

PART -IV

(To be filled by Nodal Officer or Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force))

(Detailed opinion and specific recommendation of the State Forest Department for acceptance or otherwise of the proposal with remarks)

Sub.:- Proposal for diversion of 121.83 ha forest land under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory in India (LIGO) in village Dudhala, Anjanwada, Nandgaon Sawali (B) Tal. Aundha (nagnath) District, Hingoli.

Sr. no.	Item of Works	District/ Tahsil	Village	Comptt. No.	Gut No.	Area (in ha)	Legal Status
1	Building area (14940 sq. m), Road (109105 sq. m), Beam Tube (32885 sq. m), Safety zone (243350 sq. m), Fencing area (7340 sq. m), & Tree plantation and Greenery area as per environmental clearance norms	Hingoli/ Aundha (nagnath)	Dudhala,	620,621, 621A	435,434, 406,407, 391	86.97	Reserved Forest
			Anjanwada	615C, 616	42	28.86	
			Nandgaon	625C	65,75	4.15	
			Sawali (B)	623	294	1.85	
Total Forest Area						121.83	

Specific recommendation of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF) MS Nagpur is attached on page no.


(G Sai Prakash)

**Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
& Nodal Officer, Maharashtra State, Nagpur.**

Date: 25/6/2018

Place: Nagpur

Proposal for diversion of 121.83 ha forest land under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory in India (LIGO) in village Dudhala, Anjanwada, Nandgaon Sawali (B) Tal. Aundha (nagnath) District, Hingoli.

- 1) The proposal is for diversion of 121.83 ha forest land under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory in India (LIGO) in village Dudhala, Anjanwada, Nandgaon Sawali (B) Tal. Aundha (nagnath) District, Hingoli. The area statement is shown as under-

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- 2) The area belongs to Eco-value class-III and having density 0.1 Open Forest.
- 3) The Divisional Forest Officer, Hingoli Division, Hingoli has certified that no suitable alternate non forest land is available other than forest land. Therefore, the demand of forest land required is the barest minimum.
- 4) There are 305 trees of various species and girth in the area proposed for diversion in Hingoli, Forest Division, Hingoli. The girth class wise abstract is given as under:-

Tree Girth in Cm				
0-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	Total
260	17	13	15	305

- 5) The area involved in the project does not form part of any existing National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary and Nature Reserve as certified by the Divisional Forest Officer, Hingoli Forest Division, Hingoli
- 6) The Divisional Forest Officer, Hingoli Forest Division, Hingoli has certified that proposed project is not likely to affect any monumental site of cultural, historical, religious, archeological or recreational importance.
- 7) There is no violation of Forest (Conservation) Act 1980, as certified by the Divisional Forest Officer, Hingoli Forest Division, Hingoli.
- 8) The Divisional Forest Officer, Hingoli Forest Division, Hingoli has certified that the proposed project is beyond 10 km of the boundaries of the protected areas.

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- 8) The Divisional Forest Officer, Hingoli Forest Division, Hingoli has certified that the proposed project is beyond 10 km of the boundaries of the protected areas.

**OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS (HEAD OF FOREST FORCE),
MAHARASHTRA STATE, NAGPUR**

ADDITIONAL PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS AND NODAL OFFICER, MAHARASHTRA STATE, NAGPUR,

First Floor, 'B' Wing, Van Bhavan, Civil Lines, Nagpur-440001.

Tel no. (0712) 2530166, 2556916, Fax no. (0712) 2550675 E-mail- apccfnodal@mahaforest.gov.in

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No. : Desk-17/NC/II/ID-/ 707 /18-19

Nagpur – 440 001, Dated : 25/06/2018

To,

The Secretary (Forests),
Revenue & Forest Department,
Mantralya,
Mumbai - 400032.

The Administrative Officer, Government of India, Department of Atomic Energy (DCS & EM) has submitted the proposal for diversion of 121.83 ha forest land under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory in India (LIGO) in village Dudhala, Anjanwada, Nandgaon Sawali (B) Tal. Aundha (nagnath) District, Hingoli. The area statement is as shown as below:-

Sr. no.	Item of Works	District/ Tahsil	Village	Comptt. No.	Gut No.	Area (in ha)	Legal Status
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Total Forest Area						121.83	

The proposal has been initiated by the Chief Administrative Officer, Government of India, Department of Atomic Energy (DCS & EM). The Union Cabinet chaired by Hon'ble Prime Minister has given approval on 17.02.2016 for setting up mega science project called Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory Project [LIGO- India Project] in India. This project is under joint collaboration with Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory (LIGO), USA and it is funded by Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) and Department of Science & Technology (DST) of Government of India. The LIGO-India shall be a unique facility in the world along with US Detectors for unraveling some greatest mysteries of the

universe called gravitational-wave. In this regard, a MoU has been signed in March, 2016 in US among the US National Science, Foundation, DAE and DST in the presence of Hon'ble, Prime Minister of India. The proposed project will bring unprecedented opportunities for Scientists and Engineers to dig deeper into the realm of gravitational wave and take global leadership in this new astronomical frontier. LIGO, India project will also bring considerable opportunities in cutting edge technology for the Indian Industry, which will be engaged in the construction of 8 km long beam tube at Ultra-High Vacuum on a leveled terrain. Thus, the project will motivate Indian students and young scientists to explore newer frontiers of knowledge, and will add further impetus to scientific research in the country. The total non forest land involved in the project is 51.42 ha. The B:C ratio for the project is 1.21.

Previously, this office vide letter No.Desk-17/NC/491, dt.2/6/2018 has submitted the proposal for prospecting (Research) for 121.83 ha forest land under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory (LIGO) in village Dudhala, Anjanwada, Nandgaon Sawali (B) Tal. Aundha (nagnath) District, Hingoli by taking 150 Bore holes in 0.375 ha. Reserve forest land. Since, the Union Cabinet chaired by Hon'ble, Prime Minister of India has given approval to the project on 17.02.2016 for setting up mega science project called Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory Project in India and hence, the progress of the project is regularly revived by the Hon'ble, Prime Minister, of India and the Government of India. Therefore, the User Agency has also submitted a proposal for diversion of 121.83 ha forest land under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory in India (LIGO) in village Dudhala, Anjanwada, Nandgaon Sawali (B) Tal. Aundha (nagnath) District, Hingoli, so, that the aforesaid project can be implemented in time bound manner as desired by the Government of India. In light of this, it is requested that both these proposals may kindly be treated as a special case and the same may be considered for prior approval of the Government of India for prospecting and diversion under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 simultaneously.

Following documents as prescribed in Government Circular, Revenue and Forest Department No.FLD-1081/2041/(A)/F-3, dated 20/03/1982 and according to Government of India's instructions issued from time to time are enclosed in three copies.

- 1) Prescribed form dated 10/01/2003.
- 2) Certificate regarding minimum demand of forest land for the project,
- 3) Area Statement,
- 4) Index map in suitable scale,
- 5) The area belongs to Eco-value class-III and having density 0.1 Open Forest.
- 6) The Divisional Forest Officer, Hingoli Division, Hingoli has certified that no suitable alternate non forest land is available other than forest land. Therefore, the demand of forest land required is the barest minimum.

- 7) The District Collector, Hingoli has certified that all other alternate for the purpose have been explored and the demand for the forest land is the barest minimum demand.
- 8) There are 305 trees of various species and girth in the area proposed for diversion in Hingoli, Forest Division, Hingoli. The girth class wise abstract is given as under:-

Tree Girth in Cm				
0-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	Total
260	17	13	15	305

- 9) The area involved in the project does not form part of any existing National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary and Nature Reserve as certified by the Divisional Forest Officer, Hingoli Forest Division, Hingoli
- 10) The Divisional Forest Officer, Hingoli Forest Division, Hingoli has certified that proposed project is not likely to affect any monumental site of cultural, historical, religious, archeological or recreational importance.
- 11) There is no violation of Forest (Conservation) Act 1980, as certified by the Divisional Forest Officer, Hingoli Forest Division, Hingoli.
- 12) The Divisional Forest Officer, Hingoli Forest Division, Hingoli has certified that the proposed project is beyond 10 km of the boundaries of the protected areas.
- 13) The Project Authority has submitted an undertaking to defray the cost of Net Present Value of the forest land proposed for diversion.
- 14) The User Agency has agreed to defray the cost of Compensatory Afforestation.
- 15) The Divisional Forest Officer, Hingoli Forest Division, Hingoli has certified that non forest area covered under the project is not 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 dictionary meaning of forest as intimated to the expert committee appointed under interim judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 12/12/1996.
- 16) The Divisional Forest Officer, Hingoli Forest Division, Hingoli has given suitability certificate for 243.66 ha. degraded forest land in Hingoli Forest Division, Hingoli as alternate and it is contiguous to forest area, suitable for afforestation and free from encroachment and encumbrances. The details are as under:-

Sr. No	Range	Name of Village	Comptt. No.	Gut No.	Area Suitable for CA (in ha)
1	Aundha (T)	Bramanwada	760	57	25
2		Dhurchuna	638 B	22	25
3		Dhudhala	621	436	17
4		Siddheshwar	635 A	56	12
	Total				79
5	Hingoli (T)	Waranga	475 B	--	25
6		Bhategaon	475 A	--	25
	Total				50
7	Sengaon (T)	Bhandhari Part 1	726	20	25
8		Bhandhari Part 2	726	20	25
9		Bhandhari Part 3	726	20	25
10		Chikhalagar	734	--	25
11		Yeldari	728	--	14.66
	Total				114.66
	Grand Total				243.66

- 17) The user agency has submitted the certificate of Collector, Hingoli under Schedule Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dweller's (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act 2006 issued vide letters No.2018/land/Acq.602, dt.17/01/2018 and No.2017/land/Acq.561, dt.10/11/2017 in prescribed format (Form I) & (Form II) as per Government of India guidelines dated. 5/7/2013 respectively. However, the User Agency has not submitted record of the consultation and meetings of the Forest Rights Committee (s), Gram Sabha (s), Sub-Divisional Level Committee (s), District Level Committee.
- 18) The Divisional Forest Officer, Hingoli Forest Division, Hingoli and the Chief Conservator of Forest (T), Aurnagabad, circle have recommended the proposal for diversion of 121.83 ha. of forest land.

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

- i) The legal status of the forest land required will remain unchanged.
- ii) Compensatory Afforestation will be raised at the cost of User Agency on 243.66 ha. degraded forest land in Hingoli Forest Division, Hingoli. The details are as under:-

Sr. No	Range	Name of Village	Comptt. No.	Gut No.	Area Suitable for CA (in ha)
1	Aundha (T)	Bramanwada	760	57	25
2		Dhurchuna	638 B	22	25
3		Dhudhala	621	436	17
4		Siddheshwar	635 A	56	12
Total					79
5	Hingoli (T)	Waranga	475 B	--	25
6		Bhategaon	475 A	--	25
Total					50
7	Sengaoon (T)	Bhandhari Part 1	726	20	25
8		Bhandhari Part 2	726	20	25
9		Bhandhari Part 3	726	20	25
10		Chikhalagar	734	--	25
11		Yeldari	728	--	14.66
Total					114.66
Grand Total					243.66

- iii) The User Agency to bear the cost of erecting an effective fencing and a provision of sufficient nos. of fulltime chowkidar for protection degraded forest area where compensatory afforestation is to be taken.
- iv) The User Agency will defray the cost of Net Present Value of 121.83 ha. of forest land as per the latest Guideline of Government of India.
- v) The User Agency will defray the additional / revised cost of Net Present Value of Forest land as per the latest Guideline of Government of India.
- vi) The User Agency will defray the cost of removal of 305 trees in the area falling in diversion. The user agency shall pay the cost for afforestation of saplings 5 times number trees to be felled under the project at the site decided by the Chief Conservator of Forests (T) Aurangabad and the Divisional Forest Officer, Hingoli Forest Division, Hingoli in the rainy season of 2018. Feasibility to transplant young trees shall also be explored and the

Dy.CFs shall explore this possibility with the user agency and decide the spot for transplanting suitable trees separately marked.

- vii) Adequate precautions shall be taken to safeguard the adjoining areas from explosives and it shall not be stored in the forest area.
- viii) The User Agency will dump the overburden on the revenue land or on adjacent private land owned by agency as per their undertaking and forest land will not be used for dumping.
- ix) The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than specified in the proposal;
- x) The User Agency will not dump the overburden on the forest land.
- xi) The User Agency will demarcate the proposed forest area as desired by Forest Department and provide retaining walls, breast walls for protection of human beings.
- xii) No labour camp shall be established on the forest land;
- xiii) The User Agency shall provide firewood preferably alternate fuels to the labourers and the staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the nearby forest areas;
- xiv) The User Agency shall ensure that because of this project. No damage is caused to the wildlife available in the area;
- xv) The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government;
- xvi) The User Agency shall submit record of the consultation and meetings of the Forest Rights Committee (s), Gram Sabha (s), Sub-Divisional Level Committee (s), District Level Committee under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 before in-principle approval.
- xvii) The User Agency shall obtain environmental clearance, 2006 before in-principle approval.
- xviii) All other conditions as may be mandatory under relevant Acts, Rules and guidelines shall be complied with by the user agency.
- xix) Provision of all relevant Acts, Rules made there under and guidelines applicable to the project shall have to be strictly followed.

It is therefore, requested that Government of India may kindly be moved for approving the proposal for diversion of 121.83 ha forest land under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory in India (LIGO) in village Dudhala, Anjanwada, Nandgaon Sawali (B) Tal. Aundha (nagnath) District, Hingoli under section 2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Encl. :- Proposal 2 copies


(G Sai Prakash)
Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
& Nodal Officer,
Maharashtra State, Nagpur.

Copy to The Chief Conservator of Forests (Territorial) Aurangabad for information.

Copy to The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Hingoli Forest Hingoli for information.

Copy to The Chief Administrative Officer, Government of India, Department of Atomic Energy (DCS & EM) for information.