



KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED

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TDKM-61/18-19/599

Dated: 21-07-2018

To,

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Forest, Land & Resources)

& Nodal Officer F(C) Act & CAMPA,

Forest Headquarters,

Vazhuthacaud, Thiruvananthapuram-14

Sir,

Sub: Online proposal for Diversion of 32.08Ha Forest Land for the construction of 220kV DC Transmission Line for Mankulam HEP Power Evacuation-Essential Data Sought by Nodal Officer-Reply Submitted- reg

Ref: Online proposal no. FP/KL/TRANS/ 20292 / 2016 dated 27-07-2016

Letter FC2-58697/2016 dated 16-01-2018 of your office

Discussion with District Forest Officer, Mankulam on 13-07-2018 in this regard

This has reference to the Online proposal vide ref(1) above seeking approval under section-2 of Forest (Conservation) Act,1980 for the diversion of 32.081ha Forest land for the construction of 220kV Double Circuit Transmission Line for Power Evacuation from Mankulam Hydro Electric Project of KSEBL Ltd. Since the date of submission, various details were uploaded in reply to the Essential Details Sought (EDS) online. The latest of such EDS letter is cited as ref(2) above. It is understood that the proposal is kept pending for want of reply to the above.

As per this letter, your good office have directed KSEBL Ltd to provide equivalent area (32.08ha) of non-forest land in lieu of diverted forest land for Compensatory Forestation, which is mandatory as per the above Act. Seeking options for obtaining private land contiguous to the Reserve Forest for handing over is also suggested.

In this context, I may please be permitted to bring to your attention the following:

The para. 3.2 (i) of the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Environment & Forests in clarification to The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 insists that compensatory Afforestation shall be done over equivalent area of non-forest land. However the same guideline also provides an exemption to 3.2 (i) above vide. para. 3.2 (vi), i.e., compensatory Afforestation may be raised over degraded forest land twice in extend of the forest area being diverted / de-reserved in respect of certain proposals in which 'Proposal for laying of Transmission Lines' is also included.

A meeting was held on 02-11-2004 in the presence of Hon. Chief Minister of Kerala, Hon. Minister of Forests, Hon. Minister for Electricity, Principal Secretary to Government, Principal Secretary (Forest & Wildlife), Principal Secretary (Power), The Chairman KSEBL, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and other higher officials of Forest Department as well as KSEBL to discuss issues relating to various Hydro Electric Projects of KSEBL pending Forest Clearance. Copy of the MoM is attached herewith. The following decisions in regard to Mankulam HEP were taken in the above meeting:

1. For avoiding delay in submitting all proposals to GOI, Forest Department will accept the proposal for Compensatory Afforestation over double the extend of degraded forest land identified by the Forest Department.
2. Cost of Afforestation as per the existing norms will be remitted by KSEBL
3. The rate of NPV to be paid will be decided by Principal Secretary (Forests) and Principal Secretary (Power)
4. The proposal for forest land required for power evacuation will be submitted by the KSEBL separately for forest clearance.

KSEB has already undertaken that it will bear the cost of raising and maintenance of compensatory Afforestation and/or penal compensatory Afforestation as well as the cost of protection and regeneration of Safety Zone etc. as per the scheme prepared by the State Government in lieu of 32.081 Ha of the affecting forest land for drawing the proposed 220kV Mankulam-Valara 220kV Double circuit line for evacuation of Power from the Hydro-Electric Project in Mankulam, Adimaly Panchayath, Devikulam Taluk, Idukki District.

There is no suitable non-forest land available in Idukki district for Compensatory Afforestation. The Chief Secretary to Government has certified this in regard to Thottiyar HEP proposed by KSEBL. Copy of this certificate is attached herewith for your kind reference.

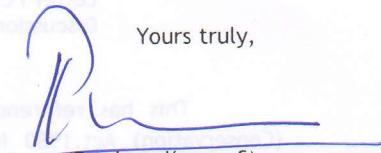
Further to this, KSEBL has also remitted Rs. 1,73,37,120/- being NPV +CAT including seigniorage value of trees as per the scheme approved by Forest Dept for the cost of Compensatory Afforestation over the degraded forest land identified by forest Department in lieu of 11.913 Ha of forest land diverted for the Civil, Hydraulic & Electrical Works of Mankulam HEP. The current proposal is for the power evacuation line of the same project which have already been principally approved by the MoEF & forest department.

Now, the above direction from your Office has put KSEB in a defensive position to the extent that compliance of this direction will impose huge financial burden to KSEBL which may render the drawal of Transmission line financially nonviable.

Based on all the above facts, we request that the above direction may kindly be re-considered, and KSEB may kindly be exempted from providing equivalent area of non-forest land, and that sanction may please be granted to remit the cost of Compensatory Afforestation of degraded forest land identified by the Forest Department for this purpose.

Thanking you and expecting an early favourable action from your end

Yours truly,



(Pradeep Kumar S)
Executive Engineer
Transmission Division, Kothamangalam

Acc:

1. Copy of relevant pages of MoEF guidelines
2. Copy of Minutes of Meeting dated 02-11-2004
3. Copy of undertaking by KSEBL
4. Copy of certificate of Chief Secretary to Government
5. Copy of details of NPV+CAT etc. remitted by KSEB for Mankulam HEP

Copy submitted to:

1. The Deputy Chief Engineer, Transmission Circle, Thodupuzha
2. The Executive Engineer, Head works & Tunnel Division, PES & Project Manager, Mankulam Hydro Electric Project, Mankulam