

Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi - 1100 03,
Dated: 11th January, 2021

To,

The Principal Secretary Forests,
Department of Forests and Environment,
Government of Gujarat,
Gandhi Nagar.

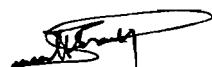
Sub: Diversion of 186.96 ha of reserved Forest land for acquisition of forest land for the proposed barrage project across river Narmada near Bhadbhut village in Bharuch District in favour of Executive Engineer, Gulf of Khambhat development Project (WR), project implementation Unit 2, Vadodara Gujarat (Online Proposal No. FP/GJ/IRRIG/27326/2017) -reg.

Madam/ Sir,


I am directed to refer to the Government of Gujarat letter's No. FCA-1017/7-20/17/S. F-120/F dated 14th September, 2017 on the above mentioned subject, seeking prior approval of Central Government under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. After careful consideration of the proposal by the Forest Advisory Committee constituted by the Central Government under Section-3 of the said Act, '*In-principle*' /*Stage -I* approval to the proposal was granted by this Ministry's vide letter of even number dated 21.12.2017 subject to fulfilment of certain conditions prescribed therein. The State Government has furnished compliance report in respect of the conditions stipulated in the in-principle approval and has requested the Central Government to grant final approval.

2. In this connection, I am directed to say that on the basis of the compliance report furnished by the Government of Gujarat's letter No. FCA-1017/7-20/17/S.F-120/F dated 08th August, 2019, letter No. FCA/31/A/362-64/2020-21 dated 07th September, 2020, letter No. FCA/31/A/458-60/2020-21 dated 05.10.2020, letter No. FCA/31/A/575-77/2020-21 dated 05.11.2020, letter No. FCA/31/A/599-601/2020-21 dated 19.11.2020 and letter No. FCA/31/A/716-18/2020-21 dated 06.01.2021 '*Final approval/Stage - II*' of the Central Government is hereby granted under Section -2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 186.96 ha of reserved Forest land for acquisition of forest land for the proposed barrage project across river Narmada near Bhadbhut village in Bharuch District in favour of Executive Engineer, Gulf of Khambhat development Project (WR), project implementation Unit 2, Vadodara Gujarat, subject to fulfilment of the following conditions:

- i. Legal status of the forest land shall remain unchanged;
- ii. The State Government shall ensure that no forest land is used for raising compensatory afforestation in lieu of non-forestry use of forest land in this proposal;


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- iii. The State Government shall ensure that the minimum number of trees/plants/poles will be removed and in any case not more than 25,454 and the trees should be felled under the strict supervision of the State Forest Department;
- iv. The proposed forest land i.e. 186.96 ha shall be handed over to the User Agency only after when the User Agency has acquired the required non-forest land, if any, for the project;
- v. The Compensatory Afforestation shall be taken up by the Forest Department over 186.96 ha. non-forest land in Village - Tol Sadli and Nani of Tehsil Jesar and Abdasa of District Bhavnagar and Kutch at the cost of the user agency. As far as possible, a mixture of local indigenous species shall be planted and monoculture of any species may be avoided;
- vi. The User Agency shall pay the additional amount of NPV, if so determined, as per the final decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India;
- vii. Wherever possible and technically feasible, the User Agency shall implement afforestation measures along the roads within the area diverted under this approval, in consultation with the State Forest Department at the project cost;
- viii. The complete compliance of the FRA, 2006 shall be ensured by way of prescribed certificate from the concerned District Collector;
- ix. The User Agency shall obtain Environmental Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if applicable;
- x. The User agency shall undertake afforestation along the periphery of Reservoir/ Canals in consultation with the Forest Department;
- xi. The User Agency shall provide free water from the project for all forestry related activities;
- xii. The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without prior approval of Central Government;
- xiii. No labour camps shall be set up inside the forest area. Labour management plan should be implement with emphasis that no labour camp be set up in the close vicinity of the eco-fragile and sensitive areas;
- xiv. The 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;
- xv. The boundary of the diverted forest land shall be suitably demarcated on ground at the project cost, as per the directions of the concerned Divisional Forest Officer;
- xvi. No additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for transportation of construction materials for execution of the project work;
- xvii. 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;
- xviii. No damage to the flora and fauna of the area shall be caused;
- xix. The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the


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project proposal;

- xx. 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;
- xxi. The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agencies, department or person without prior approval of Govt. of India;
- xxii. The Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and action would be taken as per the para 1.21 of comprehensive guidelines issued vide this Ministry F. No.5-2/2017-FC dated 28th March, 2019;
- xxiii. Any other condition that the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change may stipulate from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife shall be carried with by the State Government and user agency; and
- xxiv. The State Government and user agency shall ensure compliance to all conditions stipulated in the Stage-I approval for which undertakings have been obtained from the user agency and also the provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations and Guidelines, relevant Hon'ble Court Order (S) and NGT Order (S), if any, pertaining to this project for the time being in force, as applicable to the project.

Yours faithfully,


(Suneet Bhardwaj) 11/01/2021

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to: -

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Department of Forests, Government of Gujarat, Gandhinagar;
2. The Regional Officer, Integrated Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Gandhinagar;
3. The Nodal Officer (FCA), Department of Forests, Government of Gujarat, Gandhinagar;
4. User Agency;
5. Monitoring Cell, Forest Conservation Division, MoEF & CC, New Delhi.