

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (Section-II) DEPARTMENT

Letter No.574/Section-II/2023/2029147

Dated:17.04.2023

From

The Special Chief Secretary to Government
EFS&T Department,
A.P. Secretariat, Velagapudi,
Amaravati-522503.

To

The Inspector General of Forests (Central),
Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change,
Integrated Regional Office,
Green House Complex,
Gopal Reddy Road, Vijayawada-520010 (w.e)

Sir,

Sub: Diversion of 60.06 ha (i.e. 59.82 ha in Narsipatnam + 0.24 ha in Paderu) of forest land in Narsipatnam and Paderu Divisions for Rehabilitation and Up-gradation to two lane with paved shoulder configuration of Koyyuru – Chaparathipalem – Lambasingi - Paderu section of NH-516E in the State of Andhra Pradesh in favour of Regional Officer, MoRTH, Vijayawada - Forest Clearance under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 – Reg.

Ref: From the PCCF & HoFF, A.P., Lr.Ref.No.EFS02-15034/39/2021-FCASEC-PCCF/FCA-3, dated:22.03.2023.

I am to inform that in the reference cited the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, Andhra Pradesh, has stated that the Regional Officer, MoRTH, Vijayawada has submitted proposal in PARIVESH portal for diversion of 60.06 ha (i.e. 59.82 ha in Narsipatnam + 0.24 ha in Paderu Division) of forest land in Narsipatnam and Paderu Divisions for Rehabilitation and Up-gradation to two lane with paved shoulder configuration of Koyyuru – Chaparathipalem –Lambasingi- Paderu section of NH-516E in the State of Andhra Pradesh in favour of RO, MoRTH, Vijayawada. The details of the proposal are as follows:

i) The User Agency has furnished the following information in Part-I.

- Forest area to an extent of 60.06 ha is required for rehabilitation and up-gradation to 2L+PS configuration of Koyyuru-Chaprathipalem-Lambasingi-Paderu section (km 120+000 to km 253+974) of NH 516E in the State of Andhra Pradesh under Green National Highways Corridor Project (GNHCP) with the loan assistance of World Bank on EPC mode
- Cost of the project is mentioned as 80027 lakh
- The user agency has justified that, the instant NH development is a part of MoRTH & World Bank's Green National Highway Corridor Projects (GNHCP). The alignment of roads being developed under GNHCP has been retained as existing alignments with minor realignments. As there is no alternative to this road, forest land to an extent of 60.06 ha is required to upgrade the instant road to NH Standard, from which 59.82 ha land falls in Narsipatnam forest division and 0.24 ha in Paderu forest division.
- The user agency has furnished undertakings for payment of CA, NPV, Addl. NPV, tree extraction charges etc.
- The User Agency has furnished cost benefit analysis stated that, at present the traffic from Rajahmundry to Vizianagaram and Narsipatnam to Paderu are traversing about 30 km more than the proposed route. The development of this project road will save about 3000 liters of fuel per day for 2,800 Vehicles plying in this route, due

(Contd.P.-2)

to which 3000 liters per day x Rs.90 per liter = Rs.2,70,000/- per day will be saved. So, Rs.9.85 Crore (2,70,000 x 365) per annum in terms of fuel saving and time saving for the road users. For 20 years the turnover will be 197.10 Crore.

- The benefit to cost ratio being greater than 1 i.e. 20.33, hence the proposed project is viable as per the analysis and described criteria.
- No human displacement is involved due to construction of this road.
- No loss of public facilities involved in this project.
- Employment likely to be generated is 2000 permanent / Regular employment and 432000 person-days will be generated.
- The user agency has stated that, clearance under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 is not required.
- The user agency has uploaded the RoFR Certificate issued by the District Collector, Visakhapatnam District in the prescribed format for evidences for having initiated and completed the process of settlement of rights under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (RoFR) Act, 2006.

ii)The Divisional Forest Officer, Narsipatnam has submitted the following information in Part-II.

- Forest area to an extent of 59.82 ha required in Narsipatnam Division for rehabilitation and up-gradation to two lane with paved shoulder configuration of Koyyuru-Chaparathipalem-Lammasingi-Paderu section of NH-516E including construction of culverts.
- Total length of the road is 133.974 km. Out of this, 34.5 km length is falling in RF and 62 culverts and 1 minor bridge (existing structures) in the proposed road.
- **Legal Status of the forest is as follows.**
 1. Bointhi RF notified under Section-15 of A.P. Forest Act, 1967.
 2. Sarugudu –IV RF notified under Section-15 of A.P. Forest Act, 1967.
 3. Chintapalli RF notified under Section-15 of A.P. Forest Act, 1967.
 4. Wangasara RF notified under Section-15 of A.P. Forest Act, 1967.
 5. Lammasingi –I RF notified under Section-15 of A.P. Forest Act, 1967.
 6. Krishnapuram RL notified under Section-15 of A.P. Forest Act, 1967.
- The density of the forest in the nearby vicinity of the proposed road is between 0.4 to 0.7.
- There are 7,340 no. of trees (324 Teak and 7,016 no. of Non-teak/Misc.) and 1254 no. of Coffee (*Coffea Arabica*), 116 of Jafra (*Bixaorellana*) and 69 Pepper (*Piper nigrum*) falling within the proposed width of the road. Total number of trees including Teak, Non-teak, coffee, Jafra and Pepper is 8779.
- There is less vulnerability of forest area to erosion, as the area is having almost plain to gentle slope except in small patches.
- The area proposed for diversion is passing through the Reserve forests.
- The proposed alignment does not form a part of National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere reserve, Tiger reserve, Elephant corridor etc.
- No Rare / endangered / unique species of flora and fauna are found in the area.
- No protected archaeological heritage sites / defense establishment or any other important monument is located in the area.
- The requirement of forest land proposed by the user agency is un-avoidable and barest minimum for the project.
- No violation has been carried out by the User Agency.

- In column no. 13 of Part –II, the Divisional Forest Officer, Narsipatnam has “Recommended” the proposal as the required forest area is unavoidable for the project and no endangered and unique species of Flora and Fauna found in the proposed area.

iii) The Divisional Forest Officer, Paderu has submitted the following information in Part-II.

- Forest area to an extent of 0.24 ha in compartment no.309 of Sirasapalli RF is required in Paderu division for rehabilitation and up-gradation to two lane with paved shoulder configuration of Koyyuru-Chaparathipalem-Lammasingi-Paderu section of NH-516E in the state of Andhra Pradesh.
- Legal Status of the forest is Sirasapalli RF notified under Section-15 of A.P. Forest Act, 1967.
- The Paderu –G Madugula road has been in existence prior to 1980. The evidence/record for its existence prior to 1980 is Sariapalli RF block map. In the Sariapalli RF block Gazettee notification, there is no mention of this road in the admitted right of way.
- The density of the forest in the vicinity is 0.5.
- There is 17 no. of trees there in the area proposed for diversion. List of the trees is enclosed.
- The area is moderate to steep slope and there is little scope of soil erosion as the proposed area for diversion is very little.
- The area proposed for diversion is inside RF with in a distance of 5-10 m from the boundary.
- The proposed alignment does not form a part of National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere reserve, Tiger reserve, Elephant corridor etc.
- No Rare / endangered / unique species of flora and fauna are found in the area.
- No protected archaeological heritage sites / defense establishment or any other important monument is located in the area.
- The requirement of forest land proposed by the user agency is un-avoidable and barest minimum for the project.
- No violation has been carried out by the User Agency.
- The Location map in (S.I) Sheet in 1:50,000 scale, authenticated DGPS maps are furnished.
- In column no. 13 of Part –II, the Divisional Forest Officer, Paderu has “Recommended” the proposal, as there is not much loss to flora and fauna, and this facilitates the conveyance to the local tribes with barest minimum disturbance to the environment.

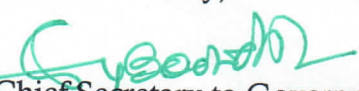
2. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force has stated that as per para 2.5 (i) (f) of Chapter-2 of Comprehensive guidelines issued by the Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, New Delhi in F.No.5-2/2017-FC, dated:28.03.2019, degraded forest land for Compensatory Afforestation has been identified to an extent of 147.26 ha in Araku and Pedabayalu Ranges which is double the extent of RF proposed for diversion (60.06 ha.)

3. Further, as per para 2.8 (ii) of Chapter -2 of Comprehensive guidelines issued by the Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, New Delhi in F.No. 5-2/2017-FC, dated: 28.03.2019, the Divisional Forest Officer, Paderu has prepared CA scheme to an extent of 120.12 ha for raising Compensatory Afforestation with a financial outlay of Rs.758.70 lakh for a period of 12 years including Advance operations, Maintenance of Nurseries and Raising of Plantations commencement from 2022-23 to 2033-34. Suitability certificate of the land for raising CA is enclosed. Site inspection report of the CA land has been uploaded at Nodal Officer level. The Location map in (S.I) Sheet in 1:50,000 scale, authenticated DGPS maps of degraded forest area are furnished with the proposal.

4. In Part -III, the Chief Conservator of Forests, Visakhapatnam Circle, Visakhapatnam has agreed with the information furnished by the Divisional Forest Officers, Paderu and Narsipatnam and recommended the proposal for diversion of forest land. In Part -IV, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (FCA) & Nodal Officer, Andhra Pradesh has recommended the proposal for diversion of forest land.

5. I enclose the statutory proforma proposal received from the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force duly recommending in Part-V and request you to obtain and communicate the approval of Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, for diversion of 60.06 ha (i.e. 59.82 ha in Narsipatnam + 0.24 ha in Paderu) of forest land in Narsipatnam and Paderu Divisions for Rehabilitation and Up-gradation to two lane with paved shoulder configuration of Koyyuru - Chaparathipalem - Lambasingi - Paderu section of NH-516E in the State of Andhra Pradesh in favour of Regional Officer, MoRTH, Vijayawada under Section-2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, at the earliest.

Yours faithfully,


for Special Chief Secretary to Government

Copy to:

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force,
Andhra Pradesh, Mangalagiri.

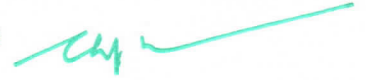
The Regional Officer,
MoRTH, Rajamarg Bhavan,
Ranigarithota, Vijayawada.

PART-V

Proposal for diversion of 60.06 ha (i.e. 59.82 ha in Narsipatnam + 0.24 ha in Paderu) of forest land in Narsipatnam and Paderu Divisions for Rehabilitation and Up-gradation to two lane with paved shoulder configuration of Koyyuru – Chaparathipalem – Lambasingi - Paderu section of NH-516E in the State of Andhra Pradesh in favour of Regional Officer, MoRTH, Vijayawada.

18.	Recommendation of the State Government	Recommended
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Signature



Name & Designation

Dr. P.V. CHALAPATHI RAO, I.F.S.,
Special Secretary to Government
Environment, Forests, Science
and Technology Department
A.P. Secretariat, Velagapudi - 522238.

Official Seal

Date: 17-04-2023

Place: AMARAVATI