



भारत सरकार  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS  
& CLIMATE CHANGE

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F.No. FC-II/MH-142/2021-NGP/10229

Date:26.08.2022

✓ To,

The Principal Secretary (Forests),  
Revenue and Forest Department,  
Hutatma Rajguru Chowk  
Madam Cama Marg  
Mantralaya, Mumbai – 400032.

**Sub: Diversion of 34.1914 ha Forest Land for construction of 3rd Railway line from Darekasa Salekasa Station in Gondia in lieu of 3rd line Project between Khairagarh- Nagpur (Kalumna), in favour of South East Central Railway Gondia in Gondia District in the State of Maharashtra - regarding.**

Sir,

The undersigned is directed to refer to State Government of Maharashtra letter No. FLD-35A21/CR-54/F-10 dated 16.02.2021 and APCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Maharashtra vide his letter No. Desk-17/NC/I/ID-/1183/20-21 dated 05.02.2021 on the above subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. After careful examination of the proposal of the State Government, 'in-principle' approval was accorded by the Central Government vide its letter of even number dated 03.08.2021. The Addl. PCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Maharashtra has now submitted a report on the compliance of conditions stipulated in the 'in-principle' approval and requested the State Government to grant final approval to the proposal.

In this connection, I am directed to say that on the basis of compliance report submitted by the Addl. PCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Maharashtra's letter no. Desk-17/Nodal/Nagpur/ID-12865(15)/1525/2021-22 dated 15.11.2021 and letter No. Desk-17/NC/I/350/19-20 dated 10.08.2022 and State Governemnt of Maharashtra's letter No. FLD-35A2/C.R.54/F-10 dated 29.07.2022 forwarding additional information as sought vide this office letter of even no. dated 30.12.2021, the Central Government hereby accords 'final approval' under Section- 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 34.1914 ha Forest Land for construction of 3rd Railway line from Darekasa Salekasa Station in Gondia in lieu of 3rd line Project between Khairagarh- Nagpur (Kalumna), in favour of South East Central Railway Gondia in Gondia District in the State of Maharashtra subject to following conditions.

- i. Legal status of the forest land shall remain unchanged;
- ii. **Compensatory afforestation**
  - a. Compensatory afforestation shall be taken up by the Forest Department over 68.50 ha degraded forest land at the cost of the User Agency as under:

S.N.	Range	Village Name	Comptt. No.	Area (ha)
1	Amgaon	Manegaon	489	10.00
2		Kumbhartoli	475	10.00
3		Birsi	478	10.00
4	S/Arjuni	Medhaki	834	18.50
5		Duggipar	168	20.00
6	<b>Grand Total</b>			<b>68.50</b>

As far as possible, a mixture of local indigenous species along with 10% RET species of Gondia District shall be planted and monoculture of any species may be avoided. At least two water bodies in each compartment no 834 and 168 and one each in compartment no 489, 475 and 478 shall be constructed in the form of tank/ stop dams etc if the same are not available in the area or in nearby vicinity. Further, if existing tank/ stop dams are available and needs desilting/ repair; same shall be carried out to meet the water requirement of wild animals throughout the year;

- iii. User agency shall restrict the felling of trees to minimum number in the diverted forest land and the trees shall be felled under the strict supervision of the State Forest Department and the cost of felling of trees shall be deposited by the User Agency with the State Forest Department;
- iv. State Government, Maharashtra/ Nodal Officer (FCA), Maharashtra shall ensure settlement of rights under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (No. 2 of 2007) before issuing an order for handing over of forest land to the User Agency as per Rule- 9 (6) (b) (ii) of Forest (Conservation) Rules, 2002 dated 28.06.2002;
- v. Speed regulating signage will be erected along the railway line at regular intervals in the Protected Areas/ Forest Areas;
- vi. User Agency shall obtain Environmental Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if applicable;
- vii. User Agency in consultation with State Forest Department shall implement a site specific Wildlife Management Plan for 10 years and a copy of same shall be submitted to the IRO, MoEF&CC, Nagpur within six month from issuance of this letter;
- viii. User Agency in consultation with State Forest Department shall construct underpasses at same places as are in existing line with wider openings and interconnected guided bio fences for smooth movement of wildlife. Further, wherever feasible, User Agency in consultation with State Forest Department shall construct new underpasses both in old and new lines in a synchronized way so that a continuous passage covering both lines is available for wildlife movement. For purpose of dimensions of all such under passes the manual of Wildlife Institute of India entitled "Eco-friendly Measures to Mitigate Impacts of Linear Infrastructure on Wildlife, published in 2016" shall be consulted;
- ix. Wherever feasible, State Forest Department shall carry out plantation along the railway line by planting 8 mtr tall plants at the cost of User Agency;
- x. To improve the Forest/ Tree cover and to reduce pollution in the State, as mandated in National Forest Policy, 1988 and Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986 respectively, the User Agency with involvement of Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMC's)

and in consultation with local DCF shall raise at least 35,000 seedlings of forestry species along with bamboo, fruit bearing, medicinal, ornamental and indigenous/local for 10 years. At least 50% of seedlings shall be planted in the vicinity of project area and remaining 50% of seedlings shall be distributed among villagers as per choice of villagers. The concerned JFMC's shall maintain record of plantation/ seedling distribution to villagers;

- xi. The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without prior approval of Central Government;
- xii. No labour camp shall be established on the forest land;
- xiii. 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;
- xiv. 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;
- xv. No additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for transportation of construction materials for execution of the project work;
- xvi. 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;
- xvii. The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the project proposal;
- xviii. 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;
- xix. Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and action would be taken as per the MoEF&CC Guideline F. No. 11-42/2017-FC dt 29/01/2018;
- xx. 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;
- xxi. The compliance report shall be uploaded on *e-portal* (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>);

This issues with the approval of DDGF (C)/ Regional Officer (Central), Integrated Regional Office, MoEF& CC, Nagpur.

Yours faithfully,

  
**(C.B. Tashildar)**  
AIGF (Central)

Copy to:

- i. The IG (RoHQ), MoEF&CC, New Delhi.
- ii. The PCCF (HoFF), Government of Maharashtra, Nagpur.
- iii. The Addl. PCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Maharashtra, Nagpur.
- iv. User agency.
- v. Guard file.

  
**(C.B. Tashildar)**  
AIGF (Central)