

**GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA
FORESTS & ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**

No. FOR.62/2015/ 94

Dated: Shillong, the 4th August, 2015.

From : Smti. A. Nikhla, MCS,
Deputy Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya,
Forests & Environment Department

To : The Chief Conservator of Forests (C),
Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change,
Government of India,
North Eastern Regional Office,
Law- U-Sib, Near MTC Workshop,
Lumbatngen, Shillong – 793021.

Sub : Diversion of **2.4345** hectares of Forest Land for construction of the 33 K.V. transmission line from Williamnagar to Songsak village under RGGVY.

Sir,

I am directed to send herewith a proposal received from the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HOFF, Meghalaya, for diversion of **2.4345** ha. of forest land for **construction of the 33 K.V. transmission line from Williamnagar to Songsak village through the Rongrenggiri Reserved Forest in East Garo Hills District**, seeking approval for the proposed diversion of forest land under Section – 2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

1. Brief Description:

Construction of a 33 K.V. transmission line replacing the existing 11 K.V. line has been proposed by the Executive Engineer, R.E Construction Division, Meghalaya Power Distribution Corporation Limited under the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana Project. The main objective of the Project is to provide power supply for electrification of remote villages.

2. Details of the forest land proposed for diversion:

The forest land proposed for diversion measuring 2.4345 ha. is part of the Rongrenggiri Reserved Forest. The alignment of the proposed transmission line is made along and across the existing PWD road in order to minimise the requirement of forest area for diversion and felling of trees. It will also pass through swampy and open spaces at some stretches where tree felling is not required. The total forest cover in the state of Meghalaya as per the State Forest Report 2009 may be shown as under:

- (a) Reserved Forest – 1112 Sq. Km
- (b) Protected Forest – 12.34 Sq. Km
- (c) Un-classed Forest – 8371.67 Sq. Km

3. Maps enclosed:

The user agency has furnished the following maps duly countersigned by the Divisional Forest Officer:

- (i) GPS Map showing the proposed transmission line through the Reserved Forest.
- (ii) Survey of India Topo-Sheet showing the proposed diversion (scale 1 : 50,000)

The topo- Sheet map showing the Compensatory Afforestation area inside the Rongrenggiri Reserved Forest has been submitted by the Divisional Forests Officer. Its area is **4.86** hectares which is twice the area proposed for diversion.

4. Assessment of forest stock:

Being a Reserved Forest, though subjected to biotic interference, Rongrenggiri Reserved Forest is a tropical moist deciduous and sal forest representing the Eco-Class-I. Over a period of time, through successive artificial and aided natural regeneration, a large area has been brought under teak and other economical species apart from other associates of sal. However, sal remains the dominant species. As per the Working Prescription, the average crown density is around 60%.

5. Flora and Fauna and archaeological importance:

The Reserved Forest does not form part of a National Park/Sanctuary or Biosphere Reserve, sample or preservation plot. Except for the existence of some common wildlife like the barking deer and wild boar apart from birds, fishes and reptiles, no other forms of wildlife are reported in view of the expansion of Williamnagar town and other surrounding villages. Moreover, the Reserved Forest does not have any place of historical and archaeological importance.

6. Compensatory Afforestation:

The area of forest land to be diverted for the above project is 2.4345 ha. Since the user agency does not possess any non-forest land for Compensatory Afforestation and being a State Government Undertaking, the land for compensatory afforestation has been identified inside the Reserved Forest itself, the area of which is twice the affected forest land. The estimated cost of afforestation over an area of **4.86** ha amounting to Rs. 4,41,690/- has been prepared by the Divisional Forest Officer and enclosed as Annexure-A-IV & A-V.

Forest land identified for compensatory Afforestation:

| District | Block | Village | Area in ha | One/several patches | Is suitable for Raising CA |
|--------------------------|---------|------------|------------|---------------------|----------------------------|
| East Garo Hills District | Samanda | Chisobibra | 9.86 ha | One patch | Yes |

Further, the Divisional Forest Officer, Garo Hills Division, has submitted a certificate regarding suitability of the land for Compensatory Afforestation (over 4.86 ha degraded forest land) (Annexure-A-VI). The User Agency has furnished an undertaking to deposit the amount for the Compensatory Afforestation Scheme after Stage - 1 clearance has been granted (Annexure-B-IV).

8. Environment clearance:

Environmental clearance is not required as per Clause - 2.3 of the existing Guidelines issued under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 since the area applied for diversion is less than 5 (five) hectares.

9. Cost-benefit analysis:

The user agency has submitted along with other papers the cost benefit analysis at **Annexure B-IV.**

10. Violation of Forest Conservation Act/Indian Forest Act:

No violation has been committed under the Forest (Conservation) Act or the Indian Forest Act.

11. Recommendation of the State Government:

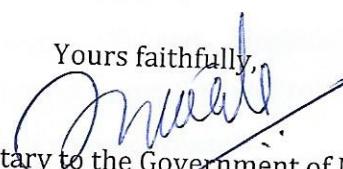
The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF has recommended the proposal. No Assessment Officer has given any adverse comments on the proposal and it has been suitably commented upon by senior officers.

Details of benefits likely to accrue:

- Improvement in the quality of life of the rural poor.
- Socio-economic benefits to the villagers of the area.
- Bridging the gaps of development indicators by means of such project.

I therefore, request you to kindly convey the approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Govt. of India under Section 2(ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of the forest land in question in favour of the Executive Engineer (RE), Construction Division, Me. P.D.C.L., Williamnagar for construction of the 33 K.V. transmission line from Williamnagar to Songsak.

Yours faithfully,


Deputy Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya
Forests & Environment Department

Memo No. FOR.62/2015/ 94-A

Dated Shillong, the 4th August, 2015.

Copy forwarded to:-

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Meghalaya, Shillong.
2. The Conservator of Forests (Wildlife & Territorial) Garo Hills Region, Tura.
3. The Divisional Forest Officer (T), Garo Hills Division, Tura.
4. Shri John High G. Momin, Executive Engineer (RE), Construction Division, Me.P.D.C.L., Williamnagar.

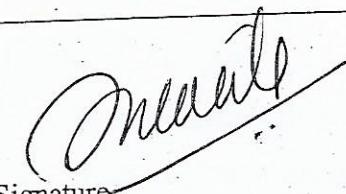
By order etc.

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PART-V

(To be filled in by the Secretary in charge of Forest Department or by any other authorized officer of the State Government not below the rank of an Under Secretary)

| | | |
|----|--|---------------------|
| 18 | Recommendation of the State Government: (Adverse comments made by any officer or authority in Part-B or Part-C or Part-D above should be specifically commented upon) | <p>Recommended.</p> |
|----|--|---------------------|



Signature

Name & Designation (A.N.K.H.A.)

(Official Seal)

Government of
State of Maharashtra
Forest Department
Bhaktapur

Date:- 9th August, 2015

Place:- Shillong