

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jorbagh Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi – 110003.
Dated: 15th January, 2021

To,
The Special Secretary to Government (Forest),
Environment, Forests, Science & Technology Deptt.,
Government of Telangana,
Hyderabad.

Sub: Proposal for diversion of 409.53 Ha (387.13 ha Horizontal area as per ETS & DGPS Survey) of forest land in Keshavapur RF, Medchal- Malkajgiri District for construction of 10 TMC reservoir at Keshavapuram with associated components under Godavari river source for drinking water requirements to Hyderabad City in favour of HMWS&SB, Hyderabad (**Online proposal no.FP/TG/WATER/36146/2018**). –**regarding**

Madam/ Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Telangana's letter No.1999/For. I (1)/2017 dated 26th May, 2017 on the above mentioned subject, seeking prior approval of Central Government under Section-2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. After careful consideration of the proposal by the Forest Advisory Committee constituted under Section-3 of the said Act, ***In-principle/Stage -I*** approval to the proposal was granted by this Ministry's letter of even number dated 22.09.2020 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 Telangana's letter No.1430/For.I (1)/2020 dated 22.12.2020 and PCCF (HoFF) letter Rc.No.6564/2017/FCA-1 dated 13.01.2021 '***Final/Stage-II approval***' of the Central Government is hereby granted under Section -2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 409.53 Ha (387.13 ha Horizontal area as per ETS & DGPS Survey) of forest land in Keshavapur RF, Medchal- Malkajgiri District for construction of 10 TMC reservoir at Keshavapuram with associated components under Godavari river source for drinking water requirements to Hyderabad City in favour of HMWS&SB, Hyderabad, subject to fulfilment of the following conditions:

A. Conditions to be compiled prior to handing over the forest land:

- i. The State Govt. shall ensure that all non-forest land (identified and approved for raising Compensatory afforestation (CA) are transferred and mutated in favour of the State Forest Department, and notified as Reserved Forest or Protected Forest under of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 or under the relevant Section(s) of the local Forest Act;

- ii. The proposed forest land *i.e.* 409.53 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;
- iii. The State Government shall upload the kml files of the forest area under diversion and non-forest area (notified as RF/PF) and degraded forest land identified and accepted for raising compensatory afforestation, in the E-Green Watch portal of FSI, before handing over of forest land to the user agency;
- iv. The complete compliance of the FRA, 2006 shall be ensured by way of obtaining prescribed certificate (alongwith requisite annexures) from the concerned District Collector;
- v. The User Agency may obtain Environmental Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if applicable;
- vi. 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;

B. Conditions to be compiled after handing over the land:

- vii. Legal status of the forest land shall remain unchanged;
- viii. The State Government shall ensure that the minimum number of trees/plants/poles will be removed and in any case not more than **1,39,274** and the trees should be felled under the supervision of the State Forest Department;
- ix. The felling of trees shall be restricted to FRL-4 meter only and felling of trees shall be carried out by the State Forest Department. Number of trees to be removed shall be kept at barest minimum during the execution of the project;
- x. The CA shall be taken up by the Forest Department over an area of 409.53 ha. non-forest land in the Siddipet, Yadari-Bhuvanagir and Suryapet District and 350 ha. Of degraded forest land in Bhadradri-Kothagudem district at the cost of the user agency. A mixture of indigenous species shall be planted and monoculture will be avoided;
- xi. 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;
- xii. The User agency shall undertake afforestation along the periphery of Reservoir/ Canals in consultation with the Forest Department;
- xiii. The User Agency shall provide free water from the project for all forestry related activities;
- xiv. 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;
- xv. The State Government shall ensure that the Catchment Area Treatment (CAT) plan of the project shall be implemented under the supervision of State Forest Department at the project cost;
- xvi. The State Government shall ensure to implement the approved Wildlife Mitigation Plan as approved by the competent authority;
- xvii. The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without prior approval of

Central Government;

- xviii. The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than as approved under FC Act.
- xix. 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;
- xx. No labour camps shall be established on the forest land;
- xxi. The sufficient firewood, preferably the alternate fuel, shall be provided by the User Agency to the labourer after purchasing the same from some legal source.;
- xxii. No additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for transportation of construction materials for execution of the project work;
- xxiii. No damage to the flora and fauna of the area shall be caused;
- xxiv. 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;
- xxv. 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;
- xxvi. The State Govt. shall ensure that the compliance report of this approval is uploaded on e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>);
- xxvii. The Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and action would be taken as per extant provisions made under the FC Act, 1980 and FC Rules;
- xxviii. Any other condition that the MoEF&CC 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
- xxix. The State Government and user agency shall ensure compliance to all conditions stipulated in the Stage-I approval letter dated 22.09.2020 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,

Sd/-

(Sandeep Sharma)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to: -

1. The Pr. CCF, Department of Forests, Government of Telangana, Hyderabad.
2. The Regional Officer, Integrated Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Hyderabad.
3. The Nodal Officer (FCA), Deptt. of Forest, Government of Telangana, Hyderabad.
4. User Agency.
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF & CC, New Delhi, for uploading.