

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

Letter No.559/Section-II/2023/2027951

Dated:19.04.2023

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 54.00 ha of forest land falling in Muthukur and Markpur RF, Markapur WL Division (presently PT Markapur Division) in favour of the Regional Officer, MoRTH, Vijayawada Division for rehabilitation and up-gradation of National Highway-565 from km 133.922 to km 154.900 (Davupally to Mallapalem Junction) to two lanes with paved shoulders in the state of Andhra Pradesh under NHDP-IV - Forest Clearance under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 – Reg.

Ref: From the PCCF & HoFF, A.P., Lr.Ref.No.15034/35/2021-FCA SEC-PCCF/FCA-1, Dated:15.03.2023.

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I 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 initiated a proposal on 30.08.2021 in the PARIVESH portal (Unique Proposal No.FP/AP/ROAD/146577/2021) for diversion of 54.00 ha of forest land falling in Muthukur and Markpur RF, Markapur WL Division (presently PT Markapur Division) in favour of the Regional Officer, MoRTH, Vijayawada Division for Rehabilitation and Up-gradation of National Highway-565 from km 133.922 to km 154.900 (Davupally to Mallapalem Junction) to two lanes with paved shoulders in the State of Andhra Pradesh under NHDP-IV. The details of the proposal are as follows:

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

- For locating the project in the forest area, the user agency has justified that, the existing road between Davulapally to Mallepalem Junction is a narrow BT road and it has been declared as National Highway. The road mainly passes through (1) Muthukur RF and (2) Markapur RF under Markapur WL Division. About 8.278 km is under Muthukur RF and 9.800 km is under Markapur RF. These stretches are part and parcel of NH-565 and it needs to be widened to National Highway standards. Now a days there is a significant increase in traffic flow along the stretch. There is no alternative route for road stretch. This road after completion will provide good connectivity between Guntur and Prakasam Districts of Andhra Pradesh and also the newly formed Telangana State.
- The project involves displacement of people. Total number of families are 49 (Scheduled Caste families - 12 and others – 37).
- Provided undertaking stating that, approval of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, GoI to Rehabilitation and Resettlement Plan will be submitted later stage of DPR, if applicable.
- Cost benefit analysis is required.
- Employment likely to be generated due to this project is 100 number of persons (Permanent) and 210 number of person-days (Temporary).
- RoFR certificate issued by the District Collectors, Prakasam and Guntur in Form-I.
- Biodiversity Impact Assessment Report.

(Contd.P.-2)



- Undertakings to bear the cost of raising and maintenance of compensatory afforestation, payment of NPV and addl.NPV, as decided by the Forest Department.

**ii) The Dy.Director, PT Division, Markapur has furnished the following information in Part-II:-**

- The proposed area for diversion was inspected on 20.01.2023 along with Forest Range Officers, V.P.South&Y.Palem and concerned staff.
- The area proposed for diversion is falling in Compartment nos.63, 64 & 65 Mutukur RF, Sirigiripadu Beat, Sririgiripadu Section of V.P South Range, Project Tiger Division, Markapur, Palanadu District (earlier it is Guntur district) and Compartment nos.182, 183 & 184 of Markapur RF, Mallepalem Beat, Y.Palem Section and Compartment nos.170, 172 & 173 of Markapur RF, Komarolu Beat, Y.Palem Section and Compartment 169 & 174, ENB XI RF, Komarolu Beat, Y.Palem Section, Y.Palem Range, Project Tiger Division, Markapur of Prakasam District.
- State showing details of forest area proposed for diversion.

Sl. no.	Name of the District	Name of the Division	Name of the Range	Compt.no.	Forest area proposed for diversion	Remarks
1.	Palandu	Project Tiger, Markapur	V.P.South	63,64 & 65	24.84	The proposed diversion area falling buffer area of NSTR
2.	Prakasam		Y.Palem	182, 183, 184, 170, 172, 173, 169 & 174	29.16	
				<b>Total:</b>	<b>54.00</b>	

- Muthukur RF is notified under Section 16 of AP Forest Act, 1967 and Markapur RF is notified under Section 15 of AP Forest Act, 1967 .
- Density of Vegetation is 0.4 to 0.5 (Eco-Class-III – Dense Forest – Consisting Tropical Dry Deciduous Forest).
- The total number of trees to be felled in the proposed diversion area are 3420 nos.
- Moderately vulnerable to erosion.
- The Proposed diversion area forms part of the Buffer area of Nagarjunasagar-Srisaillam Tiger Reserve (NSTR).
- Approximate distance of the proposed site for diversion from the boundary of RF is 5 km.
- Rare/Endangered species such as Tiger (Panther tigris) and Leopard (Panther sapardus) etc. are found in the proposed area for diversion.
- No protected archaeological/heritage site/defense establishments or any other important monuments are located in the area.
- The area required for the project is 54 ha and it is unavoidable and barest minimum for the project.
- No violation has been taken place in the proposed diversion area.
- Degraded forest land over an extent of 139.34 ha has been identified for compensatory afforestation. Out of which, double the extent i.e., 110 ha in (5) bits/patches has been selected for raising compensatory afforestation.
- Compensatory Afforestation Scheme has been prepared with a financial out lay of Rs.990.548 lakh from the period from 2023-24 to 2034-35.

2. Further, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, has stated that the Deputy Director, PT Markapur Division in his site inspection report stating that in the proposed road stretch, there exists a road which was formed prior to 1980 during the construction of Nagarjunasagar dam, for transportation of construction material. For construction of road, a land width of 30 m is required. Out of which bituminous surface will be 10 m and the rest of the land is for provision of earthen shoulders, side slopes and longitudinal drains and also for future widening near to this road. Hence, the existing width of the road was taken as 0.00 m for the purpose of calculation of area of the forest land to be diverted.

3. The Deputy Director, PT Markapur Division has recommended the proposal in Part-II. The Chief Conservator of Forests & Field Director (FAC), PT Circle, Srisailam has agreed with the information provided by the Deputy Director, PT Markapur Division in Part-II and recommended the proposal in Part-III. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (FCA) and Nodal Officer, Andhra Pradesh has also recommended the proposal in Part-IV.

4. 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 54.00 ha of forest land falling in Muthukur and Markpur RF, Markapur WL Division (presently PT Markapur Division) in favour of the Regional Officer, MoRTH, Vijayawada Division for rehabilitation and up-gradation of National Highway-565 from km 133.922 to km 154.900 (Davupally to Mallapalem Junction) to two lanes with paved shoulders in the state of Andhra Pradesh under NHDP-IV 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,  
Ministry of Road Transport & Highways,  
Vijayawada.



**PART-V**

Proposal for diversion of 54.00 ha of forest land falling in Muthukur and Markpur RF, Markapur WL Division (presently PT Markapur Division) in favour of the Regional Officer, MoRTH, Vijayawada Division for rehabilitation and up-gradation of National Highway-565 from km 133.922 to km 154.900 (Davupally to Mallapalem Junction) to two lanes with paved shoulders in the state of Andhra Pradesh under NHDP-IV.

18.	Recommendation of the State Government	Recommended
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Signature

Dr. P.V. CHALAPATHI RAO, I.F.S.,

Name & Designation

Special Secretary to Government  
Environment and Technology Department  
Official Seal  
Hyderabad, Velagapudi - 522238.

Date: 19-04-2023

Place: AMARAVATI