

TARAKA RAMA THIRTHA SAGARAM RESERVOIR PROJECT

VIZIANAGARAM DISTRICT

STATUS ON FOREST CLEARANCE AS ON 16-06-2015

The canal alignment of diversion canal of TRTS Project lies at a distance of above 300 Mt. radially i.e., beyond regulated area from the monuments which was enunciated by the Divisional Forest Officer, Vizianagaram. The same has been got inspected and confirmed by both the Conservation Assistant Archeological Survey of India, Visakhapatnam and the Executive Engineer, TRTS Project Division, Vizianagaram.

Accordingly, the alignment was proposed out of the control area of the Archeological Buddhist remains and the Forest Clearance proposals were submitted to the Forest Department, after identifying the alternate land in lieu of forest land. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Hyderabad in his letter No-20268/08 Dt: 15-12-2008, insisted to submit No Objection Certificate from the Archeological Department to process the forest clearance file. The same was requested by this office Lr No. 978^M Dt: 19-12-2008 addressed to the Conservation Assistant Archeological Survey of India, Visakhapatnam duly explaining the proposed alignment which was beyond the regulated area of the Archaeology Department. On 15-09-2009 the Conservation Assistant Archaeology Survey of India, Visakhapatnam along with surveyor from Archaeology Department inspected the proposed site and confirmed that the canal is 306 Mts away from the boundary of Buddhist remains. The Superintending Archaeologist, Archaeological Survey of India inspected the site on 07-07-2009 and assured to give No Objection Certificate in a week days. Further, a satellite image and other details were submitted to the Superintending Archaeologist as and when demanded.

Further, as per the instructions of the Superintending Engineer, TTPR Circle, Vizianagaram, The Executive Engineer, TRTS Division has attended to the office of the Director General, Archaeology Department, New Delhi and held deliberate discussions with Shri.A. K. Sinha, Director (Monuments) for obtaining the No Objection Certificate from the Archaeology Department. The Director (Monuments) was pleased and assured that the required No Objection Certificate will be issued as soon as possible.

Later on, the Archaeology Department, requested to submit the Environmental Impact Assessment report on TRTS Project. Accordingly, the Environmental Impact Assessment report was submitted to the Superintending Archaeologist, Archaeological Survey of India, Hyderabad. In-turn the same was submitted to the Director (Monuments), Archaeology Survey of India, New Delhi on 08-12-2011. Even though, we made grate persuasion with Archaeology Department for obtaining No Objection Certificate as this project is an ongoing prioritized project under Jalayagnam programme of Government of Andhra Pradesh, the Archaeology

Department not responded positively. Due to non receipt of NOC of Archaeology Department the proposal of forest land clearance shall be treated as closed by the forest department vide PCCF, Hyderabad Endt No. 20268/08-F1/ Dated: 12.05.2009.

During the review meeting held on 03.12.2012 in the presence of Hon'ble Minister for Major & Medium Irrigation along with Forest Department Officials in Lake View guest house, Hyderabad, it is opined that since the alignment of diversion canal does not fall under the vicinity of Archeological Monuments, there is no necessity to obtain Archeological Clearance. Therefore Chief Engineer, North Coast requested the Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests, Hyderabad to examine the proposals of forest land clearance of Tunnel of diversion canal of TRTS Project. Accordingly, the Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests, Hyderabad directed the Divisional Forest Officer, Vizianagaram to submit his detailed report along with alignment maps in triplicate through the Conservator of Forests, Visakhapatnam vide PCCF, Hyderabad RC No. 20268/08-F1/ Dated: 17.01.2013.

As per the instructions of the Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests, Hyderabad, the Divisional Forest Officer, Vizianagaram apprised and entrusted this work to the Forest Range Officer, Vizianagaram. The Forest Range Officer and Deputy Range Officer along with Assistant Executive Engineer & Deputy Executive Engineer of TRTS Project have been conducted joint inspection and submitted a detailed report to the Divisional Forest Officer, Vizianagaram. Then the Divisional Forest Officer, Vizianagaram submitted a detailed report along with alignment maps to the Conservator of Forests, Visakhapatnam vide DFO's Lr.No3043/2008/TO Dt 20-06-13. In-turn the same was submitted to the Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests, Hyderabad vide Conservator of Forests RC NO. 5232/2008/T.O.(1)/ Dated: 22.07.2013.

On 12.08.2014, the Superintending Engineer, TTPR circle met the Deputy Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests, Hyderabad and made discussions with him about the forest land clearance for Tunnel of Diversion Canal of TRTS Project. During discussions, the Deputy Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests, Hyderabad requested to submit the alignment map with all details and features distinctly visible. Accordingly the map was prepared and submitted to the Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests, Hyderabad.

Further, Principal Conservator of Forests, Hyderabad vide Lr. No. RC No. 20268/08-FCI dated 19-09-2014 submitted the detailed report to the Principle Secretary to Govt. of AP, Forest, Science & Technology department, Hyderabad duly explaining the status of Reserve Forest land clearance for 4.42 Ha and requested to Govt of AP to furnish the above facts to the Govt of India, MoEF, Bangalore for reconsideration of the proposal for diversion of 4.42 Ha of Forest land for excavation of Tunnel under TRTS Project in favour of Executive Engineer, TRTS Division, Vizianagaram.

Further, The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Hyderabad and Conservator of forest Visakhapatnam has issued instruction to the Divisional Forest Officer, Vizianagaram vide RC No. 5232/2008/T.O 1,(ii) Dated:27.11.2014 to submit the Enlarged plans duly verified & Resubmit the same to this office. Accordingly the Forest Range officer & Deputy Executive Engineer of TRTS Subdivision-III were jointly inspected the site on 25-02-2015 and submitted the report as instructed by the Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests, Hyderabad to the Divisional Forest officer, Vizianagaram for onward submission to the higher authorities.

The alternative land an extent of 11 Acres was identified vide survey No.1 of Kumili(V) of Pusapatirega(M) and handed over to user Agency by the Revenue authorities.

Recently one letter received from Government of India, ministry of Environment, Forest & climate change, Chennai, Tamil Nadu State vide Lr.No. F No.4-AP 3547/2008/BAN/171 dt: 01-06-2015 (copy enclosed) noted that contents are GOI MOEF Regional office Bangalore have informed to State Government that due to non receipt of the details sought by the Regional Office Bangalore vide letter 12-11-2008 the above subject proposal shall be treated as closed as per the Para 4.14 of guide lines issued under Forest (conservation) Act 1980.

Further the State Government of Andhra Pradesh vide reference State Government of A.P. Ir.No.7659/section II/2008 dt: 18-03-2015 (copy enclosed) request re consider the proposals and obtain and communicate the approval of Government of India, MOEF&C.C under Section 2 of Forest(Conservation) Act 1980.

Further the Ministry of Forest, Environment and Climate Change, Chennai was instructed as per the guide lines issued by GOI MOEF &CC in such cases the user Agency has to submit the fresh set of proposals for diversion and also have to submit the application through online.

This is submitted for favour of information and further necessary action.

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