respect to any Protected Area:

As stated by DFO, Bolangir Forest Division no protected archaeological/heritage site/defence establishment is located in the area. The nearest protected area i.e. Sunabeda Wildlife Sanctuary is about 70 km away from the project.



20. Any other information relating to the project:

- i. As observed through DSS, the total forest land in Bender-1 RF is about 40 ha and in Bender -II RF is 245.5 ha. In Bender-1 RF, VDF covers 16 ha, MDF 19 ha, non forest land 2 ha and open forest 3 ha, whereas in Bender-II RF, VDF is 52 ha, MDF 69 ha, non forest land 46 ha and open forest 78 ha approximately. This means a little less than one fourth of the reserved forest land has density more than 0.7 and a little less than one third has density more than 0.4. The remaining part i.e. about half of the Reserve Forest involved in the project has less dense vegetation.
- ii. The user agency should pay towards cost of removal of trees enumerated before commencement of work on forest clearance and tree felling should be taken up in phases strictly as per the requirement under the supervision of the Divisional Forest Officer, Bolangir Forest Division.
- iii. The project needs to have environmental clearance before construction activities take place in the project site.
- iv. Detailed tree enumeration report of non forest land of the project should be furnished before final approval.
- v. Revised R & R Plan duly approved by competent authority should be furnished.
- vi. Detailed project report as per present cost-estimate along with administrative approval for this project should be furnished.
- vii. Duly approved CAT Plan should be implemented at project cost.
- viii. The user agency should furnish revised cost benefit analysis.
- ix. Canal bank plantation on either side of the two canals should be raised and maintained at project cost. The relevant scheme has to be approved by the DFO, Bolangir.




(SUMAN MOHAPATRA)
CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS (CENTRAL)

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ADDITIONAL PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS (CENTRAL) FOR DIVERSION OF 341.23 HA OF FOREST LAND IN THE BOLANGIR FOREST DIVISION UNDER BOLANGIR DISTRICT, ODISHA FOR CONSTRUCTION OF UPPER LANTH MEDIUM IRRIGATION PROJECT.

The instant proposal is for diversion of 341.23 ha of forest land in the Bolangir Forest Division in the drought prone Bolangir district of Odisha for construction of Upper Lanth Medium Irrigation Project. The Site Inspection Report of the CF (C) is enclosed with his summarised observations at Point No.20 for consideration of the Ministry along with the following additional observations of the undersigned:

1. This public utility proposal aims at providing irrigation facility in a drought prone tribal district, accordingly a big water reservoir of more than 300 ha shall be created, though initially at the cost of a forest patch, but shall improve the environment, augment the water regime and promote the forests and wildlife all around in the long run.
2. The immediate impact of mass tree felling may be reduced by restricting tree felling in a phased manner and as per the minimum submergence projection.
3. The reservoir shall also add hydrosphere habitat to the ecology of the area along with the water edge ecotone for the enrichment of the existing biodiversity.
4. The Ministry may also consider to stipulate habitat promotional conditions for the user agency to explore the possibility and to execute creation of 2-3 small islands in the proposed reservoir, if feasible, as per the topography of the area for the breeding and nesting of water birds and semi-aquatic animals, augmenting biodiversity.

Accordingly, the proposal for the diversion of 341.23 ha of forest land for this project is recommended for the consideration for the grant of approval.

 10.10.18

(R.K. Dey)

Addl. PCCF (Central)