

F. No. 8-60/2008-FC  
Government of India  
Ministry of Environment and Forests  
(F.C. Division)

Paryavaran Bhawan  
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road,  
New Delhi - 110003.  
Dated: 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2012

To,  
The Principal Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya,  
Forests & Environment Department,  
Shillong.

Shri M.S. RAO, IAS,  
Room No. 417 (A/B)

Sub: Diversion of 114.0156 hectare of forest land under Meghalaya Forest for construction of 400 KV D/C line from Palatana in Tripura to Bongaigaon in Assam.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the State Government of Meghalaya's letter No. FOR.136/2006/285 dated 06.06.2008 on the above subject, wherein prior approval of the Central Government for the diversion of 114.0156 hectare of forest land under Meghalaya Forest for construction of 400 KV D/C line from Palatana in Tripura to Bongaigaon in Assam, was sought, in accordance with Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. After careful consideration of the proposal by the Forest Advisory Committee constituted under Section-3 of the said Act, Stage-I approval for the said proposal was granted vide this Ministry's letter of even number dated 27<sup>th</sup> February 2010, subject to fulfillment of certain conditions. The State Government has furnished compliance report in respect of the conditions stipulated in the stage-I approval and has requested the Central Government to grant final approval.

2. In this connection, I am directed to say that on the basis of the compliance report furnished by the Government of Meghalaya vide their letters No. FOR. 136/2006/337 dated 14.12.2010, No. FOR.136/2006/427 dated 1.12.2011, No. FOR. 136/2006/436 dated 16.01.2012 and Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Meghalaya's letter No. MFG/22/252/FC/Pallatana/Vol.-I/ 16018 dated 31.03.2012, approval of the Central Government is hereby granted under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 114.0156 hectare of forest land under Meghalaya Forest for construction of 400 KV D/C line from Palatana in Tripura to Bongaigaon in Assam, subject to fulfillment of the following conditions:

- (i) Legal status of the forest land shall remain unchanged;
- (ii) Compensatory Afforestation shall be raised and maintained over double the proposed area of degraded forest land i.e.  $(2 \times 114.0156 = 228.0312 \text{ ha.})$  from the funds realized from the user agency;
- (iii) State Government shall implement the Regional Conservation Plan for Forest and Wildlife from the funds realized from the user agency;
- (iv) State Government shall implement from the funds realized from the user agency the plan for conservation of rare and endangered wildlife species as per plan prepared by the Chief wildlife warden;
- (v) State Government shall realize from the user agency the additional NPV, if so determined as per the final decision of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India;
- (vi) String on the pylons in elephant habitat area should be at convenient height and coppice to be allowed to grow below the transmission line up to the height of clearance;

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- (vii) Below each conductor, width clearance of three meters shall be permitted for taking tension stringing equipments. However, natural regeneration/coppice shall be allowed to up to the height of clearance;
- (viii) Felling/pollarding of trees shall be done with the permission of the State Forest Department, wherever necessary, to maintain height of clearance under the stringing;
- (ix) One outer strip shall be left clear to permit maintenance of the transmission line;
- (x) Gap planting to be done to increase the density all along the transmission line;
- (xi) In the remaining width of Right of Way (46 mts in place of 52 mts.), minimum clearance of 5.5 meters between conductors and trees shall be allowed;
- (xii) In case the transmission line is to be constructed in hilly areas, where adequate clearance is already available, trees shall not be felled;
- (xiii) The User Agency shall ensure minimum felling of trees and maximum height of towers in the forest areas to ensure movement of elephants without any hurdles;
- (xiv) No labour camp shall be established on the forest land;
- (xv) Sufficient firewood shall be provided by the User Agency to the labourers after purchasing the same from the Forest Department/ Forest Development Corporation;
- (xvi) The user agency shall ensure that no damage is caused to the available wildlife in the area because of this project;
- (xvii) The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal;
- (xviii) User agency shall submit an annual self-monitoring report indicating status of the implementations of the conditions stipulated in the approval accorded for diversion of the said forest land to the State Government and the concerned Regional Office of the Ministry; and
- (xix) Any other conditions, that the State Government or/ and the CF (Central), Regional Office, Shillong may impose from time to time for protection and improvement of flora and fauna in the forest area, shall be applicable.

Yours faithfully,

5/ -

(H.C. Chaudhary)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy To:

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Meghalaya, Shillong.
2. The Nodal Officer, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, Government of Meghalaya, Shillong.
3. Chief Conservator of Forests (Central), North Eastern Regional Office, Shillong.
4. User Agency.
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF, New Delhi.
6. Guard File.

72-72-41-202  
(H.C. Chaudhary)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests