

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & CLIMATE CHANGE REGIONAL OFFICE (RANCHI)

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No.FP/JH/TRANS/27672/2017/3377

Dated 22nd August, 2019

To

The Additional Chief Secretary,

Department of Forests, Environment & Climate Change, Government of Jharkhand, Nepal House, Ranchi.

Sub: Diversion of 51.251 ha forest land for construction of 220 KV D/C Ulijhari-Chaibasa to Gua Transmission Line in favour of JUSNL in West Singhbhum district of Jharkhand.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to letter No.Van Bhumi-29/2019-2485/Va.Pa. dated 5.7.2019 and letter No.Van Bhumi-29/2019-3105/Va.Pa. dated 9.08.2019 of the State Government, Jharkhand on the above mentioned subject seeking prior approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change under section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

After due consideration of the proposal of the State Government and on the basis of decision of Regional Empowered Committee held on 17.7.2019, the Central Government, hereby, conveys "in-principle" approval for diversion of 51.251 ha forest land for construction of 220 KV D/C Ulijhari-Chaibasa to Gua Transmission Line in favour of Jharkhand Urja Sancharan Nigam Limited in West Singhbhum district of Jharkhand, subject to the following conditions and stipulations:

1. Legal status of the forest land shall remain unchanged.

2. Compensatory afforestation:

- a) Compensatory afforestation shall be taken up by the Forest Department over 103 ha. degraded forest land (Site Mohudi PF, Thana No.Kolhan/744, Plot No.122, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 318, 1432, 1434 under Chaibasa FD) at the cost of the User Agency. As far as practicable a mixture of local indigenous species will be planted and monoculture of a species has to be avoided.
- b) The cost of compensatory afforestation at the prevailing wage rates as per compensatory afforestation scheme and the cost of survey, demarcation and erection of permanent pillars if required on the CA land shall be deposited in advance with the Forest Department by the project authority. The CA will be maintained for 10 years. The scheme may include appropriate provision for anticipated cost increase for works scheduled for subsequent years.

3. **NPV**:

- a) The State Government shall charge the Net Present Value (NPV) for the 51.251 ha forest area to be diverted under this proposal from the User Agency as per the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India dated 30/10/2002, 01/08/2003, 28/03/2008, 24/04/2008 and 09/05/2008 in IA No. 566 in WP (C) No. 202/1995 and as per the guidelines issued by the Ministry vide letters No. 5-1/1998-FC (Pt.II) dated 18/09/2003, as well as letter No. 5-2/2006-FC dated03/10/2006 and 5-3/2007-FC dated 05/02/2009 in this regard.
- b) The State Govt. shall charge the penal Net Present Value (NPV) for violation under report vide letter No.Van Bhumi-29/2019-3105/Va.Pa. dated 9.8.2019, computed @ 20% of NPV of forest land per hectare for each year of violation from the date of actual diversion as reported by the inspecting officer with maximum up to five times the NPV plus 12% simple interest till the deposits is made
- c) 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 also be charged by the State Government from the User Agency. The User Agency shall furnish an undertaking to this effect.
- 4. All the funds received from the user agency under the project shall be transferred / deposited to CAMPA fund only through e-portal (https://parivesh.nic.in/).
- 5. The State Government shall take actions for the violations under reference as prescribed under sub para (iii) and (iv) of Para 3(B) of the Ministry's letter No.11-42/2017-FC dated 29.01.2018.
- 6. The complete compliance of the FRA, 2006 shall be ensured by way of prescribed certificate from the concerned District Collector.
- 7. a) The User Agency should conduct soil conservation activity under supervision of the State Forest Department.
 - b) A project specific Wildlife Management Plan as appropriate in the context of the transmission line passing through the Elephant Reserve, should be formulated and implemented at cost provided by the User Agency.
 - c) In both Forest Divisions, at selected places (chosen by Forest Division) near to the proposed transmission line, the user agency shall plant tall evergreen trees with 4 years maintenance at their own cost to mitigate the felling of big tree in both FDs.
- 8. 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.
- 9. The cost of felling of tress shall be deposited by the User Agency with the State Forest Department.
- 10. Width of Right of Way for the Transmission Line shall be limited to 35 m.

- 11. The User Agency shall install circuit breakers at suitable places besides maintaining necessary ground clearance to prevent electrocution of wild animals like elephant. In case transmission line passing through elephant reserves/ corridors, additional clearances of at least 6 m shall be provided over and above minimum clearance [as stipulated under Central Electricity Authority (Measures relating to safety & Electricity Supply) Regulations, 2010] above the ground from the lowest conductor of the transmission lines.
- 12. To minimize the felling of trees for construction of Transmission Line, User Agency shall comply with the following guidelines:
 - a) The normal width clearance below each conductor or conductor bundle in case of 220 KV D/C line will be 3 m only. The trees on such strips may be felled but after stringing work is completed, the natural regeneration will be allowed to come up.
 - b) Outer strip may be left clear to permit maintenance of the Transmission Line.
 - c) In the remaining width of Right of Way felling/ pollarding/ pruning of trees will be done with the permission of the local Forest Officer whenever necessary to maintain the electrical clearance. Trees shall be allowed to be felled or lopped to the extent required, for preventing electrical hazards by maintaining the minimum 4.6 meter clearance between conductors and trees. The maximum sag and swing of the conductors are to be kept in view while working out the minimum clearance mentioned as above.
 - d) The Scheme for creation and maintenance of plantation of dwarf species in Right of Way under the Transmission Line, as prepared by the State Forest Department shall be implemented from the funds provided by the User Agency and a scheme for this shall be submitted.
 - e) In case a portion of the Transmission Line to be constructed is located in hilly areas, where adequate clearance is already available, trees shall not be felled.
- 13. The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without prior approval of Central Government.
- 14. (a) No labour camp shall be established on the forest land.
 - (b) 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
- 15. (a) The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the project proposal.
 - (b) 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.

- 16. The period of diversion under this approval shall be co-terminus with the period of the project life.
- 17. 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.
- 18. Any other condition that the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change may stipulate from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forest & wildlife.
- 19. The compliance report shall be uploaded on e-portal (https://parivesh.nic.in/).

After receipt of the compliance report regarding fulfillment of the conditions as stipulated above, from the State Government, formal approval will be issued in this regard under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Transfer of forest land to user agency should not be effected by the State Government till formal order approving diversion of forest land is issued by the Central Government. To facilitate speedy execution of this project involving diversion for the road expansion, the in-principle approval may be deemed as the working permission for tree felling and commencement of works, if the required funds for CA, NPV and all other compensatory levies specified in the in-principle approval are realised from the user agency and accordingly the State Government, by passing an order, may allow the commencement of work of the linear project in forest land for a period of one year (The detail guideline issued vide Ministry letter No. 11-306/2014-FC, dated 28.08.2015 may be referred).

Yours faithfully,

Sujoy Dutta (Sujoy Dutta)

Technical Officer (Forestry)

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Copy to:-

1. The Deputy Secretary, RO(HQ), Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi – 110 003.

2. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Forests, Environment & Climate Change Department, Government of Jharkhand, Van Bhavan, Doranda, Ranchi.

- 3. The PCCF-cum-Nodal Officer, Forests, Environment & Climate Change Department, Govt. of Jharkhand, Van Bhavan, Doranda, Ranchi.
- 4. The Divisional Forest Officer, Chaibasa and Saranda Forest Division.
- 5. The Electrical Superintending Engineer, Transmission Circle, Chaibasa, Jharkhand.

6. Guard File.

Technical Officer (Forestry)

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