

भारत सरकार
पर्यावरण वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
एकीकृत क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय,
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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS &
CLIMATE CHANGE
INTEGRATED REGIONAL OFFICE
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F.No. FC-III/CH-40/2019/434

Date: 21/12/2021

To,

Principal Secretary (Forests),
Government of Chhattisgarh,
Forest Department, Mantralaya,
Mahanadi Bhavan, Nava Raipur, Atal Nagar (CG).

Sub: Diversion of 73.426 ha of forest land in favour of PWD, NH Division No.1 Raipur for Widening and Upgradation of 2 Lane/4Lane of NH-930 Jhalmala -Balod-Kushumkasa - Manpur - Kohka Road in Rajnandgaon Forest Division in the State of Chhattisgarh.

Sir,


Kindly refer to The State Government of Chhattisgarh letter no. krmank/F-5-17/2019/10-2 dated 21.11.2019 on the above subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government, in accordance with Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. It is to say that after careful examination of the proposal of the State Government, 'in-principle' approval was accorded by the Central Government vide letter of even number dated 13.11.2020. Now, the State Government of Chhattisgarh, vide letter no. krmank/F-5-17/2019/10-2 dated 29.11.2021 has submitted a report on the compliance of conditions stipulated in the 'in-principle' approval and requested the Central Government to grant final approval to the proposal.

In this connection, It is informed that on the basis of compliance report submitted by the State Government of Chhattisgarh, vide letter no. krmank/F-5-17/2019/10-2 dated 29.11.2021, the Central Government hereby accords **"Final Approval"** under Section - 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for Diversion of 73.426 ha of forest land in favour of PWD, NH Division No.1 Raipur for Widening and Upgradation of 2 Lane/4Lane of NH-930 Jhalmala -Balod - Kushumkasa - Manpur - Kohka Road in Rajnandgaon Forest Division in the State of Chhattisgarh subject to the fulfilment of the 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 146.852 ha. Orange Forest Area in Rajnandgaon division at the cost of the user agency. As far as possible, a mixture of local indigenous species shall be planted and monoculture of any species may be avoided;
 - b) The Orange Area which has been transferred and mutated in favour of the State Forest Department for the purpose of compensatory afforestation shall be declared as Reserved Forest under Section-4 or Protected Forest under Section-29 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 or under the relevant Section(s) of the State Forest Act. The Nodal Officer Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 may report compliance within a period of six (6) months from the date of grant of final approval and send a copy of the original notification declaring the non-forest land under Section 4 or Section 29 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927, or under the relevant section of the State Forest Act as the case may be, to this office for information and record;
- 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;

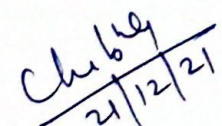
- v. User Agency shall carryout plantation for filling up gaps if any available within outer strip of 4 meter in proposed RoW and central verge of the road as per the IRC norms. Further, User Agency should develop a separate Nursery at one or more places to raise at least 50,000 seedlings of forest species along with bamboo, fruit bearing, medicinal, ornamental and indigenous/local every year. The Committee further opined that 50% of seedlings shall be planted by User Agency in the vicinity of project area including forest area and for better relation with local people residing in vicinity of proposed road, PWD shall voluntarily distribute remaining 50% of seedlings to them free of cost.
- vi. User Agency in consultation with forest department shall increase size of 4 box culverts proposed in forest patches preferably up to 3x2 meters to make them suitable for wildlife passage and a report in this regard shall be submitted to Regional Office;
- vii. User agency shall raise strip plantation on both sides and central verge of the road as per the Indian Roads Congress (IRC) norms.
- viii. Speed regulating signage will be erected along the road at regular intervals in the Protected Areas/ Forest Areas.
- 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.
- xx. The compliance report shall be uploaded on e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>).

Yours faithfully,


Chaturbhuj Behera
Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. The PCCF & HoFF, Government of Chhattisgarh, Sector-19, Aranya Bhavan, Atal Nagar, Naya Raipur (CG).
2. The Addl. PCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Chhattisgarh, Sector-19, Aranya Bhavan, Atal Nagar, Naya Raipur (CG).
3. User Agency.
4. Guard File.


Chaturbhuj Behera
Inspector General of Forests