



No.5-ORC307/2017-BHU / 895

Dated: 10th December, 2025

To

The Addl. Chief Secretary,
Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department,
Government of Odisha,
Bhubaneswar - 751 001

Sub:- Stage-II/Final approval for non-forestry use of 14.928 ha of forest land for construction of Sono Barrage Project near village Jaida of Gopabandhu Nagar Tahasil of Mayurbhanj District, Odisha within the jurisdiction of Balasore (WL) & Baripada Forest Division by the Executive Engineer, Mayurbhanj Investigation Division, Udala.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to State Govt. letter No. 10F(Cons)286/2016-1075/F&E dated 16.01.2017 and No.14201/F&E dated 06.07.2017, wherein prior approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change for non-forestry use of 14.928 ha of forest land for construction of Sono Barrage Project near village Jaida of Gopabandhu Nagar Tahasil of Mayurbhanj District, Odisha within the jurisdiction of Balasore (WL) & Baripada Forest Division by the Executive Engineer, Mayurbhanj Investigation Division, Udala, was sought in accordance with Section-2 (1)(ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. After due consideration of the proposal by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change and on the basis of decision of Regional Empowered Committee meeting held on 24.07.2017, the in-principle approval for non-forestry use of the said forest land was accorded by Ministry vide this office letter of even number dated 04.08.2017, subject to fulfillment of certain conditions. The State Government has furnished the compliance report in respect of the conditions stipulated in the in-principle approval and has requested to grant final approval of the proposal.

2. In this connection, I am directed to say that on the basis of the compliance report furnished by the Addl. PCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Odisha vide their letter No.11375/9F(IRRIG)-345/2016 dated 23.05.2025 & No.23566 dated 24.11.2025 and uploading of the compliance report by the State Govt. in *Parivesh* web portal on 01.12.2025, **Stage-II/final** approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change is hereby granted under Section 2 (1)(ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for non-forestry use of 14.928 ha of forest land for construction of Sono Barrage Project near village Jaida of Gopabandhu Nagar Tahasil of Mayurbhanj District, Odisha within the jurisdiction of Balasore (WL) & Baripada Forest Division by the Executive Engineer, Mayurbhanj Investigation Division, Udala, subject to the fulfillment of the following conditions:-

- i) The State Govt. shall ensure that the legal status of diverted forest land shall remain unchanged.
- ii) The State Govt. shall ensure the compliance on FRA, 2006 as per the Forest (Conservation) Rules, 2023.

- iii) The State Govt. shall ensure that the user agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if required.
- iv) The State Govt. shall ensure that the KML files of the area to be diverted and the CA areas shall be uploaded on the e-Green watch portal with all requisite details before handing over of the diverted forest land to the user agency.
- v) The State Govt. shall ensure that the boundary of the diverted forest land shall be demarcated on ground at the project cost, by erecting four feet high reinforced cement concrete pillars, each inscribed with its serial number, distance from pillar to pillar and GPS co-ordinates.
- vi) The State Govt. shall ensure that the State Forest Department will raise the Compensatory afforestation over 14.97 ha of non-forest identified in Plot No.38, Khata No.315 of village Daundi under Gopabandhu Nagar Tahasil of Baripada Forest Division and Plot No.357, 539 & 401, Khata No.152 of village Gohira under Jamada Tahasil of Rairangpur Forest Division within two year from the date of Stage-II Clearance as per approved plan/scheme and maintained thereafter by the State Forest Department from the funds deposited by the user agency in CAMPA account. The species to be planted in the CA scheme shall be of native species of the area. At least 18 month old seedlings should be planted. Intensive monitoring of the plantation needs to be done and documented using Geo tagging so that the increase of canopy density and survival and growth of plantation can be evaluated at regular intervals.
- vii) The State Govt. shall ensure that the Catchment Area Treatment Plan shall be implemented at the cost of user agency. It may also be ensured that water harvesting structure shall be implemented as a component in CAT Plan.
- viii) The State Govt. shall ensure that the user agency shall raise and maintain plantation of suitable species along the canal, at the cost of user agency, if possible.
- ix) The State Govt. shall ensure that the user agency shall provide water free of cost to the Forest Department for raising nursery/plantation in nearby areas.
- x) The State Govt. and the user agency shall ensure that no tree felling shall be done between Full Reservoir Level (FRL) and 4 meters below Full Reservoir Level (FRL).
- xi) The State Govt. shall ensure that the user agency shall explore the possibility of successful transplantation 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.
- xii) 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 staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the nearby forest areas.
- xiii) The State Govt. and user agency shall ensure that no additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest are for any activity related to the project work.

- xiv) The State Govt. and user agency shall ensure that while executing works, the user agency shall not fell any tree or damage forest growth in the surrounding forest area in any manner.
- xv) The State Govt. and user agency shall ensure that earth or any material shall neither be brought from nor the debris resulting during construction be disposed of in the adjoining forest area by the user agency.
- xvi) The State Govt. and user agency shall ensure that the layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without prior approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change.
- xvii) The State Govt. shall ensure that the forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal and under no circumstances be transferred to any other user agency, department or person without prior approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change.
- xviii) The State Govt. shall ensure that the DFO concerned will monitor and take necessary mitigative measures to ensure that there is no adverse impact on the forests in surrounding area.
- xix) The State Govt. shall ensure that the user agency shall submit annual self monitoring report on compliance of stipulated conditions to the Nodal Officer (FCA) of the State and Integrated Regional Office of this Ministry by the end of March every year regularly.
- xx) The State Govt. shall ensure that any other conditions that the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change may impose from time to time in the interest of afforestation, conservation and management of flora and fauna in the area, which shall be complied by the user agency.
- xxi) The State Govt. and user agency shall ensure compliance to provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, NGT Order (s) & Hon'ble Court Order (s) pertaining to this project, if any, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project.
- xxii) Any other direction issued by the Ministry as a result of Hon'ble Supreme Court order will have bearing on this approval.
- xxiii) 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 Clarification issued under Van Sanrakshna Evan Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 by this Ministry's letter dated 29.12.2023.

Yours faithfully,
Digitally signed by
Sujoy Dutta
Date: 10-12-2025
09:53:46
(Sujoy Dutta)

Assistant Commissioner (Forestry)

Copy to:-

1. The Chief Executive Officer, National Authority CAMPA, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, 3rd Floor, Supreme Court Metro Station Building, New Delhi-110 001.

2. The Inspector General of Forests (ROHQ), Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj, New Delhi-110003.
3. The Addl. PCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Forest Department, Govt. of Odisha, Aranya Bhawan, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar.
4. The Divisional Forest Officer, Baripada/Balasore (WL) Division, Baripada/Balasore, Odisha.
5. The Executive Engineer, Mayurbhanj Investigation Division, Water Resources Department, Govt. of Odisha, Udala, Dist: Mayurbhanj, Odisha