

PART - IV

(to be filled by the Nodal Officer or Principal Chief Conservator of Forests or Head of Forest Department)

17	Detailed opinion and specific recommendation of the State Forest Department for acceptance of 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)	Specific recommendation of Principal Chief Conservator of forests (Head of forest force), Maharashtra State, Nagpur is enclosed on page no. 28-A to E
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For *Pradeep*
07.04.2016
Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
And Nodal officer
Maharashtra State, Nagpur

Proposal for diversion of 37.512 ha. forest land under section-2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act-1980 for construction of Surewada Lift Irrigation Scheme near Village Surewada Taluka. Bhandara District Bhandara & Village.Khedepar Tahsil-Tirode in Dist. Gondia

Specific Recommendation of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, (Head of Forest Force) Maharashtra State with regards to acceptance or otherwise of the proposal supported by reasons.

Executive Engineer, Gosikhurd Lift Irrigation Division, Ambadi (Bhandara) has initiated proposal for diversion of 37.512 ha. forest land under section-2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act-1980 for construction of Surewada Lift Irrigation Scheme at Village Surewada Tq. Bhandara District Bhandara & village Khedepar Tahsil-Tirode Dist. Gondia. The location of the project is given as under-

Village	Taluka	District	Comptt No.	Gut/Survey No.	Area (in ha.)				
					Wildlife Sanctuary RF	RF	PF	ZP	Identified Forest
1.Surewada	Bhandara	Bhandara	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	.070	-----
2.Matora			97	43,521, 536, 541, 548, 593, 589	-----	-----	0.423	-----	-----
3.Saleheti			95	134,136,143 153, 148, 144	-----	-----	0.627	0.125	0.090
4.Saleheti			96	38	-----	-----	0.195	-----	-----
5.Hamesha									
6.Injewada			94	31,30,159 16,33,35, 67	-----	-----	4.267	0.150	-----
7.Surpewada			-----	77,84,103,106,1 27	-----	-----		0.733	-----
8.Koka			90,	426,427,423, 422, 421,420, 414, 413,415, 411, 381, 309, 469,	-----	-----	7.569	-----	-----
Nagzira Tiger Reserve			164	Wildlife Sanctuary RF	0.650	-----	-----	-----	-----
9.Sonkund			87	89,79,104,125, 27,	-----	-----	3.259		
10.Palora	Mohadi	Bhandara		407,404,405, 406349,490,424	-----	-----	-----	2.383	-----

11.Kesalwada			83	408,409,407, 405, 404,403, 402,401 ,400, 418,399,419, 420,422,387,3 86, 377,381,346	-----	-----	4.308	-----	-----
12.Yelkazari			82	289,290,301, 297, 270,268,253	-----	-----	3.554	-----	-----
13.Lendezari				91,40,36/1,24, 25	-----	-----	3.250	0.798	-----
14.Kardi				1365,1310	-----	-----	2.012	0.290	-----
15. Navegaon	Bhandara	Bhandara	89	144,147,5,4,6	-----	-----	0.775	0.135	-----
Dongardeo	Mohadi	Bhandara	84	290,28	-----	-----	0.270	-----	-----
Gondia Division									
Khedepar	Tirode	Gondia	79	79,80,81,82, 151	-----	-----	1.579	-----	-----
Grand Total							37.512	-----	-----

The project for Surewada Lift Irrigation Project has been initiated by Executive Engineer, Gosikhurd Lift Irrigation Division, Ambadi (Bhandara). The project is administratively approved vide Government of Maharashtra Resolution No.2001/1086 (171/01)JSA, Mantralay Mumbai, dt. 29/11/2006. The total non forest area involved in the project is 74.925 ha.

- 2) In this project water is proposed to be lifted from the backwater of Gosikhurd Project for Irrigation Purpose. In this project linear forest area is required for underground rising Main and Canal Work only. The project site is located at Village Surewada Tal. Bhandara Dist. Bhandara Wainganga River is a major river of Maharashtra in Vidarbha region and tributary of Pranhita in Godavari Basin. The project site is located at 10 km from Bhandara & is 3 km away from Surewada Village and 8 Km from NH-06. The site is shown on Sheet No. 55 O/12 & 55 O/16.

The irrigation project is thus an obvious need of the people of this area, which is dominated by the dependency of agriculture on monsoon. This project will enable the farmers to get the profit in Rabi season also. This will further help in the development of agro industries and its natural consequences and cumulative effect would result in the economic upliftment of the economically backward communities as well as tribal area in which Government is keenly interested.

The river Waingangā is one of the major tributaries in Godavari basin and has a very high water potential as it runs through high rainfall zone of Vidarbha region. The large water resources from this river, due to constrain of forest land geographical features, suitable irrigation project sites are not available for impounding of water for storage tank and as such the only alternative is to lift

the water. There are no irrigation projects near the command area of the proposed scheme except three minor projects.

- 3) Density of forest is 0.4, Eco Value Class III.
- 4) District Collector, Bhandara & Deputy Conservator of Forests, Bhandara/ Division, Bhandara, and Deputy Conservator of Forests, Gondia, Deputy Director of Navegaon Nagzira Tiger Reserve have certified that no alternate alignment is possible and the forest land required is the barest minimum.
- 5) There are 380 trees falling in the project area in Koka Wildlife Sanctuary and 3423 trees falling in the project area in Bhandara Division, Bhandara. The girth & class wise abstract is given as under :-

Type of Flora	20-30 cm	31/45 cm	46/60 cm	61/75 cm	76/90 cm	91/105 cm	106/120 cm	120 above	Total
Teak Building Wood	1	2	3	0	0	0	1	0	7
Non Teak Building Wood	1	24	10	3	4	0	0	0	42
Total	2	26	13	3	4	0	1	0	49
Teak Fuel Wood	10	5	2	1	0	0	0	0	18
Non Teak Fuel Wood	233	91	25	7	3	0	1	2	362
Total	243	96	27	8	3	0	1	2	380

Total 3423 trees are falling in the project area in Bhandara Division, Bhandara

Type of Flora	31/45 cm	61/90 cm	91/120 cm	121/150 cm	150 above	Total
Teak Building Wood	2403	542	234	121	123	3423

- 6) The area involved in the project forms part of Koka Wildlife Sanctuary, the boundary of nearest protected area as certified by Deputy Director, Navegaon Nagzira Tiger Reserve & within 10 Kms. of Deputy Conservator of Forests, Bhandara Division, Bhandara and Deputy Conservator of Forests, Gondia Division, Gondia.
- 7) The area involved does not affect any monumental site of cultural, historical, religious, archeological or recreational importance as certified Deputy Conservator of Forests, Bhandara Division, Bhandara. Deputy Conservator of Forest Gondia Dn Gondia, Dy. Director Navegaon Nagzira Tiger Reserve Sakoli
- 8) There is no violation of Forest (Conservation) Act 1980, as certified by Deputy Conservator of Forests, Bhandara Division, Bhandara. Deputy Conservator of Forest Gondia Dn Gondia & Deputy Director Navegaon Nagzira Tiger Reserve.

- 9) Deputy Conservator of Forests, Bhandara Division, Bhandara has certified that Gut/Survey no.1109,1112,1113,1114 of village Dighori, Taluka Lakhandur, District Bhandara which is proposed for Compensatory Afforestation is neither a deemed Reserved Forest under the Maharashtra Private Forests (Acquisition) Act, 1975 nor it has been identified as "Forest" as envisaged in the interim order given by the Hon'ble Supreme Court, dated 12/12/1996.
- 10) Deputy Conservator of Forests, Bhandara Division, Bhandara has certified that non forest area covered under the project is not private forest under the provision of Maharashtra Private Forest (Acquisition) Act, 1975 by virtue of application of section 35 of Indian Forest Act 1927 and are not recognized as deemed reserved Forest as well as not included in the area identified as "Forest" as per the dictionary meaning of Forest as intimated to the Expert Committee appointed under interim judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court, dated 12/12/1996.
- 11) Conservator of Forests & Field Director, Navegaon Nagazira Tiger, Reserve, Gondia has certified that the proposed project is within 5 km of boundaries of New Nagzira Wild Life Sanctuary.
- 12) Deputy Conservator of Forests, Bhandara Division, Bhandara & Deputy Conservator of Forests, Gondia has certified that the proposed project is within 10 km of boundaries of the Protected area (Sanctuary/National Park).
- 13) The User Agency has submitted a copy of Resolution of Aam Sabha of concerned Gram Panchayats, favoring diversion.
- 14) The Project Authority has submitted certificates issued by the District Collector Bhandara & Gondia under Schedule Tribes and Other traditional forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act 2006 as per F. NO.11-9/98 FC, dt.5/7/2013.
- 15) Deputy Director, Navegaon Nagazira Tiger, Reserve has certified that the proposed area is within Koka Sanctuary of Navegaon Nagazira Tiger, Reserve, Sakoli.

In view of this, the proposal is recommended for approval under section - 2 (ii) subject the following conditions.

- i) The legal status of the land required will remain unchanged.
- ii) Compensatory afforestation will be raised over 37.512 ha. at the cost of User Agency on non forest land, made available by the Agency, of village Dighori, Tahsil-Lakhandur
- iii) The alternate land made available for raising compensatory afforestation in lieu of diversion shall be notified under section-4 of Indian Forest Act, 1927 and shall be declared as Reserved Forest in due course of time.
- iv) The User Agency will pay the cost of survey, demarcation and erection of permanent pillars on the compensatory afforestation land, made available by the Agency.

- v) The User Agency will defray the cost of removal of 380 trees in Koka Wildlife Sanctuary & 3423 trees in Bhandara Division in the proposed area. However, minimum number of trees will be felled.
- vi) As part of the area required for the project is within Koka Wildlife Sanctuary of Navegaon Nagzira Tiger Reserve, Sakoli the User Agency will seek the prior approval from SBWL/NBWL.
- vii) The User Agency should provide water to forestry and allied purposes at the rate fixed by the Government of Maharashtra.
- viii) The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than specified in the project.
- ix) The Project Authority will defray the cost of Net Present Value of 37.512 ha. of forest land as per the latest Guideline of the Government of India.
- x) The Project Authority will defray the additional/revised cost of Net Present Value of forest land as per the latest guidelines of Government of India.
- xi) As the project area is also within 10 km of the boundary of Protected Area (Navegaon Nagzira Tiger Reserve, Sakoli), the user agency will have to seek the permission of Hon'ble National Green Tribunal with respect to order dated 13/1/2014 in application No. 135 (THC)/2013 [Shobhatai Phadanvis Vs State of Maharashtra] before grant of work permission or diversion by the State Government.
- xii) All other conditions as may be mandatory under relevant Acts, Rules and guidelines shall be complied with by the user agency.


Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Head of Forest Force)
Maharashtra State, Nagpur