

File No.:5-ORA487/2021-BHU
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Aliganj, Jor Bag Road,
New Delhi - 110003.

Dated: 20-11-2025

To

The Addl. Chief Secretary (Forests),

Government of Odisha,
Bhubaneswar.

Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for non-forestry use of 48.782 ha of forest land for the construction of 220 KV LILO transmission line from existing LoC No.70 of 220 KV Balimela-Malkangiri Transmission line to existing 220/33 KV Grid S/S Khairput, Gobindapali under Malkangiri Forest Division in Malkangiri District by OPTCL, EHT Construction Division, Jeypore, Odisha- regarding.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Odisha's letter No. FE-DIV-FLD-0157-2021-21137/F&E dated 03.12.2021 on the above subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. After careful examination of the proposal by the Advisory Committee, constituted under Section-3 of the said Act, 'Stage-I/in-principle' approval to the proposal under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 was granted vide this Ministry's letter of even number dated 27.11.2024 subject to fulfillment of certain conditions prescribed therein. The State Government has furnished compliance report in respect of the conditions stipulated in the in- principle approval and has requested the Central Government to grant final approval.

In this connection, I am directed to say that on the basis of the compliance report furnished by the State Government vide letter No. 19369/9F (Trans)-369/2021 dated 17.09.2025, 'Stage-II/final' approval under Section 2(ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 is hereby granted for non-forestry use of 48.782 ha of forest land for the construction of 220 KV LILO transmission line from existing LoC No.70 of 220 KV Balimela-Malkangiri Transmission line to existing 220/33 KV Grid S/S Khairput, Gobindapali under Malkangiri Forest Division in Malkangiri District by OPTCL, EHT Construction Division, Jeypore, Odisha subject to fulfillment of the following conditions:

1. Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged;
2. The Compensatory afforestation over degraded forest land (97.564 ha) i.e double in extent to the forest land being diverted, shall be raised by the State Forest Department at the project cost and the work of compensatory

- afforestation shall start within two years from the date of grant of Stage - II approval;
3. The compensatory afforestation scheme, as approved, shall be implemented by the State Forest Department. The CA will be maintained for 10 years and the CA scheme may include afforestation of indigenous species with appropriate provision for anticipated cost increase for works scheduled for subsequent years;
 4. The State Government has realized the NPV of the forest area diverted under this proposal from the User Agency in accordance with the MoEF&CC's guidelines dated 6.01.2022 read with guidelines dated 19.01.202, the user agency shall pay the additional amount of NPV, if so determined, as per the final decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India or otherwise at a later date;
 5. **The State Govt. shall ensure that the Divisional Forest Officer or Deputy Conservator of Forests having jurisdiction over the forest land involved in the instant proposal shall initiate action against violation under section 3A/3B of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, before the issuance of final diversion order by the State Government;**
 6. The matter regarding imposition of penal CA is under consideration for the formulation of a uniform policy guideline in the matter. Keeping this in view, the imposition of penal CA (if any) shall be as per the said guideline, if issued;
 7. The State Govt. shall ensure that the KML files of diverted area, the CA areas, the proposed SMC treatment area and the WLMP area shall be uploaded on the e-Green watch portal with all requisite details;
 8. The State Government shall ensure that the maximum width of right of way for the proposed transmission line on the forest land shall not be more than 35 mtrs;
 9. The State Government shall ensure that the User agency shall comply with the guidelines for laying transmission lines through forest areas issued by the Ministry;
 10. The State Government shall ensure that the user agency shall install circuit breakers at suitable places besides maintain necessary ground clearance to prevent electrocution of wild animals;
 11. The State Government shall ensure that no approach road shall be constructed in the forest area for transportation of steel and other material required for the transmission line. As far as possible the User Agency shall use the existing road and the proposed RoW for the transportation of the material and in the event of non-availability of such facilities, the User Agency shall transport material manually without construction of any path;
 12. To minimize the felling for construction of transmission line, user agency shall comply with the following guidelines:
 - i. Below each conductor, width clearance of 5 mts. would be permitted for carrying the tension stringing equipment. The trees on such strips may be felled but after stringing work is completed, the natural regeneration will be allowed to come up.
 - ii. One outer strip may be left clear to permit maintenance of the transmission

line;

- iii. In the remaining width the right of way felling/pollarding/pruning of trees will be done with the permission of the local forest officer whenever necessary to maintain the electrical clearance, trees shall be allowed to be felled or lopped to the extent required, for preventing electrical hazards by maintaining the minimum 5.5 meter clearance between conductors and trees. The sag and swing of the conductors are to be kept in view while working out the minimum clearance mentioned as above;
 - iv. User agency in consultation with the State Forest Department prepare a detailed scheme for creation and maintenance of plantation of dwarf species (preferably medicinal plants) in right of way under the transmission line, and provide funds for execution of the said scheme to the State Forest Department; and
 - v. In case a portion of the transmission lines to be constructed is located in hilly areas, where adequate clearance is already available, trees shall not be cut;
13. The State Government shall ensure that all the compensations, as per the norms and rules of the State Government to the affected persons shall be paid prior to handing over of forest land to the User agency;
14. The State Govt. shall ensure that no damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused;
15. The State Government shall ensure that the user agency shall explore the possibility of translocation of maximum number of trees identified to be felled and shall ensure that any tree felling shall be done only when it is unavoidable and that too under strict supervision of the State Forest Department;
16. The User Agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if required;
17. The State Government shall complete settlement of rights, in term of the Scheduled Tribes and Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, if any, on the forest land to be diverted and submit the documentary evidence, in accordance with the Rule 11 (7) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023;
18. The State Govt. shall ensure that no labour camp shall be established on the forest land and the User Agency shall provide fuels preferably alternate fuels to the labourers and the staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the nearby forest areas;
19. The State Govt. shall ensure that the forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agency, department or person without prior approval of the Central Government;
20. The State Govt. shall implement the R&R Plan as per the R&R Policy of State Government in consonance with National R&R Policy, Government of India before

the commencement of the project work and implementation. The said R&R Plan will be monitored by the State Government/Regional Office of MoEF&CC along with indicators for monitoring and expected observable milestones;

21. Any other condition that the concerned Regional Office of this Ministry may stipulate with the approval of competent authority in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife;

24. The user agency shall comply with the provisions of all Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, Hon'ble Court Order (s) and NGT Order (s) pertaining to this project, if any, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project;

25. Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and action would be taken as prescribed in para 1.16 of Chapter 1 of the Consolidated Guidelines and Clarifications on Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 198 as issued by this Ministry's letter dated 29.12.2023;

26. The User Agency shall submit the annual self -compliance report in respect of the above stated conditions to the State Government, concerned Regional Office and to this Ministry by the end of March every year regularly;

27. The State Government and user agency shall ensure compliance to all conditions stipulated in the 'in-principle' approval letter dated 27.11.2024 for which undertakings have been obtained from the user agency and also the provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations and Guidelines, relevant Hon'ble Court Order (S) and NGT Order (S), if any, or the time being in force, including compliance of the Schedule Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forests Rights) Act, 2006;

28. As per Sub-rule 7 of Rule 11 of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 the State Govt. after receiving the 'Final' approval of the Central Government under sub-section (1) of section 2 of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and after fulfillment and compliance of the provisions of all other Acts and rules made thereunder, as applicable including ensuring settlement of rights under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (2 of 2007), shall issue order for diversion of forest land.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-

(Suneet Bhardwaj)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. The PCCF (HoFF), Department of Forest, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
2. The DDGF (Central), Regional Office of MoEF&CC at Bhubaneswar.

3. The Nodal Officer (FCA), Department of Forest, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
4. User Agency
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi for uploading on PARIVESH portal.