

EAST COAST RAILWAY

No: DCE/CON/BLGR/ DFO BLGR/66
To,
The Divisional Forest Officer,
Bolangir Forest Division,
BOLANGIR.
Odisha

Office of the
Deputy Chief Engineer(con)
Dated 02.07.2019

Sub:- Proposal for Diversion of 69.77 ha of forest land for construction of Khurda Road-Bolangir New BG Railway Link project from Km 238 to KM 289 by East Coast Railway in Bolangir & Subarnapur Districts /Forest Divisions out of total alignment of 289KM in the state of Odisha -reg(Proposal No.FP/OR/RAIL/29907/2017)

Ref: letter No: 2073 /4F-Misc dated 1st July 2019.

Sir,

In terms of above reference, the Para wise reply is herewith furnished for on ward submission to MOEF.

1. It is pertinent to mention that Avenue plantation has been completed in all the station area and railway is planning to do plantation along the Railway line wherever feasible as very nominal land is acquired by Railway along the track and continuous plantation may lead to safety hazard in form of felling of trees on the line. However, Railway is planning to plant suitable trees along the track considering the environment and keeping in view of safety of running track as well.
2. Stage-1 approval for diversion of 59.77Ha of forest land has been granted on 18.7.2018 .compliance to stage-1 submitted on 13.03.2019 to DFO/Nayagarh and DFO/Khurda. Unfortunately no working permission has been given to railway even after clearance of Stage-1.To expedite the work ,Railway has obtained temporary working permission for a small period from 24.11.2018 to 30.11.2018 and from 30.01.2019 to 15.03.2019 after much persuasion and undertaking given by Chief Engineer/construction to forest department .In this small period tree counting and felling has been done up to the extent possible, but earthwork and other Civil Engineering works could not be executed completely.
3. The reply for the said show cause notice vide letter dated 23.02.2018 was submitted to the DFO/Bolangir forest Division on dated 08.3.2018 (Copy of receipt is enclosed). To adhere to the target of opening of train services in between Bolangir-Bhainsapalli section, the works were taken up in urgency in the national interest as well as public interest only." It is therefore requested to look in to the issue in a broad view, pertinent to development of the state and economic development of the districts in the public as well as national interest. It is further clarified that after issue of show cause notice, no work has been taken up in the forest land and will not be taken up unless and until the prior approval is obtained under Forest(conservation)Act,1980.

Encl: as above.

A. Gouri Sankara Rao
(A.Gouri Sankara Rao)
Dy. Chief Engineer (con)
Bolangir

Copy for kind information to: CE/Con/HQ/BBS, Dy CE/con/II/BBS

East Coast Railway

Office of the
Dy. Chief Engineer (Gen)
Balangir
dated 08.03.2018

No. Dy. CE/Con/BLGR/BLGR-Sonepur/FDP/37

To
The Divisional Forest Officer
Balangir Forest Division,
Balangir, Odisha.

Sub: Proposal for diversion of Forest land for Khurda Road-Balangir extension to New BG Rail Link Project from Km. 238 to Km. 289 under Balangir Forest division.

Ref: (i) Proposal No. FP/OR/RAIL/29907/2017
(ii) Your Letter No. 848/4F-Misc dated 23.02.2018.

Sir,

In connection with the subject and letter under reference (ii), it is to inform that, a joint inspection to site was held on 22.02.2018 with Railway & forest officials.

In this connection, it is to mention that the Khurda Road- Balangir new BG Rail line was sanctioned by Govt. of India during 1993-94 and is a dream project of western Odisha people.

The project work was started from Khurda road end towards Balangir and a portion of the project has been commissioned in phases. Last phase between Bolgarh road-Nayagarh town (up to 65.60 Km) was commissioned in June - 2017 and passenger trains are running smoothly.

To improve the economic conditions of these districts like Nayagarh, Boudh, Sonepur & Balangir, Govt. of Odisha has come forward and signed MOU with MoR. (Ministry of Railways) on 20.07.2015. In the MOU, Govt. of Odisha has assured to provide, all types of lands (encumbrance free) required for the project along with funding 50% of the construction cost for the portion of project from Km 112 -229 (Balangir) with some other terms. MoR (Ministry of Railways) has assured to complete the project in a time bound manner with immediate commencement of project works from Balangir end with other terms notified in the MOU.

Accordingly, all the land acquisition proposals from Balangir end up to 112 Km had been finalized and submitted with the respective LAZOs by August-2016 itself. In this process, this office has taken up all sorts of activities including proposal for forest diversion for the portion from Km 112-229 and draft proposal e-filed on 25.08.2016. As the proposal covers, 04 districts, about 200 km in length & tracing of Sabik records by revenue department has delayed considerably; therefore after discussions at appropriate level, the forest diversion proposal for the Balangir- Sonepur divisions was e-filed on 06.11.2017.

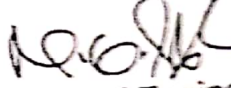
Further, it is to mention that, there is necessity to re-align the proposed line between Km 120-136 (Mahanadi wild life/Satkosia Tiger reserve & Brutang irrigation project in Nayagarh district) & Km163-174 (Laxmipathar irrigation project in Boudh district). It was decided in the meeting on 30.01.2018 with Addl. Chief Secretary/Forest along with other officials of Railway, water resources to take up the survey on top priority and to e-file the forest diversion proposal for the project from Km 177-238 separately, to avoid delay.

As pointed out by DFO/Balangir during site inspection on 22.02.2018, about violation of forest act-1980 for non-forestry purposes is not correct; rather to have the higher official inspections conveniently, some portions of the area has been leveled to make vehicles pliable keeping other things intact. To adhere the target of the Balangir-Bhainsapalli section in Feb-18, the works were taken up in the national interest only to achieve the target & commissioning 1st block section (Balangir-Bhainsapalli) in the public interest only.

Therefore, it is requested to look into the issue in a broad view, development of the state, economic development of these districts in the public interest as well as national interest. This is for information and further necessary action please.

Thank you

Yours faithfully


08/3/18
Dy. Chief Engineer (Con)
Balangir

Copy to: (i) Secy. to CAO for kind information of CAO/C/BBS
(ii) CE/Con/HQ/BBS for kind information.