



भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS & CLIMATE CHANGE
Integrated Regional Office, Vijayawada
Green House Complex, Gopal Reddy Road
Vijayawada – 520010
Andhra Pradesh
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F.No.4-APA013/2016-CHN/47

Date 30th July, 2021

To,

The Principal Secretary to the Government of Andhra Pradesh,
Environment, Forests, Science & Technology Department,
Government of Andhra Pradesh, Room No.268, 1st Floor, 4th Block,
Andhra Pradesh Secretariat, Velagapudi, Amaravati Guntur District-
522503

Subject: Diversion of 118.725 ha in (3) Forest Divisions i.e. Guntur, Giddalur and Nellore for construction of New BG Railway line between Nadikudi to Srikalahasti, in favour of South Central Railway, Secunderbad -reg

Sir,

Please refer to the State Government's letter No.3193/Section-II/2014 dated 13.06.2016 and online proposal No. FP/AP/RAIL/17757/2016, seeking prior approval of the Central Government in accordance with Section '2' of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for the above mentioned project. The project was accorded in-principle approval (Stage-I) by the Central Government vide letter of even number dated 20.07.2016. The State Government vide letter No. 3193/Section-II/2014 dated 16.06.2021 has reported compliance to the conditions stipulated in the in-principle approval.

After careful consideration of the proposal of the State Government, I am to convey herewith the Central Government's approval (**Stage-II**) under Section '2' of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of **118.725 ha** in (3) Forest Divisions i.e. Guntur, Giddalur and Nellore for construction of New BG Railway line between Nadikudi to Srikalahasti, in favour of South Central Railway, Secunderbad, subject to the following conditions:-

1. The legal status of forest land shall remain unchanged;
2. The Compensatory Afforestation (CA) shall be raised and maintained by the State Forest Department over 139.69 ha of degraded forest land identified in Compt.No.432 & 439 in Inimerla PF/RF of Kanigiri Range and 101.0415 ha degraded FL in Compt.No. 452 in Punugodu RF of Kanigiri, from the amount which has already been realized form the User Agency;

3. Additional amount of the Net Present Value (NPV) of the diverted forest land if any, becoming due after revision of the same by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in future, shall be charged by the State Government from User Agency;
4. The six (06) number of water tanks constructed on either side of the proposed track to provide water to the wild animals so as to prevent them from crossing across the railway track in search of water, shall be maintained properly by the State Forest Department at the project cost;
5. The User Agency shall have qualified forest/agricultural/ horticultural graduates on their rolls to monitor the plantations being carried out by the railways;
6. The State Government shall form a committee consisting of members from forest department to implement the green initiatives recommended under the 1% money proposed to be allotted from the project cost;
7. The User Agency shall construct the ROB's and other underpasses as mentioned in the Project estimate for the safe passage of the wild animals;
8. In Inimerla RF waterholes and solar powered borewell structures may be provided. Likewise in Punugoda RF also, as suggested by the APCCF(Central) during site inspection, solar powered borewell structures to be provided at the cost of User Agency.
9. Depending on the feasibility, the State Forest Department shall try to translocate the trees present in the proposed area to the nearby forest area at the cost of the User Agency;
10. The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government;
11. No station/halt should be commissioned in the forest area. The railways should look for alternative technical options;
12. Pre-fabricated, eco-friendly structures should be used to the maximum possible extent to reduce the extent of disturbance in the habitat;
13. The debris / earth excavated during the track laying work should be disposed off outside the forest area and reused suitably so that the natural drainage of the area is not blocked. However materials to be used for construction of new tracks should be brought from outside the forest area;



14. Minimal disturbance should be ensured by creating labour camps outside the forest area as far as possible;
15. The felling of trees may be restricted to the extent only where it is necessary to remove;
16. Night time usage of the track may be disallowed. Work shall be taken up only during day time;
17. In case of any steep slope arising out along the alignment, the slope should be reduced to facilitate movement of wild animals, especially heavy bodied and slow moving animals;
18. Appropriate soil conservation measures to be taken to reduce silt load in the run-off to avoid negative impact on the water bodies. The User Agency will provide retaining walls, breast wall and drainage as per requirement to make the slope stable;
19. Traffic on the proposed track should be controlled to minimize the chances of wildlife mortalities;
20. Speed limit for the train shall be decided by the railway authorities after consultation with the Chief Wildlife Warden (CWLW) as per terrain and presence of wildlife. Moreover railway authorities shall abide by any conditions prescribed by the CWLW on speed limit as per the orders of the Honourable Supreme Court of India;
21. The User Agency and the State Government shall ensure compliance to the all Acts, Rules, Regulation and Guidelines of the Ministry, for the time being in force, as applicable to the railway line projects;
22. The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal and total forest area utilized for the project shall not exceed **118.725 ha**. User Agency shall furnish an undertaking to this effect;
23. The Forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agency or Department or person without prior approval of the Central Government.
24. The User Agency shall submit the annual self compliance report in respect of the above conditions to the Integrated Regional Office, Vijayawada and to the State Government;



25. All other conditions proposed by the State Government at the time of submission of the proposal to the Central Government shall be complied with by the User Agency.
26. Any other condition that the Regional Officer (Central), Integrated Regional Office, Vijayawada may impose from time to time in the interest of afforestation, conservation and management of flora and fauna in the area shall be complied by the user agency;
27. In the event of failure to comply with any of the above conditions the user agency is liable for penal action as per the provisions made in rules / guidelines issued under FCA, 1980.

Yours faithfully



(N.S.Murali)

Inspector General of Forests (Central)

Copy to:

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Forests Department, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, Aranya Bhavan, K.M. Munshi Road, Nagarampalem Guntur-522004
2. The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests/Nodal Officer (FCA), Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Forests Department, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, Aranya Bhavan, K.M. Munshi Road, Nagarampalem, Guntur-522004
3. The Deputy Chief Project Manager World Class, World Class Station Project, Newar Lekha Bhavan, South Central Railway, Secunderabad-500071. dycpmwc@gmail.com
4. Guard file.



(N.S.Murali)

Inspector General of Forests (Central)