

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Letter No.1075/Section-II/2023/2094001

Dated:02.06.2023

From

The Special Chief Secretary to Government
EFS&T Department,
A.P. Secretariat, Velagapudi,
Amaravati-522503.

To

The Inspector General of Forests (Central),
Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change,
Integrated Regional Office,
Green House Complex,
Gopal Reddy Road, Vijayawada-520010 (w.e)

Sir,

Sub: EFS&T Dept., - Diversion of 3.21 ha of forest land in Panyam RF, Compartment no.145 (Bit-1 & 2) of Bugganapalli Beat, Compartment no.147 (Bit-3, 4 & 5) and Compartment no.137 & 148 (Bit-6 & 7) of Konided Beat, Panyam Section, Kurnool Range, Kurnool Division and re-diversion of the 19.30 ha in Compartment No.145, 147 & 148 of Panyam RF, Konided Beat, Panyam Range, Kurnool Division (presently in Nandyal Division) for construction of new double line and electrification of track between Guntur and Guntakal Stations at Panyam (Rly Km. 275-281 & km 285-288) between Dhane and Nandyal Stations in favour of the Deputy Chief Engineer, Construction, Guntakal Division, South Central Railway, Guntakal – Forest Clearance under Section-2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 – Reg.

Ref: From the PCCF & HoFF, Lr.Ref.no.EFS02-15024/1/2022- FCA SEC-PCCF/FCA-1, dated: 26.05.2023.

I invite attention to the reference cited, wherein the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, Andhra Pradesh, has stated that the Deputy Chief Engineer, Construction, Guntakal Division, South Central Railway, Guntakal has initiated a proposal in Parivesh portal (Proposal No.FP/AP/RAIL/154617/2022, dated 20.04.2022) for diversion of 3.21 ha of forest land in Panyam RF, Compartment no.145 (Bit-1&2) of Bugganapalli Beat, Compartment no.147 (Bit-3,4 & 5) and Compartment no.137 & 148 (Bit-6 & 7) of Konided Beat, Panyam Section, Kurnool Range & Division (presently in Nandyal Division) and re-diversion of the 19.30 ha in Compt.No.145, 147 & 148 of Panyam RF, Konided Beat, Panyam Range, Kurnool Division (presently in Nandyal Division) for construction of new double line and electrification of track between Guntur and Guntakal Stations at Panyam (Rly Km.275-281 & km 285-288) between Dhane and Nandyal Stations. The Chief Conservator of Forests, Kurnool Circle, Kurnool/Chief Conservator of Forest & Field Director (FAC), PT Circle, Srisailem has submitted the proposal duly processed under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The details of the proposal are as follows:

i).The User Agency has furnished the following information in Part-I:

- For locating the project in the forest area, the user agency has justified that, as there is no alternative route to the Railway line, the forest land to an extent of 3.21 ha in Compartment no.145 of Panyam RF, Bugganapalli & Konided Beat and Compartment nos.147, 137 & 148 of Panyam RF, Konided Beat Kurnool Range, Kurnool Division, Andhra Pradesh, is required to construct the new double line and electrification of track between Guntur and Guntakal stations at Konided and Panyam (Rly km 275-281 & 285-288).
- Estimated cost of the project Rs.363100.00 lakh.
- There will be no displacement of people due to this project.
- Employment likely to be generated due to this project is 40 number of persons (Permanent) and 8,000 number of man-days (Temporary).

(Contd.P.-2-)

- RoFR certificate in Form-I issued by the District Collector, Kurnool.
- The User Agency has furnished undertakings to bear the cost of raising and maintenance of Compensatory Afforestation, payment of NPV and addl.NPV, and cost of tree extraction charges as and when demanded by the State Forest Department.

ii).The District Forest Officer, Kurnool/DFO, Nandyal furnished the following information in part-II:

- Site was inspected on 26.04.2022.
- The proposal is for diversion of 3.21 ha of forest land in Panyam RF, Compartment no.145 (Bit-1&2) of Bugganapalli Beat, Compartment no.147 (Bit-3, 4 & 5) and Compartment no.137 & 148 (Bit-6 & 7) of Konided Beat, Panyam Section, Kurnool Range, Kurnool Division for construction of new double line and electrification of track between Guntur and Guntakal Stations at Panyam (Rly Km. 275-281 & km 285-288) between Dhone and Nandyal Stations in favour of the Deputy Chief Engineer, Construction, Guntakal Division, South Central Railway, Guntakal.
- Forest area proposed for diversion is 3.21 ha.

Bit no.	Area (in ha)	Compt. no.	RF	Beat	Section
1	0.73	145	Panyam	Bugganipalli	Bethamcherala
2	0.96	145	Panyam	Konided	Panyam
3	0.32	147	Panyam	Konided	Panyam
4	0.21	147	Panyam	Konided	Panyam
5	0.16	147	Panyam	Konided	Panyam
6	0.77	137	Panyam	Konided	Panyam
7	0.06	148	Panyam	Konided	Panyam
Total area:	3.21				

- Panyam RF was notified under Section 16 of Madras forest Act vide notification no.454, dt.24.11.1903.
- The density of vegetation of RF is 0.2 to 0.4 (Eco-class-III).
- 80 numbers of trees are to be felled in the proposed diversion area and 158 nos. in the forest area proposed for re-diversion i.e., 19.30 ha.
- The RF area proposed for diversion is not vulnerable to erosion.
- Approximate distance of the proposed forest area for diversion from the boundary of forest is as follows;

Bit no.	Approximate distance of proposed site for diversion from the boundary of forest
1	0 km (passing through Panyam RF)
2	0 km (passing through Panyam RF)
3	0.23
4	0.50
5	0.82
6	0.75
7	0.24

- The proposed area for diversion does not from part of National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant Corridor etc.
- There is no rare/endangered/unique species of flora and fauna found in the proposed diversion area.
- Flora found in the proposed diversion area are *Moringa concanensis* (Adavi Munaga), *Albizia amara* (Chigara), *Albizia lebbeck* (Dirisana), *Grewia rotundifolia* (Jana), *Ficus Mollis* (Jivi), *Azadirichta indica* (Neem), *Zizyphus jujube* (Chinta) etc.
- The Wildlife found in around the proposed diversion area are *Rabbits*, *Peacocks*, *Spotted deer*, *Wild boar* and *Foxes* etc.

- There is no protected archaeological/heritage site/defense establishments or any other important monuments are located in the proposed RF area.
- The forest land required for diversion is the barest minimum for the project.
- No work in violation has been taken place.
- Degraded forest land to an extent of 10.02 ha has been identified in Compartment no. 100 & 101, Gani RF. Twice the extent of area proposed for diversion i.e., (3.21 X 2 = 6.42 ha) has been selected for compensatory afforestation purpose. Compensatory Afforestation scheme has been prepared for 75.100 lakh for a period from 2023-24 to 2034-35 which includes 10 years maintenance).

2. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force has further stated that in the site inspection report, the District Forest Officer, Kurnool reported the following information;

1. As per the notification of Panyam RF, "the Southern Marata Railway line passing through the reserve from the east to west, has been excluded from reservation to its actual width as survey and demarcated".
2. As per the records available in this office, the user agency had already taken over 19.301 ha of forest land in Panyam RF, Kurnool Division (Proposal no.FP/AP/RAIL/191/1994) for conversion of Meter Gauge railway line to Broad Gauge line between Giddalur and Dronachalam Stations under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 vide GoI, MoE&F(FC Division) F.no.8-37/94-FC, dt.22.08.1994 (copy enclosed).
3. The user agency has proposed fresh forest land as per the requirement by Railways at present in Panyam RF which is under the custody of Forest Department and wherever diversion of forest land is not required, they have not proposed, hence the formation of gaps in the proposed forest diversion of forest land.

3. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force has also stated that the District Forest Officer, Kurnool/Nandyal has recommended the proposal in Part-II. The Chief Conservator of Forests, Kurnool Circle, Kurnool/Chief Conservator of Forest & Field Director (FAC), PT Circle, Srisailam has agreed with information provided in Part-II by the District Forest Officer, Kurnool and also recommended the proposal in Part-III. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (FCA) & Nodal Officer has recommended the proposal in Part-IV.

4. I enclose the statutory proforma proposal along with enclosures received from the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force duly recommending in Part-V and request you to obtain and communicate the approval of competent authority for diversion of 3.21 ha of forest land in Panyam RF, Compartment no.145 (Bit-1&2) of Bugganapalli Beat, Compartment no.147 (Bit-3,4 & 5) and Compartment no.137 & 148 (Bit-6 & 7) of Konided Beat, Panyam Section, Kurnool Range & Division (presently in Nandyal Division) and re-diversion of the 19.30 ha in Compt.No.145, 147 & 148 of Panyam RF, Konided Beat, Panyam Range, Kurnool Division (presently in Nandyal Division) for construction of new double line and electrification of track between Guntur and Guntakal Stations at Panyam (Rly Km.275-281 & km 285-288) between Dhone and Nandyal Stations in favour of the Deputy Chief Engineer, Construction, Guntakal Division, South Central Railway, Guntakal under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, at the earliest.

Yours faithfully,


for Special Chief Secretary to Government

Copy to:

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force,
Andhra Pradesh, Mangalagiri.

The Deputy Chief Engineer, Construction,
Guntakal Division, South Central Railway, Guntakal.

PART-V

Proposal for diversion of 3.21 ha of forest land in Panyam RF, Compartment no.145 (Bit-1&2) of Bugganapalli Beat, Compartment no.147 (Bit-3,4 & 5) and Compartment no.137 & 148 (Bit-6 & 7) of Konided Beat, Panyam Section, Kurnool Range & Division (presently in Nandyal Division) and re-diversion of the 19.30 ha in Compt.No.145, 147 & 148 of Panyam RF, Konided Beat, Panyam Range, Kurnool Division (presently in Nandyal Division) for construction of new double line and electrification of track between Guntur and Guntakal Stations at Panyam (Rly Km.275-281 & km 285-288) between Dhone and Nandyal Stations in favour of Deputy Chief Engineer, Construction, Guntakal Division, South Central Railway, Guntakal.

18.	Recommendation of the State Government	Recommended
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Signature

Name & Designation

Dr. P.V. CHALAPATHI RAO, I.F.S.,

Special Secretary to Government

Official Seal

Environment, Forests, Science

and Technology Department

A.P. Secretariat, Velagapudi - 522238.

Date: 02.06.2023

Place: AMARAVATI