

I/658153/2022

**GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
FOREST DEPARTMENT**

From
Sri Y. Madhusudhana Reddy, IFS.,
Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests &
Head of Forest Force(FAC),
Andhra Pradesh, Guntur - 522 004.

To
The Spl. Chief Secretary to
Government,
Environment, Forests, Science &
Technology Department,
Andhra Pradesh, Velagapudi,

Ref.no.EFS02-15026/14/2020-FCA-SEC-PCCF/FCA-3,
dated:01/11/2022.

Sir,

Sub:- APFD - F(C)Act, 1980 - Diversion of 2.99 ha forest land in compartment no.978, Gilman field RF, Visakhapatnam Division for installation of desalination plant in f/o Divis Laboratories Ltd., Visakhapatnam - Submission of proposal under F(C) Act, 1980 - Clearance under Section-2 of F(C)Act, 1980- Requested - Reg.

Ref:- 1. Online proposal no.FP/AP/Others/147251/2021, dated: 22.09.2021.
2. PCCF (HoFF), A.P., Guntur Rc. no.EFS02-15026/14/2020-FCA SEC-PCCF/FCA-3, dated: .
3. CCF , Visakhapatnam Rc. no.1048/2021/TO, dated: 15.10.2022.

It is submitted that, in the reference 1st cited, the General Manager, Divis laboratories Ltd., Visakhapatnam has submitted proposal in PARIVESH portal for Diversion of 2.99 ha forest land in compartment no.978, Gilman field RF, Visakhapatnam Division for installation of desalination plant in f/o Divis Laboratories Ltd., Visakhapatnam.

Accordingly, the Chief Conservator of Forests, Visakhapatnam Circle, Visakhapatnam in the reference 3rd cited has processed the proposal under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and submitted the statutory proposal in the prescribed proformae for diversion of 2.99 ha forest land in compartment no.978, Gilman field RF, Visakhapatnam Division for installation of desalination plant in f/o Divis Laboratories Ltd., Visakhapatnam with requisite certificates / undertakings.

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

- Forest area to an extent of 2.99 ha is required in compartment no.978, Gilman field RF, Visakhapatnam Division for installation of desalination plant in f/o Divis Laboratories Ltd., Visakhapatnam.
- Cost of the project is mentioned as 100.00 Crore
- The user agency has justified that, the proposed project is useful to M/s Divi's Laboratories Ltd., an Active Pharma Ingredients (API) manufacturer,

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located at Chippada village, Behhemuipatnam (M), Visakhapatnam District. In manufacturing process of APIs, we consume lot of fresh water. At present, as per the permissions received from the GoAP, we are utilizing fresh water from Gosthani river bed near Tagarapuvalasa bridge. However, due to the increase in population around Bheemunipatnam mandal, there is ever increasing dependence on the fresh water from Gosthani river, especially during summer season resulting in scarcity of water.

- To overcome the water scarcity and reduce dependence on Gosthani River, we propose to install few desalination plants to convert the sea water into fresh water. As per the information from the desalination plant suppliers, 70% of the sea water will be pumped back to sea after desalination. Hence, the user agency proposed to have the desalination plant nearer to the sea to reduce pumping the water back and forth. To install the desalination plant, they require 03 ha of forest land abetting the sea near Jetty at Chippada village, Bheemunipatnam (M), Visakhapatnam District. Because of the non-availability of private lands in the surrounding area, the proposed project is located in the forest area.
- The user agency has furnished undertakings for payment of CA, NPV, Addl. NPV, tree extraction charges etc.
- The area proposed for diversion is 2.99 ha. Hence Cost benefit analysis does not arise.
- No human displacement is involved, as there is no habitations in the proposed land.
- No loss of public facilities involved in this project.
- Employment likely to be generated is 300 permanent / Regular employment and 200 person-days will be generated.
- The user agency has stated that, clearance under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 is not required.
- The User Agency further informed that M/s Divis Laboratories will get water from sea to the proposed plant in Gilman RF and to the jetty through pipelines already laid in the forest area over an extent of 0.71 ha which was already diverted in G.O.Ms.no.102, EFS&T (Sec.II) Dept, dt.28.09.2016 for formation of road to jetty to draw sea water.

The District Forest Officer, Visakhapatnam has submitted the following information in Part-II.

- Forest area to an extent of 2.99 ha is required in compartment no.978, Gilmanfield RF, Visakhapatnam Division for installation of desalination plant in favour of M/s Divis laboratories Ltd., Visakhapatnam.
- Legal Status of the forest is Gilmanfield RF, notified U/s -15 of A.P., Forest Act, 1967, dated: 09.07.1993.
- The density of vegetation is < 0.1 (Eco-class-IV) Tropical Thorn Forests and Tropical Dry Evergreen Forests.
- 11,090 no. of trees which will be affected in 4.00 ha raised under APDRP scheme during 2018-19. List of trees enumerated is enclosed herewith.
- The area is prone to erosion to an extent. Necessary mitigation measures to be undertaken accordingly.

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- The proposed diversion area is 100m. from Gilmanfield RF boundary.
- The proposed alignment does not form a part of National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere reserve, Tiger reserve, Elephant corridor etc.
- No Rare / endangered/ unique species of flora and fauna are found in the area.
- No protected archaeological heritage sites / defense establishment or any other important monument is located in the area.
- The requirement of forest land proposed by the user agency is unavoidable and barest minimum due to suitable location in proximity to sea and adjoining the user agency plant.
- No violation has been carried out by the User Agency.

The Location map in (S.I) Sheet in 1:50,000 scale, authenticated DGPS maps are furnished.

The District Forest Officer, Visakhapatnam has inspected the area proposed for diversion on 06.09.2022 stating that, the desalination plant is passing through compartment no.978, Gilmanfield RF, Visakhapatnam. The density of the forests on the proposed area is < 0.1 (Eco-class-IV) Blanks Beach Forest (Scrub). It is proposed in an existing shelterbelt plantation area which was raised under APDRP during 2018-19. The proposed desalination plant is essential. There is no violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act noticed during field inspection. The said required forest area is required by user agency considering its proximity to the existing set-up of the company and proximity to the sea. Site inspection report of the Divisional Forest Officer, visakhapatnam is enclosed herewith.

Accordingly, in column no. 13 of Part -II, the District Forest Officer, Visakhapatnam has **"Recommended"** the proposal subject to certain conditions in the interest of Forests and Wildlife Conservation.

As per para 2.3 of Chapter -2 of Comprehensive guidelines issued by the GoI, MoEF & CC, New Delhi in f. No. 5-2/2017-FC, dated: 28.03.2019, the User Agency has identified non-forest land over an extent of 2.99 ha in Sy. nos.71 & 72 of Kuntambadevalasa village, Pachipenta (M), Vizianagaram for compensatory Afforestation purpose.

The District Forest Officer, Vizianagaram has inspected the non-forest land identified for Compensatory Afforestation and stated that the identified non-forest land over an extent of 2.99 ha in Sy. no. 71 & 72 is an enclosure named as Kuntambadevalasa village. The proposed CA land is adjacent to Kuntam Bit- I RF in compartment no.396 and the proposed CA land is free from encroachment and suitable for Afforestation.

As per para 2.8 of Chapter -2 of Comprehensive guidelines issued by the GoI, MoEF & CC, New Delhi in f. No. 5-2/2017-FC, dated: 28.03.2019, the District Forest Officer, Vizianagaram has prepared CA Scheme to an extent of 2.99 ha with a financial amount of Rs.33.133 lakh for a period from 2022-23 to 2033-34 with 10 years maintenance. Copy of the CA scheme, map is enclosed herewith.

The authenticated CA land map and Survey of India map in 1:50,000 is enclosed herewith.

In Part -III, the Chief Conservator of Forests, Visakhapatnam Circle,

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Visakhapatnam has agreed with the information furnished by the District Forest Officer, Visakhapatnam and **Recommended** the proposal for diversion of forest land.

In Part -IV, the Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests (FCA) & Nodal Officer, Andhra Pradesh has Recommended the proposal for diversion of forest land.

As per Government of India, MoEF &CC, New Delhi F.no.5-2/2017-FC, Dt. 28.03.2019, under RoFR Act, 2006, the user agency has uploaded the RoFR Certificate issued by the District Collector, Visakhapatnam District in the prescribed format(Form-II and Annexure A to H)for evidences for having initiated and completed the process of settlement of rights under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (RoFR) Act, 2006.

Further, it is to submit that as per the guidelines issued by the Gol, MoEF, New Delhi this proposal has been uploaded in the Ministry's web portal (www.parivesh.nic.in) & a unique proposal number no. **FP/AP/Others/147251/2021** has been generated for this proposal. A copy of the Acknowledgment slip generated by the Ministry's web portal is enclosed herewith.

In view of the above, the statutory proposal along with necessary enclosures in (2) sets, for diversion of 2.99 ha in compartment no.978, Gilmanfield RF, Visakhapatnam for installation of desalination plant in favour of Divi's Laboratories Ltd., Visakhapatnam duly recommended in Part-IV, subject to the conditions stipulated in Gol, MoEF&CC, New Delhi in F. no.5-2/2017 (FC Division) Dt. 28.03.2019 is submitted herewith.

Government are requested to take necessary action for onward submission of proposal to Government of India, MoEF &CC, IRO, Vijayawada to accord forest clearance under Section-2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and amendments therein.

Encl:- (2) sets of proposals

Yours faithfully,
Y Madhusudhana Reddy Ifs
Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests &
Head of Forest Force(FAC)

Copy to the Chief Conservator of Forests, Visakhapatnam Circle, Visakhapatnam for information.

Copy to the District Forest Officer, Visakhapatnam and Vizianagaram for information and necessary action.

The Authorized Signatory, M/s Divis laboratories Ltd., Chippada Village, Bheemunipatnam (M), Visakhapatnam for information and necessary action.

PART-IV

Diversion of 2.99 ha in compartment no.978, Gilmanfield RF, Visakhapatnam for installation of desalination plant in favour of Divi's Laboratories Ltd., Visakhapatnam....

17	Detailed opinion and specific recommendations of the State Forest Department for acceptance or otherwise of the proposal with remarks (while giving opinion, the adverse comments made by concerned Conservator of Forests or Deputy Conservator of Forests should be categorically reviewed and critically commented upon)	Recommended.
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Date:30/10/2022

Place : Guntur

Signature

Name:Anand Kumar Jha

Office Seal:

A.K. JHA
Principal Chief Conservator
of Forests (FCA) & Nodal Officer

Validity unknown

Digitally signed by ANAND
KUMAR JHA

Date: 2022/10/30 22:58:49 IST