



भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS
& CLIMATE CHANGE

Integrated Regional Office
Ground Floor, East Wing
New Secretariat Building
Civil Lines, Nagpur - 440001
apccfcentral-ngp-mef@gov.in

F.No. FC-I/MH-188/2020-NGP /9000

Date: 13.12.2021

To,

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Revenue and Forest Department,
Hutatma Rajguru Chowk
Madam Cama Marg
Mantralaya, Mumbai – 400032.

Sub: Diversion of 3.933 ha Reserved Forest Land in favour of National Highway Authority of India (NHAI), P.I.U. Solapur for construction and Upgradation of two lane into four lane of existing National Highway 166 from existing chainage 182.95 to chainage 219.56, Sangli to Borgaon under NHDP Phase IV on Hybrid Annuity mode in Sangli District in the State of Maharashtra– regarding.

Sir,

The undersigned is directed to refer to APCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Maharashtra letter No. Desk-17/NC/II/ID 12803/(27)/381/2020-21 dated 18.08.2020 on the above subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. After careful examination of the proposal of the State Government, '**in-principle**' approval was accorded by the Central Government vide its letter of even number dated 04.09.2020. The Addl. PCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Maharashtra has now submitted a report on the compliance of conditions stipulated in the 'in-principle' approval and requested the State Government to grant final approval to the proposal.

In this connection, I am directed to say that on the basis of compliance report submitted by the Addl. PCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Maharashtra vide his letter No. Desk-17/NC/II/ID 12803/(27)/1009/20-21 dated 13.01.2021 and letter No. Desk-17/2/Nodal/ID-12803/(27)(19-20)/365/2021-22 dated 24.06.2021, letter No. Desk-17/Nodal/Kolhapur/ID-12803/(27)/1253/2021-22 dated 18.10.2021 and letter No. Desk-17/Nodal/Kolhapur/ID-12803/(27)/1564/2021-22 dated 18.11.2021 forwarding additional information as sought vide this office letters of even number dated 02.02.2021, 27.07.2021 and 25.10.2021. The Central Government hereby accords '**final approval**' under Section – 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 3.933 ha Reserved Forest Land in favour of National Highway Authority of India (NHAI), P.I.U. Solapur for construction and Upgradation of two lane into four lane of existing National Highway 166 from existing chainage 182.95 to chainage 219.56, Sangli to Borgaon under NHDP Phase IV on Hybrid Annuity mode in Sangli District in the State of Maharashtra subject to following conditions:

- i. Legal status of the forest land shall remain unchanged;
- ii. **Compensatory afforestation**
 - a. Compensatory afforestation shall be taken up by the Forest Department over 8.00 ha. degraded forest land in Gut No. 196, 197, Compartment No. 175 at Village– Haroli,


Taluka- Kavathemankal, District- Sangli at the cost of the User Agency. As far as possible, a mixture of local indigenous species along with 10% RET species of Sangli District shall be planted and monoculture of any species may be avoided. Atleast one water body shall be constructed in the form of tank/ stop dams etc if the same are not available in the area or in nearby vicinity;

- iii. User Agency shall restrict the felling of trees to 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;
- iv. The complete compliance of the FRA, 2006 shall be ensured by way of prescribed certificate from the concerned District Collector;
- v. To improve the Forest/ Tree cover and to reduce pollution, as mandated in National Forest Policy, 1988 and Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986 respectively, the User Agency shall develop a separate nursery at one or more places to raise at least 25,000 seedlings of forestry species along with bamboo, fruit bearing, medicinal, ornamental and indigenous/local every year. At least 50% of seedlings shall be planted by User Agency in the vicinity of project area including forest area and for hand holding with local people residing in vicinity of proposed area, User Agency shall voluntary distribute remaining 50% of seedlings as per choice of villagers free of cost. A compliance report including species wise details of seedlings raised, location of plantation area and details of villagers whom seedlings have been distributed need to be prepared every six month and submitted to Regional Office of MoEF&CC;
- vi. State Forest Department shall undertake avenue plantation of 8 feet tall plants as per IRC norms at the cost of User Agency;
- vii. Speed regulating signage will be erected along the road at regular intervals in the Protected Areas/ Forest Areas;
- viii. The User Agency in consultation with Forest Department shall provide under/ over pass for safe passage of wild animals at suitable places as per Wildlife Institute of India's manual entitled "Eco-friendly Measures to Mitigate Impacts of Linear Infrastructure on Wildlife" published in 2016;
- ix. The User Agency shall obtain Environmental Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if applicable;
- x. The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without prior approval of Central Government;
- xi. No labour camp shall be established on the forest land;
- xii. Sufficient firewood, preferably the alternate fuel, shall be provided by the User Agency to the labourer after purchasing the same from the State Forest Department or the Forest Development Corporation or any other legal source of alternate fuel;
- xiii. The boundary of the diverted forest land shall be suitably demarcated on ground at the project cost, as per the directions of the concerned Divisional Forest Officer;
- xiv. No additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for transportation of construction materials for execution of the project work;
- xv. The period of diversion under this approval shall be co-terminus with the period of lease to be granted in favour of the user agency or the project life, whichever is less;

- xvi. The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the project proposal;
- xvii. The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agencies, department or person without prior approval of Govt. of India;
- xviii. 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;
- xix. Any other condition that the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change may stipulate from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife.


This issues with the approval of Regional Officer (Central), Integrated Regional Office, MoEF & CC, Nagpur.

Yours faithfully,


(C.B. Tashildar)
AIGF (Central)

Copy to:

1. The PCCF (HoFF), Government of Maharashtra, Nagpur
2. The Addl. PCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Maharashtra, Nagpur.
3. User Agency.
4. Guard File.


(C.B. Tashildar)
AIGF (Central)