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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS &
CLIMATE CHANGE
SUB-OFFICE RAIPUR
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File No.: FC-I/IROCH-23/2023/176

Date: ~~-11/2024~~
20/12/2024

To

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Govt. of Chhattisgarh,
Mantralaya, Mahanadi Bhawan
Nava Raipur, Atal Nagar, Chhattisgarh.

Sub: Diversion of forest land for non-forest purpose under Forest Conservation Act -1980 proposed in favour of CSPTCL for 132/33 KV Sub-station Area 3.24 ha at Keshkal Forest Division in District-Kaondagaon in the State of Chhattisgarh -reg.

Sir,

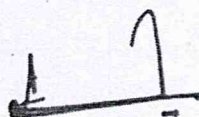
Kindly refer letter no. F-5-02/2023/10-2 dated 20.02.2023 of the State Government of Chhattisgarh on the above subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section -2 of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. It is to say that after examination of the proposal of the State Government, 'In-principle' approval was accorded by the Central Government vide its letter dated 03.07.2023. The State Government of Chhattisgarh has submitted compliance report on conditions stipulated in the 'in-principle' approval and requested for final approval of the proposal.

After examination of the compliance report submitted by the Government of Chhattisgarh vide letter no. F-5-02/2023/10-2 dated 12.03.2024 and additional information was submitted by the State Government vide letter no. F-5-02/2023/10-2 dated 21.11.2024 on the recommendation by the State Government, the Central Government hereby accords "**Final /Stage-II Approval**" under Section- 2 (i) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 3.24 ha of forest land for non-forest purpose in favour CSPTCL for 132/33 KV Sub-station, Keshkal Forest Division, District- Kondagaon, in the State of Chhattisgarh, which is subject to the fulfilment of the following conditions:

- i. Legal status of the forest land shall remain unchanged;
- ii. Compensatory afforestation shall be carried out by the State Forest Department in non-forest land of 3.24 ha in Khasra. No. 92 at Beat- Ghotulmunda, Range- Durgukondal, Village - Ghotulmunda, District- Kanker from the amount which has already been resized from the User Agency and monoculture of any species may be avoided. At least 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. The Compensatory Afforestation (CA) area mutated and notified by the State Government vide notification order dated 18 Nov. 2024 is

being declared as Protected Forest under section 29 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 (No. 16 of 1927), shall be treated, and chain link fencing shall be constructed so as to ensure required canopy density as per the provision of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 in time bound manner;

- iv. Additional amount of the NPV of the diverted forest land, if any, becoming due after finalization of the same by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India on receipt of the report from the Expert Committee, shall be charged by the State Government from the User Agency;
- iii. The total project affected trees are 160; comprised of 77 trees above 90 cm girth and the remaining 83 trees below 90 cm girth class. Any tree felling shall be done only when it is unavoidable and that too under strict supervision of the State Forest Department at the cost of the User Agency;
- iv. The distribution line from the substation should be up to 7 meters (22 to 23 feet);
- v. The wires from the substation to the distribution lines should be insulated cables to prevent hooking by rural farmers, thereby preventing the possibility of elephant death. The boundary wall of the substation must be elephant-proof;
- vi. The State Government of Chhattisgarh/ Nodal Officer (FCA), Forest Department of Chhattisgarh shall ensure settlement of rights under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (No. 2 of 2007) before issuing an order for handing over of forest land to the User Agency as per the provision of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023;
- vii. To improve the Forest/ Tree cover and to reduce pollution in the State, as mandated in National Forest Policy, 1988 and Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986 respectively, the User Agency in consultation with local DCF shall raise at least 1500 seedlings of forestry species along with bamboo, fruit bearing, medicinal, ornamental and indigenous/local for 10 years. 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 road, User Agency shall voluntarily 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;
- viii. User Agency shall obtain Environmental Clearance as per the

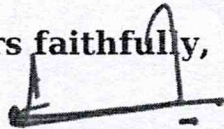


provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if applicable;

- ix. The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without prior approval of Central Government;
- x. No labour camp shall be established on the forest land;
- xi. 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;
- xii. 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;
- xiii. No additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for transportation of construction materials for execution of the project work;
- xiv. 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;
- xv. The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the project proposal;
- xvi. 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;
- xvii. Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of VSSA, 1980 and action would be taken as per the MoEF&CC Guideline;
- xviii. 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 Competent Authority of the Regional Office, Nagpur.

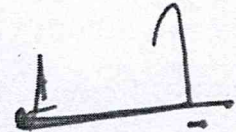
Yours faithfully,


(C. B. Tashildar)
AIGF (Central)

Copy to:-

1. The Inspector General of Forests (RoHQ), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jorbagh Road, Aliganj, New Delhi- 110003 **for information please.**

2. The PCCF (HoFF), Government of Chhattisgarh, Aranya Bhawan, Sector-19, Nava Raipur, Chhattisgarh.
3. The Addl. PCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Chhattisgarh, Aryan Bhawan, Nawa Raipur, Chhattisgarh.
4. User agency.
5. Guard file



(C. B. Tashildar)
AIGF (Central)