

**Government of India**  
**Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**  
**(Forest Conservation Division)**

\*\*\*\*\*

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,  
Jor Bagh Road,  
New Delhi – 110003  
**Dated: 22nd September, 2020**

To,  
**The Special Secretary to Government (Forests)**  
Environment, Forests, Science & Technology Deptt.,  
Government of Telangana,  
Hyderabad

**Sub: Proposal for diversion of 409.53 Ha (387.13 ha Horizontal area as per ETS & DGPS Survey) of forest land in Keshavapur RF, Medchal- Malkajgiri District for construction of 10 TMC reservoir at Keshavapuram with associated components under Godavari river source for drinking water requirements to Hyderabad City in favour of HMWS&SB, Hyderabad (Online proposal no. is FP/TG/WATER/36146/2018)-regarding.**

**Madam/Sir,**

I am directed to refer to the Government of Telangana's letter No.1430/For. I(1)/2020 dated 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2020, wherein prior approval of the Central Government for the above mentioned subject was sought as per Section – 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The said proposal has been examined by the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) constituted by the Central Government under Section-3 of the aforesaid Act.

**2.** After careful consideration of the proposal of the State Government and on the basis of the recommendations of the FAC the Central Government hereby accords *stage-I / In-principle* approval under Section 2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 409.53 Ha (387.13 ha Horizontal area (as per ETS & DGPS Survey) of forest land in Keshavapur RF, Medchal- Malkajgiri District for construction of 10 TMC reservoir at Keshavapuram with associated components under Godavari river source for drinking water requirements to Hyderabad City in favour of HMWS&SB, Hyderabad, subject to the following conditions:-

- i. Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged;
- ii. *State Government would encourage plantation of bamboo along with tree species in the degraded forest land proposed for CA;*
- iii. *State Government may ensure that at a time only 5 TMC water may be stored in the reservoir and furnish an undertaking in this regard;*
- iv. *Non Forest Land proposed for CA at Regonda (23.2816 ha. patch) is having an Adit*

*tunnel beneath the ground but the site is suitable for afforestation (as per Site Inspection Report of Regional Office). Therefore, an NOC may be obtained from the Water Resources Department of the State Government;*

- v. Compensatory afforestation (CA) over the non-forest land, equal in extent to the area of forest land being diverted shall be raised within a period of three years with effect from the date of issue of Stage-II clearance and maintained thereafter in accordance with the approved Plan in consultation with the State Forest Department at the cost of the user agency. At least 1000 saplings per hectare shall be planted over 409.53 ha. (409530 plants). If it is not possible to plant these many seedlings in the identified CA land, balance seedlings will be planted in other suitable degraded forest land as per the prescriptions of the Working Plan at the cost of the User agency. In such case CA cost will be revised and duly approved by competent authority and deposited through online in the CAF managed by CAMPA;
- vi. 25% of the CA cost additionally will be spent towards Soil and Moisture Conservation activities in the proposed CA area as per site requirement and deposited in CAF, through online;
- vii. The non-forest land identified for raising CA shall be transferred and mutated in favour of the State Forest Department and shall be notified as Reserved Forest or Protected Forest under the provisions of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 or under the relevant Section(s) of the local Forest Act before issue of the Stage -II/Final approval;
- viii. The land identified for the purpose of CA shall be clearly depicted on a Survey of India topo-sheet of 1:50,000 scale;
- ix. The User Agency shall transfer the cost of raising and maintaining the CA at the current wage rate in consultation with State Forest Department in the account of CAMPA of the concerned State through online portal. The scheme may include appropriate provision for anticipated cost increase for works scheduled for subsequent years;
- x. The User Agency shall transfer the funds for the **Net Present Value (NPV)** of the forest land being diverted under this proposal as per the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 28.03.2008, 24.04.2008 and 09.05.2008 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 202/1995 and the guidelines issued by this Ministry vide its letter No. 5-3/2007-FC dated 05.02.2009 through online portal of CAMPA account of the State Concerned;
- xi. At the time of payment of the NPV at the then prevailing rate, the user agency shall furnish an undertaking to pay the additional amount of NPV, if so determined as per the decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court/Government of India;
- xii. The user agency should ensure that the compensatory levies (CA cost, NPV, etc.) are deposited through challan generated online on web portal and deposited in appropriate bank online only. Amount deposited through other mode will not be accepted as compliance of the Stage- I clearance;
- xiii. Any fund received from the user agency under the project, except the funds realized for regeneration / demarcation of safety zone, shall be transferred to CAMPA through Online-portal of Ad-hoc CAMPA account of the State Concerned;
- xiv. The User Agency shall prepare and implement the R & R Plan as per the R&R policy of State Government in consonance with National R & R policy, Government of India before commencement of the project work and implementation. The said R&R plan will be monitored by the state government / Regional office of MoEF & CC along with indicators for monitoring and expected observable milestones, if applicable;

- xv. The User Agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if applicable;
- xvi. The User Agency shall obtain clearance from the Standing Committee of NBWL for areas falling in the protected area and its Eco-Sensitive Zone before commencement of work, if applicable;
- xvii. Copy of approved Catchment Area Treatment (CAT) Plan, if applicable shall be submitted in accordance to para no. 4.8 (i) of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 Handbook and commensurate funds shall be deposited in the account of CAMPA through on-line portal;
- xviii. The user agency shall carry out muck disposal at pre-designated sites in such a manner so as to avoid its rolling down with approval plan;
- xix. The dumping area for muck disposal shall be stabilized and reclaimed by planting suitable species by the user agency at the cost of project under the supervision of State Forest Department. Retaining walls and terracing shall be carried out to hold the dumping material in place. Stabilization and reclamation of such dumping sites shall be completed before handing over the same to the State Forest Department in a time bound manner as per Plan;
- xx. The tree felling in the forest area, so diverted, shall only be as per the actual requirement and with prior permission of the competent authority.
- xxi. The User agency shall undertake afforestation along the periphery of the reservoir;
- xxii. There shall be no tree felling between FRL (Full Reservoir Level) and FRL - 4 meters and the forest land located between FRL and the FRL-4 meters may be afforested by planting appropriate indigenous tree species;
- xxiii. The User agency shall provide free water for the forestry and wildlife related activities;
- xxiv. Layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government;
- xxv. No labour camp shall be established on the forest land;
- xxvi. The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal and under no circumstances be transferred to any other agency, department or person;
- xxvii. The State Government shall ensure that the user agency shall provide alternate fuels to the laborers and the staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the nearby forest areas;
- xxviii. Boundary of the forest land proposed to be diverted shall be demarcated on ground at the project cost, by erecting four feet high reinforced cement concrete pillars, each inscribed with its serial number, forward and back bearing, distance from pillar to pillar and GPS co-ordinates;
- xxix. The State Government shall complete settlement of rights, in terms of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, if any, on the forest land to be diverted and submit the documentary evidence as prescribed by this Ministry in its letter No. 11-9/1998-FC (pt.) dated 03.08.2009 read with 05.07.2013, in support thereof;
- xxx. No damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused;
- xxxi. The user agency shall explore the possibility of translocation of maximum number of trees identified to be felled and shall ensure that any tree felling shall be done only when it is unavoidable and that too under strict supervision of the State Forest Department;
- xxxi. User agency either himself or through the State Forest Department shall undertake gap planting and soil & moisture conservation activities. The plan for plantation and SMC activities will be prepared and submitted to MoEF &CC before Stage-II

Clearance;

- xxiii. The User Agency shall submit the annual self -compliance report in respect of the above stated conditions to the State Government, concerned Regional Office and to this Ministry by the end of March every year regularly;
- xxiv. The Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and action would be taken as per the para 1.21 of comprehensive guidelines issued vide this Ministry F. No.5-2/2017-FC dated 28th March, 2019;
- xxv. Any other condition that the concerned Regional Office of this Ministry may stipulate with the approval of competent authority in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife; and
- xxvi. .The user agency shall comply all the provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, Hon'ble Court Order (s) and NGT Order (s) pertaining to this project, if any, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project.
- xxvii. The compliance report shall be uploaded on e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>).

3. After receipt of the report of complete compliance to the conditions stipulated in the paragraph-2 above, from the Government of Telangana, final / stage-II approval for diversion of the said forest under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 will be issued by this Ministry. Transfer of the said forest land to the user agency shall not be effected by the Government of Telangana till final/stage-II approval for its diversion is issued by this Ministry.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-

**(Brijendra Swaroop)**

Dy. Inspector General of Forests

**Copy to:-**

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Government of Telangana, Hyderabad;
2. The DDGF (Central), Regional Office (South Eastern Zone), Chennai;
3. The Nodal Officer (FCA), Forest Department, Government of Telangana, Hyderabad;
4. User Agency;
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi, for uploading.