

**GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA
FORESTS & ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**

No. FOR.136/2006/Vol. I/607

Dated : Shillong, the 26th May, 2015.

From : Smti. A. Nikhla, MCS,
Deputy Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya,
Forests & Environment Department

To : The Chief Conservator of Forests (C),
Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change,
Government of India,
North Eastern Regional Office,
Law- U-Sib, Near MTC Workshop,
Lumbatnngen, Shillong – 793021.

Sub : Diversion of **11.04** hectares of 'Forest Land'.

Sir,

I am directed to send herewith a proposal received from the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Meghalaya, Shillong for diversion of **11.04** ha. of forest land for **Re-routing a portion of the existing 400 KV D/C Palatana Bongaigaon Transmission Line passing over RIST Campus** submitted by the **Assistant Manager, North East Transmission Co. Ltd. Guwahati, Assam**, seeking approval for diversion of forest land under Section – 2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

1. Brief Description

- 1. Construction and re – routing of the transmission line passing over RIST Campus, Killing, Ri Bhoi District.**
- 2. Total area of land required = 11.04 ha.**
- 3. Total cost of the project =Rs. 2057 crores.**

2. Details of the forest land proposed for diversion

The total area of land involved in the project is 11.04 ha. The total area of forest land in the **Ri Bhoi District** of Meghalaya is as follows:

- a) R.F. =12634.297 ha**
- b) P.F = 164.39 ha**

3. Maps enclosed

The user agency has furnished the following maps duly countersigned by the Divisional Forest Officer.

- (i) Map showing the location of the proposed project in the State (scale – 1:50,000)
(Annexure :II)
- (ii) Topo sheet No.(s) of the Survey of India of the proposed diversion area (scale 1 : 50,000)
Topo Sheet No. 78 N/16. Annexure III.
- (iii) Forest stock map(s) (scale 1:15,000 or any other scale) of the area proposed to be diverted - x.
- (iv) Map showing justification for requirement of forest area (not to scale)
Annexure II A.
- (v) Map showing the proposed site for compensatory afforestation (scale 1:4,300 for non- forest areas and scale 1:15,000 for CA on double degraded forests)
Annexure VI.

Total forest area involved - **11.04 ha.**

Specify whether forest land of other States are being affected, vividly describe justification for locating project in forest areas and alternatives examined – No.

4. Assessment of forest stock

The forest area is situated in the **Khasi Hills (Teritorial) Division** of the State. The proposed project shall affect **873** trees. The details of species-wise and diameter class wise enumeration of trees have been enclosed as **Annexure VIII**. The ruling crown density is **60%** and the site quality of the area proposed for diversion is **I**.

5. Flora and Fauna and archaeological importance

The area does not form part of a National Park/Sanctuary/Biosphere Reserve or preservation plot. The proposed site contains fairly thick dense vegetables consisting of broad-leaved species. Existence of any endemic or threatened species at the above proposed site has not been reported. Moreover, the area does not bear any importance from the archaeological point of view.

6. Compensatory afforestation

The area of forest land to be diverted for the above project is **11.04 ha**. The details are as follows :

The Forest Land to be diverted for the above project is **11.04 hectares** which is more than **1 (one)** hectare. To compensate the loss of the area proposed to be diverted, compensatory afforestation over an area of **22.08 ha** is to be carried out at the **Upper Shillong Protected Forest Compartments - C/ 1, C/10 & C/11**.

Forest land identified for compensatory afforestation

District	Division	Range	Block	Compartment area No (s)	Working Circle (s)	Felling treatment series
East Khasi Hills District	Khasi Hills (T) Division	Shillong South Range	Myllem Block	C/1, C/10 & C/11	-	-

The User Agency has furnished an undertaking to deposit the amount for the Compensatory Afforestation Scheme after Stage – 1 clearance has been granted. **Annexure IX**.

7. Displacement of human population

If the State Government has enacted any statute for this purpose then the salient feature of the Act should be provided in brief, so that the assessment agencies are in a position to analyse the provisions of the statute and the “Rehabilitation and Resettlement Package” offered by the project proponent. - **Does not arise**.

8. Environment clearance

The environmental clearance is not required as per Clause – 2.3 of the Guidelines issued under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Also specify if the project proponent has initiated any action to obtain NOC/ consent under the provisions of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 & the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and the NOC/ consent obtained from State Pollution Control Board - **Not applicable**

9. Cost-benefit analysis

The cost benefit analysis has been worked out as provided in **Annexure XII** enclosed with the proposal. The loss of timber, fuel-wood, M.F.P. etc, including environmental loss has been calculated to be **Rs. 8.68 crore**. On the other hand, the benefit that would accrue from the project is **Rs. 305 crore**.

Hence the cost – benefit ratio is 8.68 Cr : 305 crore. **Enclosed Annexure XII.**

10. Violation of Forest Conservation Act/Indian Forest Act

Report whether any violation of the Forest Conservation Act/Indian Forest Act has been committed/not committed. If violation has been committed, a brief description of the violation, if it is still continuing, official(s) responsible for the violation, their present posting, have they been prosecuted? If yes, the present status of the case - **No violation is taking place.**

11. Recommendation of the State Government

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF has recommended the proposal. No Assessment Officer has provided any adverse comments on the proposal and it has been suitably commented upon by senior officers. The site proposed for diversion is not a part of a national park, sanctuary, biosphere reserve, sample plot, preservation plot and ecologically fragile zone. Its diversion is not likely to affect habitat of any endemic, threatened species of fauna or flora. There will be no effect on any stream, sea or water body nor a general effect on the forest ecosystem and bio-diversity. The project is not likely to adversely affect timber, fuel wood, MFP supply to the rural masses.

Benefits likely to accrue to the State and socio- economic benefits, industrialization, rural development, mineral production, power generation, surface transport, import substitution, export-import ramifications, forex reserve, international trade, anthropological for renewal of mining leases etc. – These benefits have been listed above.

I would therefore, request you to kindly convey the approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Govt. of India under Section 2(ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of the forest land in question in favour of Shri N. Chakraborty, Assistant Manager, North East Transmission Co. Ltd. Guwahati, Assam.

Yours faithfully,



Deputy Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya
Forests & Environment Department