

## भारत सरकार /GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

## पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & CLIMATE CHANGE

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No. 6-MPR 006/2022-BHO/

Date: 03/09/2022 03-10-2022

To,

The Principal Secretary (Forests)

Govt. of Madhya Pradesh, Vallabh Bhawan

Bhopal.

Sub: Final (Stage-II) approval of Central Government under Forest (Conservation) Act 1980 for diversion of 21.49 ha (6.18 ha Khandwa Forest Division & 15.31 ha Burhanpur Forest Division) Reserved Forest land for construction of Railway Guage Conversion (work from MG to BG) between Akola-Khandwa Railway in Khandwa & Burhanpur Districts of Madhya Pradesh-reg.

Sir,

With reference to above mentioned subject, I am directed to refer to the PCCF (LM) & Nodal Officer, Govt. of MP letter No. F-5/1103/2022/10-11/715 dated 02/03/2022 and even letter No. 1416 dated 25/04/2021, wherein prior approval of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change for diversion of 21.49 ha (6.18 ha Khandwa Forest Division & 15.31 ha Burhanpur Forest Division) Reserved Forest land for construction of Railway Guage Conversion (work from MG to BG) between Akola-Khandwa Railway in Khandwa & Burhanpur Districts, Madhya Pradesh, was sought in accordance with Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. After due consideration of the proposal of the State Government, the 'in-principle' approval of the Central Government for diversion of the said forest land was accorded vide this office letter No. 6-MPC 066/2021-BHO dated 09/05/2022 subject to fulfillment of certain conditions. The PCCF(LM), Govt. of Madhya Pradesh vides their letter No. F-5/1103/2022/10-11/2383 dated 07/07/2022 & even letter No. 2791 dated 08/08/22 have furnished compliance report in respect of the relevant conditions stipulated in the in-principle approval for grant of final approval.

In this connection, on the basis of the compliance report under reference and confirmation of receipt of compensatory levies from National Authority of CAMPA dated 24/05/2022 and 29/06/2022 the **final approval** of the Central Government under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is hereby accorded for diversion of 21.49 ha (6.18 ha Khandwa Forest Division & 15.31 ha Burhanpur Forest Division) Reserved Forest land for construction of Railway Guage Conversion (work from MG to BG) between Akola-Khandwa Railway in Khandwa & Burhanpur Districts, Madhya Pradesh, subject to the following conditions and stipulations:-

(1) Legal status of the forest land diverted shall remain unchanged.

- (2) Compensatory afforestation: Compensatory afforestation shall be taken up by the Forest Department over 43.00 ha degraded forest land at survey No. 158, Gram Van Samiti-Jhiri, Forest Range-Asir, District-Burhanpur at the cost of the User Agency. As far as possible, a mixture of local native species shall be planted and monoculture of any species should be avoided.
- (3) The State Government shall ensure that compliance of Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 has been completed in accordance with the relevant Rules and Guidelines issued by the MoEF&CC, GoI in this regard.
- (4) User Agency shall restrict the felling of trees to 7957 numbers / minimum number in the diverted forest land and the trees shall be felled under the strict supervision of the State Forest Department, and the cost of felling of trees shall be deposited by the User Agency with the State Forest Department.
- (5) The User Agency shall obtain Environmental Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if applicable.
- (6) The User Agency shall provide suitable under pass/over pass for free movement of wildlife in and around the forest area in accordance to Eco friendly measures to mitigate impacts of linear infrastructure on wildlife (2016), if applicable.
- (7) The speed governing signage at regular interval shall be erected along the Railway line at regular interval in the forest area.
- (8) The boundary of the diverted forest land shall be demarcated on the ground at the project cost, by erecting four feet high reinforced cement concrete pillars, each inscribed with its serial number, DGPS coordinates, forward and back bearing and distance from adjoining pillars etc. The pillars should be spaced at about 50 meter and each pillar should be clearly visible from pillars on both sides.
- (9) The layout plan of the proposed diversion of the forest land shall not be changed without prior approval of Central Government.
- (10) No additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for execution of the project work.
- (11) No labour camp shall be established inside the forest land.
- (12) The User Agency shall provide alternate fuels preferably LPG to the labourers and the staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the nearby forest areas.
- (13) The diverted forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the project proposal.
- (14) The period of diversion under this approval shall be co-terminus with the period of the project life.
- (15) The diverted forest land shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agencies, department, or person without prior approval of the Central Government.
- (16) The User Agency and the State Government shall ensure compliance to provisions of all the Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, Hon'ble Court Order(s)

and National Green Tribunal Order(s) pertaining to this project, if any, for the time in force, as applicable to the project.

- (17) Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and action would be taken as per the MoEF&CC Guideline F. No. 11-42/2017-FC dt 29/01/2018.
- (18) All the conditions of Stage-I approval dated 09/05/2022 shall be strictly complied.
- (19) Any other condition that the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change may stipulate from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests and wildlife.
- 2. As has been mentioned at Para-2 of the Stage-II approval, this approval for diversion of forest land is subject to the fulfillment of stipulated conditions mentioned in this approval letter. Therefore, in the event of non-compliance of any of the conditions laid out in this approval letter, the Integrated Regional Office, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change may withdraw the said approval for diversion of the forest land and stop the non-forest activity being carried out in the forest land besides initiating the legal action as per provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

This has been issued with the approval of the Competent Authority.

Yours faithfully,

(Hare Ram Kumar) Technical Officer (Forestry)

Copy to:-

- 1) The Inspector General of Forests (ROHQ), Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi 110 003.
- 2) The PCCF (LM) & Nodal Officer, Forest Department, Satpura Bhawan, Bhopal, M.P.

3) The Divisional Forest Officer, Forest Division Khandwa/ Burhanpur, M.P.

4) The Dy. Chief Engineer (Construction), South Central Railway, Akola, Maharashtra.

5) Guard File.

(Hare Ram Kumar)

Technical Officer (Forestry)