



STATE FOREST HEADQUARTERS, ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS & HoFF
PLOT NO. GD-2/12, ARANYA BHAWAN, CHANDRASEKHARPUR
BHUBANESWAR-751023
E-mail:- nodal.pccfodisha@gmail.com

No. **1933** /9F (TRANS) -390 /2023
Dated, Bhubaneswar the **27th** January, 2025

To

The Deputy Inspector General of Forests (Central)
Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
Regional Office, A/3, Chandrasekharpur
Bhubaneswar-751023

Sub: Proposal for diversion of 136.966 ha [94.013 ha in Balliguda Forest division + 42.953 ha in Kalahandi (North) Forest Division] of forest land for construction of 220 KV DC transmission line from existing 220/132/33 KV Grid Sub-Station at Kesinga, Kalahandi District to proposed 220/32 KV Grid Sub-Station at Sirtiguda in Kandhamal District by M/s OPTCL. – regarding.

Ref: (i) Letter No. 5-ORA641/2024-BHU dated 24.04.2024 of the Deputy Inspector General of Forests (C), GoI, MoEF& CC, Regional Office, Bhubaneswar.
(ii) Memo No.10F(Cons) 14/2024 7991FE&CC dt.30.04.2024 of the OSD-cum-Special Secy. To Govt. FE&CC Deptt.

Sir,

In inviting a reference to the above mentioned subject, this is to inform that Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Regional Office, Bhubaneswar has sought for compliances on the following three nos. of short comings noticed during scrutiny of the proposal submitted vide this office letter No.5006 dt.29.2.2024 to the State Govt.

Observation -a: *The DFO, Balliguda has reported that violation has been committed by the user agency as per Para 1.21 (ii) of Handbook of C Act. 1980 issued by Ministry dated 28.03.2019. However, number of towers and extent of the forest area used illegally has not been reported. As per DSS analysis, total 66 towers in Balliguda Division have been constructed illegally over forest land. Details of joint verification involving forest and revenue officials and total extent of forest land used illegally in Balliguda Division may be submitted.*

Compliance: In compliance to this observation the RCCF, Bhawanipatna Circle vide his Memo No.5554 dt.25.11.2024 and No.130 dt.10.01.2025 has submitted the desired report pertaining to both Balliguda & Kalahandi (N) Divisions as furnished below:-

Name of the Division	Nos. of towers constructed over revenue forest land	Extent of revenue forest land used unauthorisedly in ha.	Nos. of towers constructed over notified forest land	Extent of notified forest land used unauthorisedly in ha.	Total nos. of towers constructed On both revenue & notified forest land	Total extent of forest land used unauthorisedly in ha.
Balliguda Divn.	57	3 nos. of Tahasils = 0.369483 ha.	5	3 nos. of RFs = 0.050897 ha	62	0.420380 ha
Kalahandi (N) Divn.	17	3 nos. of Tahasils = 0.10683786 ha.	6	1no. of RF= 0.036386 ha	23	0.14322386 ha
Total	74	0.47632086 ha	11	4 nos of RFs = 0.087283 ha	85	0.56360386 ha

Detailed joint verification report indicating the total extent of forest land (Revenue Forest & Notified Forest) used unauthorisedly by M/s OPTCL under both Balliguda & Kalahandi (N) Divn. Range wise & Tahasil wise, involving both forest and revenue officials are being submitted herewith as **Annexure-A & B Series**. duly countersigned by the user agency, all the Tahasildars and both the DFOs (Balliguda & Kalahandi (N) Divn.) respectively.

Observation -b: Details of action taken reported by Forest/Revenue authority under local forest act/revenue act against the erring Forest/Revenue officials and the user agency responsible for causing diversion of RF/DPF/Revenue forest land may be furnished.

Compliance: In compliance to this observation the RCCF, Bhawanipatna Circle vide his Memo No.5554 dt.25.11.2024 and No.130 dt.10.01.2025 has submitted the desired report pertaining to both Balliguda & Kalahandi (N) Division as follows:-

Action taken report by the Revenue Department:-

(i) Pertaining to Kandhamal District (Phulbani) the Collector, Kandhamal Dist. Vide his letter No.178/Rev. Dt.12.01.2024 addressed to the DFO, Balliguda Forest Division has informed that encroachment cases have been booked by the Tahasildars K.Nuagaon, Balliguda & Tumudibandha Tahasil against unauthorised construction of electric towers by M/s OPTCL on Revenue Forest Land under the above three nos of Tahasils (Action Taken Report by the above Tahasildars for construction of 57 nos. of towers are enclosed herewith as **Annexure-C Series**.

(ii) Pertaining to Kalahandi District, the Collector & District Magistrate, Kalahandi Dist. vide his letter No.123/Rev. Dt.24.01.2024 addressed to the DFO, Kalahandi (N) Forest Division has informed that encroachment cases have been booked by the Tahasildars M.Rampur, Narla & Kesinga Tahasil against unauthorised construction of electric towers by M/s OPTCL on Revenue Forest Land under the above three nos of Tahasils (Action Taken Report by the above Tahasildars for construction of 17 nos. of towers are enclosed herewith as **Annexure-D Series**.

In view of the above incidence, letter No.6877 dt.21.08.2023 of the DFO, Kalahandi (N) Divn. Addressed to all the above Tahasildars (M.Rampur, Narla & Kesinga) and Memo No.7619

dt.27.09.2023 of the DFO, Kalahandi(N) Divn. Addressed to the RCCF, Bhawanipatna Circle (as enclosed herewith) may be taken to consideration.

(iii) Regarding action taken by the forest department against the erring forest officials and the user agency responsible for causing diversion of RF/DPF (Notified forest land) for construction of 5 nos. of towers over the notified forest land under Balliguda Forest Division as reported by the DFO, Balliguda Division vide his memo No. 2909 dt.16.05.2024, explanations has been called from the Range Officer, Balliguda Range, & Tumudibandha Range, Forester, Balliguda & Kurtamgarh section, Forest Guard Mungapanda beat of Tumudibandha Range & Forest Guard Battaguda beat of Balliguda Range (during whose incumbency towers were constructed unauthorisedly) over the notified forest land by M/s OPTCL vide DFO, Balliguda Divn. Memo No. 6637 dt.24.11.2023, No.6641 dt.24.11.23, No.6635 dt.24.11.23, No.6633 dt.24.11.23, No.6639 dt.24.11.23, No.6642 dt.24.11.23, No.6631 dt.24.11.23, NO.6629 dt.24.11.23 & No.6627 dt.24.11.23. Further show cause notice has also been served to the Forest Guard, Mangapanga beat, Battaguda beat, Forester, Balliguda & Forester, Kurtamgarh Section vide Memo No.6926 dt.07.12.2023, No.6928 dt.07.12.23, No.6924 dt.07.12.23, No.6930 dt.07.12.23 & No.6922 dt.07.12.23 of the DFO, Balliguda Divn. Similarly, two nos. of offence cases vide OR Case No.59 of 2023-24 of Balliguda Range & OR Case No.35 of 2023-24 of Tumudibandha Range have also been booked against the SDO (Construction) OPTCL, Balliguda Sub-Division and the Project Manager M/s Flowmore Ltd, Bhubaneswar, the copy of which are enclosed as **Annexure-E Series**.

(iv) Regarding action taken by the forest department against the erring forest officials and the user agency responsible for causing diversion of RF/DPF (Notified forest land etc.) for construction of 6 nos. of towers over the notified forest land in M.Rampur Range under Kalahandi (N) Division as reported by the RCCF, Bhawanipatna Circle vide his memo No. 5554 dt.25.11.2024 and No.130 dt.10.01.2025, explanation has been called for from the Range Officer, M.Rampur Range, Forester, M.Rampur Section, Forest Guard, Gourkela Beat under M.Rampur Range for unauthorised construction of 6 nos. of electric towers by M/s OPTCL inside Taprang RF vide DFO, Kalahandi (N) Divn. Memo No.7529 dt.18.09.2023. Also one Forest Guard namely Sri Balakrishna Jaal of Gourkela beat under M.Rampur Range has been placed under suspension vide O.O. No.208 dt.26.09.2023 of the DFO, Kalahandi (N) Division. One offence Case vide O.R. Case No.146 of M.Rampur Range of 2023-24 dt.22.08.2023 has been booked by the RO, M.Rampur Range against SDO(Const.) OPTCL, Balliguda Sub Division and Project Manager, M/s Flowmore Ltd., Bhubaneswar for such illegal construction of 6 nos. of electric transmission tower inside Taprang RF, which are all enclosed as **Annexure-F Series**.

Observation-c: As per DSS, a metallic road is passing along the CA Patches at Brahmani RF, Hatilimunda RF, and Sinang RF. Plantation activity is present in some portion of CA patch at Brahmani RF, Agricultural encroachment are also observed in CA patches at Thuapadar

Gundi DPF and Sinang RF. The State Govt. may clarify the suitability of the CA land and encroachment free land.

Compliance:-

(i) In compliance to the above the RCCF, Bhawanipatna Circle has reported vide his Memo No.5554 dt.25.11.2024 that, there is no metallic road along the CA land in Brahmani RF, Hatilimunda RF & Sinang RF, but there is existence of one earthen path of about 8-10 feet width present along the CA land of Sinang RF which is clear from the report of ACF, Kalahandi (N) Division dated.14.05.2024 addressed to the DFO, Kalahandi (N) Division with its enclosures which are enclosed as **Annexure-G Series**.

(ii) Regarding plantation activity present in some portion of CA patch at Brahmani RF it is to inform that the Plantation Site "Podamundi AR 5 ha. of plantation under GIM-2022-23 is overlapping with the CA land in Brahmani RF and hence about 3 ha of CA land area is covered with plantation. To exclude such patches of plantation taken up earlier, the area has been resurveyed and sent for DGPS Survey to the UA vide Memo No.4604 dt.01.06.2024 of the DFO, Kalahandi (N) Divn. Joint verification has also been carried out by the Forest and Revenue officials in presence of the UA. Such report alongwith DGPS Surveyed and ORSAC vetted map are enclosed for reference as **Annexure-H Series**.

(iii) Regarding agricultural encroachment observed in CA patches of Thuapadar Gundi DPF it is to inform that the KML file of the CA patches uploaded in Parivesh Portal was found to have some private lands. So the area was resurveyed excluding the private plots whose DGPS Survey has been completed. The joint verification report alongwith ORSAC vetted map is enclosed as **Annexure-I Series**.

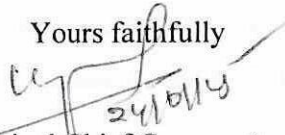
(iv) Regarding agricultural encroachment observed in CA patches of Sinang RF it is to inform that, the Tahasildar Lanjigarh alongwith Forest officials have conducted joint verification and certified that the land is free from encroachment and encumbrances. The joint verification report alongwith ORSAC vetted map is enclosed as **Annexure-J Series**.

(v) As regards the metallic road passing through the CA patches of Hatilimunda RF, the DFO, Subarnapur RF has reported that there is no metallic road passing through the said patch of CA land which is enclosed as **Annexure-K Series**.

In view of the above compliances, the Annexures, the joint verification report alongwith the DGPS Surveyed and ORSAC vetted maps etc. submitted by the RCCF, Bhawanipatna Circle is sent herewith for favour of kind information and necessary action.

Encl-As above

Yours faithfully

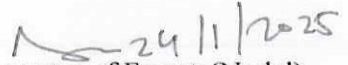


Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer, FC Act)

Memo No. 1934 /Dt. 27.01.2025

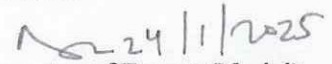
Copy along with its enclosures forwarded to the Additional Chief Secretary to Government, FE&CC Department, Govt. of Odisha for favour of kind information and necessary action with reference to Memo No.10F(Cons) 14/2024 7991FE&CC dt.30.04.2024 of the OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Govt. In FE&CC Department.

Encl-As above


Chief Conservator of Forests(Nodal)

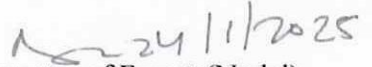
Memo No. 1935 /Dt. 27.01.2025

Copy forwarded to the RCCF, Bhawanipatna Circle for information and necessary action with reference to his Memo No.5554 dt.25.11.2024 and No.130 dt.10.01.2025.


Chief Conservator of Forests(Nodal)

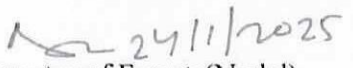
Memo No. 1936 /Dt. 27.01.2025

Copy forwarded to the Divisional Forest Officer, Kalahandi (N) Forest Division / Subarnapur Forest Division for information and necessary action with reference to the Memo No.5555 dt.25.11.2024, No.5556 dt.25.11.2024 of the RCCF, Bhawanipatna Circle to their address.


Chief Conservator of Forests(Nodal)

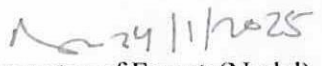
Memo No. 1937 /Dt. 27.01.2025

Copy forwarded to the Divisional Forest Officer, Balliguda Forest Division for information and necessary action with reference to his Memo No.2911 dt.16.05.2024 to this office.


Chief Conservator of Forests(Nodal)

Memo No. 1938 /Dt. 27.01.2025

Copy forwarded to the Deputy General Manager, (Elect), EHT Construction Division, OPTCL, Berhampur, At-Sanakusasthali, PO-Badakusasthali, Odisha with reference to Memo No.5557dt.25.11.2024 & No132 dt.10.01.2025 of the RCCF, Bhawanipatna Circle to their address.


Chief Conservator of Forests(Nodal)