



भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT,
FOREST & CLIMATE CHANGE
समन्वित क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय
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BY SPEED POST

F.No.4-KRA1364/2022-BAN/ 843

Dated the 26th October, 2022

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To

The Additional Chief Secretary to Government of Karnataka,
Forest, Ecology & Environment Department,
M.S. Building, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi,
Bangalore – 560 001.

Subject: Diversion of 47.91 ha. of forest land in 13 villages in Shivamogga and Davanagere Districts (Shivamogga and Sagara Forest Divisions) for construction of Shivamogga - Shikaripura New BG Railway line in favour of the Deputy Chief Engineer, South Western Railway Construction, Mysuru.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the State Government's letter No. FEE 83 FLL 2022 (e) dated 27/06/2022 and 13/10/2022 seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section '2' of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for the above project.

The proposal was examined by the Regional Empowered Committee constituted under sub-rule (1) of rule 4A of the Forest (Conservation) Rules, 2003 in its meeting held on 21/10/2022.

After careful examination of the proposal of the State Government and on the basis of the approval of the Regional Empowered Committee, **in-principle approval /Stage-I clearance** of the Central Government is hereby granted for diversion of 47.91 ha. of forest land in 13 villages in Shivamogga and Davanagere Districts (Shivamogga and Sagara Forest Divisions) for construction of Shivamogga - Shikaripura New BG Railway line in favour of the Deputy Chief Engineer, South Western Railway Construction, Mysuru, subject to the following conditions:-

A: Conditions which need to be complied prior to handing over of forest land by the State Forest Department.

1. The User Agency shall transfer online, the Net Present Value (NPV) of the forest

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land being diverted under this proposal, as per the guideline issued by Ministry vide letter No.5-3/2011-FC (Vol-I) dated 06/01/2022. The requisite funds shall be transferred through online portal into CAMPA account of the State Concerned.

2. The User Agency shall transfer the cost of raising and maintaining the Compensatory Afforestation over an extent of 95.82 ha. of degraded forest land (i.e. 77.74 ha. in Sy.No. 1 of Shidighinhala /Gaggavanasara S.F, Hosur Hobli, Shikaripura Taluk, Sagar Forest Division and 18.08 ha. in Sy.No.81, Mandagatta village, Kumshi Hobli, Shivamoga Forest Division) 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 demarcation of degraded forest land using appropriate fencing with provision for anticipated cost of increase for works scheduled for subsequent years. The CA will be maintained for 10 years.
3. About 2.12 ha of CA land was found to be already planted and hence the State Government shall arrange and intimate additional degraded forest land to that extent for taking up plantation including KML file, site suitability certificate etc., before Stage-II.
4. The User Agency shall restrict the felling of trees to minimum number in the diverted forest land and the trees shall be felled under the strict supervision of the State Forest Department and the cost of felling of trees shall be deposited by the User Agency with the State Forest Department.
5. All the funds received from the user agency under the project shall be transferred/deposited in CAMPA account only through e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>). Amount deposited through other mode will not be accepted as compliance of the Stage-I clearance.
6. The KML file of the forest area diverted and CA area shall be uploaded in the e-green watch portal with all requisite details and same shall be submitted along with compliance report.
7. The State Government shall ensure that all the rights and claims under RoFR Act are settled and FRA Certificate is certified by the competent authority before giving working permission. The State Government shall submit FRA certificate along with documentary evidence as prescribed by this Ministry in its letter No. 11-9/1998-FC dated 3rd August 2009 read with 05.07.2013 with necessary enclosures, in support thereof.
8. The compliance report shall be uploaded on e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>).
9. The boundary of the diverted forest land shall be suitably demarcated on ground at the project cost as per the directions of concerned Divisional Forest Officer.
10. Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and action would be taken as prescribed in para 1.21 of Chapter 1 of the Handbook of comprehensive guidelines of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 as issued by this Ministry's letter No. 5-2/2017-FC dated 28.03.2019.

B: Conditions which need to be strictly complied on field after handing over of forest land to the user agency by the State Forest Department but the compliance in form of undertaking shall be submitted prior to Stage-II approval:

1. Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged.
2. Compensatory Afforestation shall be raised over double the extent of degraded forest land within three years from the date of Stage –II Clearance and maintained thereafter by the State Forest Department at the cost of the User Agency and at least 1000 plants per hectare shall be planted over identified degraded forest land within three years of grant of final approval. If it is not possible to plant so many

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saplings in the area identified for CA, the balance saplings will be planted in any other forests as per prescriptions of approved working plan with provision for ten years on subsequent maintenance.

3. At the time of payment of the Net Present Value (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 final decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.
4. Tree felling shall be restricted to the barest minimum possible and under confirmation from the local forest officials.
5. User agency shall implement the mitigation measures approved by the Chief Wildlife Warden, Karnataka including recent directions of MoEF&CC and Ministry of Railways on sensitive stretches to mitigate rail/wildlife conflict.
6. Speed regulating signage will be erected along the railway line at regular intervals in the Forest Areas.
7. The period of diversion under this approval shall be co-terminus with the period of lease to be granted in favour of the user agency or the project life, whichever is less.
8. No labour camp shall be established on the forest land.
9. No additional or new paths will be constructed inside the forest area for transportation of construction materials for execution of the project work.
10. 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.
11. The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the project proposal.
12. The total forest area utilized for the project shall not exceed 47.91 ha.
13. The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agency, department or person without prior approval of the Central Government;
14. No damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused.
15. User Agency shall obtain the Environmental Clearance as per the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, if applicable.
16. The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government.
17. The User Agency shall submit the annual self-compliance report in respect of the above stated conditions to the State Government and Integrated Regional Office, Bangalore by the end of March every year.
18. The user agency shall comply with 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.
19. Any other condition that the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change may stipulate from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection and development of Forest and Wildlife.

After receipt of compliance report on fulfilment of the conditions mentioned above, the proposal shall be considered for final approval under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Working permission, if any issued, shall be intimated to IRO, Bengaluru. Transfer of forest land shall not be effected till final approval is granted by the Central Government in this regard.

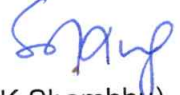
Further, it may also be noted that this in-principle approval shall be valid for a



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period of 5 years from the date of issue of this letter. In the event of non-compliance of the above conditions, this in-principle approval shall be revoked after 5 years.

Yours faithfully,




(M.K.Shambhu)

Deputy Inspector General of Forests (Central)

Copy to:-


1. The Inspector General of Forests (ROHQ), Govt. of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhavan, Agni Wing, Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi – 110 003
2. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Forests Department, Govt. of Karnataka, Aranya Bhavan, 18th Cross, Malleswaram, Bangalore – 560 003.
3. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (FC) /Nodal Officer (FCA), Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Forests Department, Govt. of Karnataka, Aranya Bhavan, 18th Cross, Malleswaram, Bangalore – 560 003.
4. The Chief Administrative Officer, South Western Railway, No. 18, Millers Road, Benson Town, Bengaluru Cantonment, Bengaluru -560 046.
5. Guard file.



(M.K.Shambhu)

Deputy Inspector General of Forests (Central)

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27/10/2022