



भारत सरकार / Government of India  
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय / Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change  
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No.5-ORA487/2021-BHU

23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2024

To

The Addl. Director General of Forests (FC),  
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change,  
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,  
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj,  
New Delhi - 110 003.

Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for non-forestry use of 48.782 ha of forest land for construction of 220 KV LILO Transmission line from existing LoC No.70 of 220 KV Malkangiri-Balimela Transmission line to existing 220/33 KV Grid S/S Khairput, Gobindapalli under Malkangiri Forest Division in Malkangiri District by OPTCL, EHT Construction Division, Jeypore, Odisha.

Ref: Ministry's letter No.5-ORA487/2021-BHU dated 24.04.2024 & 29.08.2024.

Sir,

With reference to the subject cited above, I am to inform that the site inspection of the above project was carried out by the Dy. Inspector General of Forests (C) of this office and the site inspection report along with recommendation of the undersigned is enclosed herewith for kind information and necessary action.

Yours faithfully,

Encl: As state above.

  
(A.T. Mishra)  
Dy. Director General of Forests (C)

**RECOMMENDATION OF DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF FORESTS (CENTRAL)**

The instant proposal is for diversion of 48.782 ha of forest land for construction of transmission line in favour of Odisha Power Transmission Corporation Limited (OPTCL) a State Public Sector Undertaking. The proposal involves construction activity in the forest land without prior approval of Central Govt.

The site inspection of the above project was carried out by Dr. Padma Mahanti, DIGF (Central). As per site inspection report 67 towers were erected on forest land without prior approval of Central Govt. However, the DFO, Malkangiri has reported that 58 nos. of towers have been erected over forest land.

The State Govt. has reported that Tahasildar, Kudumulugumma has initiated encroachment case against the erring OPTCL officials under OPLE Act, 1972. The Tahasildar, Kudumulugumma has demanded penalty amount of Rs.52,227/- towards encroachment of revenue forest land and the User Agency has paid the above penalty amount. The Range Officer, Balimela has also booked a OR case No.79 of 2023-24 against the OPTCL under Section 37 (C) of Odisha Forest Act., 1972.

The proposal is recommended with the condition that 5 times Penal NPV, Penal CA may be imposed for unauthorized use of forest land and action against erring officials may be initiated by the State Govt. besides the general standard conditions.

The actual area of violation may be calculated by the DFO as reported by the DIGF (C) in the site inspection report before placing demand for Penal NPV and CA.



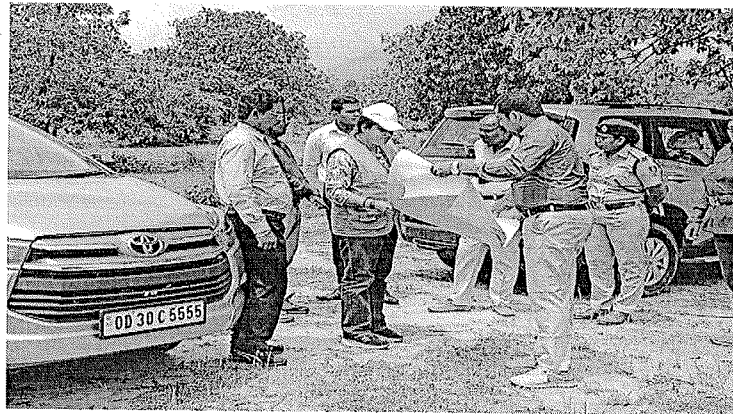
(A.T. Mishra)

Dy. Director General of Forests (Central)

**SITE INSPECTION REPORT IN RESPECT OF DIVERSION PROPOSAL FOR SEEKING PRIOR APPROVAL OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT UNDER SECTION 2 OF THE VAN (SANRAKSHAN EVAM SAMVARDHAN) ADHINIYAM, 1980 FOR NON FORESTRY USE OF 48.782 HA OF FOREST LAND FOR CONSTRUCTION OF 220 KV LILO TRANSMISSION LINE FROM EXISTING LOC NO.70 OF 220 KV MALKANGIRI-BALIMELA TRANSMISSION LINE TO EXISTING 220/33 KV GRID S/S KHAIRPUT, GOBINDAPALLI UNDER MALKANGIRI FOREST DIVISION IN MALKANGIRI DISTRICT BY OPTCL, EHT CONSTRUCTION DIVISION, JEYPORE, ODISHA**

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, New Delhi vide letter dated 24.04.2024 has instructed for submission of site inspection report including detailed violation report.

Accordingly, site inspection of the above project was carried out by the undersigned on 09.07.2024 along with the Divisional Forest Officer, Malkangiri Forest Division and the officials of the user agency were present. The photograph of the site visit is furnished below:



**1. Legal status of the forest land proposed for diversion:**

*The legal status of the forest land is 44.283 ha of revenue forest land and 4.499 ha protected forest land.*

**2. Item-wise break-up details of the forest land proposed for diversion.**

*The item wise break up of the proposed forest land is furnished below:*

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Pattern of utilization</i>	<i>Forest land (in ha)</i>
1.	<i>Foundation casting of towers</i>	<i>0.284</i>
2.	<i>Passing of transmission line conductor</i>	<i>48.498</i>
	<i>Total</i>	<i>48.782</i>

**3. Whether proposal involves any construction of buildings (including residential) or not. If yes, details thereof:**

*No.*

**4. Total cost of the project at present rates:**

*The estimated cost of the project is 3014.929 lakhs.*

**5. Wildlife:**

*During site inspection, no wildlife was seen in the project site. However, it was reported that wild fauna like Jackal, wild boar, bear, hyena and various birds and snakes, etc. are seen in the project site and it is also sloth bear habitat.*

**Whether forest area proposed for diversion is important from wildlife point of view or not:**

*During site inspection no wildlife was seen in the project. However, this is reported to be a sloth bear habitat. Hence, Site Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan needs to be prepared for the project area for conservation of the sloth bear habitat and other mesopredator found in the area.*

**6. Vegetation:**

*The forest is placed under Eco Value Class III and canopy density is 0.5.*

*The common floral species found in the applied area are Acacia (*Acacia auriculaeformis*), Amla (*Embllica officinalis*), Ankula (*Alangium lamarkii*), Arjun (*Terminalia arjuna*), Bada Chakunda (*Samanea saman*), Bahada (*Terminalia belerica*), Bandhan (*Desmodium oojeinesis*), Bara (*Ficus benghalensis*), Bela (*Aegle marmelos*), Bija (*Pterocarpus marsupium*), Chakunda (*Cassia slamea*), Char (*Buchania lanzan*), etc. These could be observed in the project site during site inspection.*

**Total number of trees to be felled.**

*Total 2538 number of trees (1380 in forest land and 1158 in non forest land) have been enumerated out of which 1583 trees are to be felled and 955 are to be pruned.*

**Effect of removal of trees on the general ecosystem in the area:**

*Removal of trees has natural impact on environment and ecosystem and the wildlife of the area.*

**7. Background note on the proposal:**

*Odisha Power Transmission Corporation Limited (OPTCL), a Government of Odisha Undertaking is primarily installed for construction and to facilitate effective transfer of power within and across the districts of the state. The mission of OPTCL is to form a state grid as well as to support the national grids. This proposal is a 220 KV LILO transmission line, which emanates from existing LoC, No.70 of 220 KV Malkangiri-Balimela transmission line to existing*

*220/33 KV grid S/S Khairput, Gobindapalli, Malkangiri, Odisha over a distance of 37.770 km. Height of the transmission line is 14 meter. Initially, preliminary survey was carried out by OPTCL in three routes/lines (line-1 to 3). Out of these three alternate lines, Line No.II has been selected.*

*It was also reported that the said proposed transmission line cover a corridor area of 132.196 ha, which includes forest land of 48.782 ha (Revenue Forest-44.283 ha and Protected Reserve Forest-4.499 ha). The details of total non forest area of 83.414 ha includes a government land of 31.073 ha and private land of 52.341 ha. The entire transmission line will be constructed by erecting 52 number of towers inside forest land (angle tower 16 no and normal tower 36 no) and*

over non forest land 94 no. of towers totaling to 146 number of towers covering a total distance of 37.77 km (out of which inside forest area 13.938 km and over non forest area 23.832 km). The Right of Way inside forest area is 35 meter and also over non forest area 35 meter. The transmission line will supply EHT voltage, which will ensure uninterrupted, assured and quality power supply in 27 villages and other nearby villages of Chitrakonda, Malkangiri, Kumuluguma and Khairput tahsils in Malkangiri Forest Division of Malkangiri district and also its adjoining villages in Koraput district, Odisha. It was informed that the project will improve the voltage profile of nearby villages.

**8. Compensatory afforestation:**

An area of 97.564 ha of double degraded forest land has been identified in Ranginiguda PRF under Chitrakonda Range of Malkangiri Forest Division @1600 plants per ha. During field visit, the DFO, Malkangiri has informed that during the intervening period, in some patches of CA land, the canopy density has been increased significantly and also in some patches soil erosion has happened due to floods. However, over 48.782 plants can be accommodated in 97.504 ha of area @500 plants per ha. Accordingly, the CA scheme has been revised.

**(a) Whether land for compensatory afforestation is suitable from plantation and management point of view or not:**

*It was reported that the land is for CA is suitable from plantation and management point of view. The same was viewed in DSS.*

**(b) Whether land for compensatory afforestation is free from encroachment/other encumbrances:**

*It was reported that the compensatory afforestation is free from encroachment/other encumbrances. However, in DSS analysis, agricultural activities are seen in the CA land and the lands needs to be made free from encroachments. It has been intimated by the DFO, Malkangiri that entry point activities have been undertaken to stop practice of shifting cultivation undertaken in the proposed CA land and CA land will be made free from all encroachments before undertaking the CA plantation and site shall be adequately fenced, demarcated and protected.*

**(c) Whether land for compensatory afforestation is important from Religious/Archaeological point of view:**

*Not reported.*

**(d) Land identified for raising compensatory afforestation is in how many patches, whether patches are compact or not:**

*The CA is in two patches and each one is compact.*

**(e) Map with details:**

*Submitted.*

**(f) Total financial outlay:**

*The financial outlay of compensatory afforestation scheme has been technically approved by the Additional PCCF, Odisha for Rs.1,97,01,300.*

9. Whether proposal involves violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 or not. If yes, a detailed report on violation including action taken against the concerned officials:

*It was reported that four numbers of Web Towers in Tarlakota PRF proposed to be diverted during 2018-19 and one of Web tower in Revenue forest area of the site. But during site inspection a total number of 67 towers were found to be erected in violation of FC Act, 1980.*

*The PCCF and HoFF, Odisha vide letter No.4145/9F (Trans)-369/2021 dated 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2024 has informed that the Tahasildar, Kudumulugumma has initiated encroachment cases against the representatives of the user agency, i.e. Deputy General Manager (Elect), EHT (Construction) Division, OPTCL, Jeypore under Section 4, 6 and 7 of the O.P.L.E. Act, 1972. Further the Tahsildar, Kudumulugumma has demanded penalty amount of Rs.52,227 towards encroachment of revenue forest land against the user agency which has been deposited vide cheque No.048136 dated 09.01.2024. It was also reported in the letter that the Range Officer, Balimela has booked a case under OR Case No.79 OF 2023-24 against the OPTCL for violation of the provision under Section 37 (C) of Odisha Forest Act, 1972.*

*The following towers were reported to be erected by OPTCL in different lands:*

a. Tarlakota PRF	:	05 nos
b. Revenue Forest	:	53 nos
c. Non forest	:	88 nos
Total	:	146 nos (total 58 numbers of towers are in forest land)

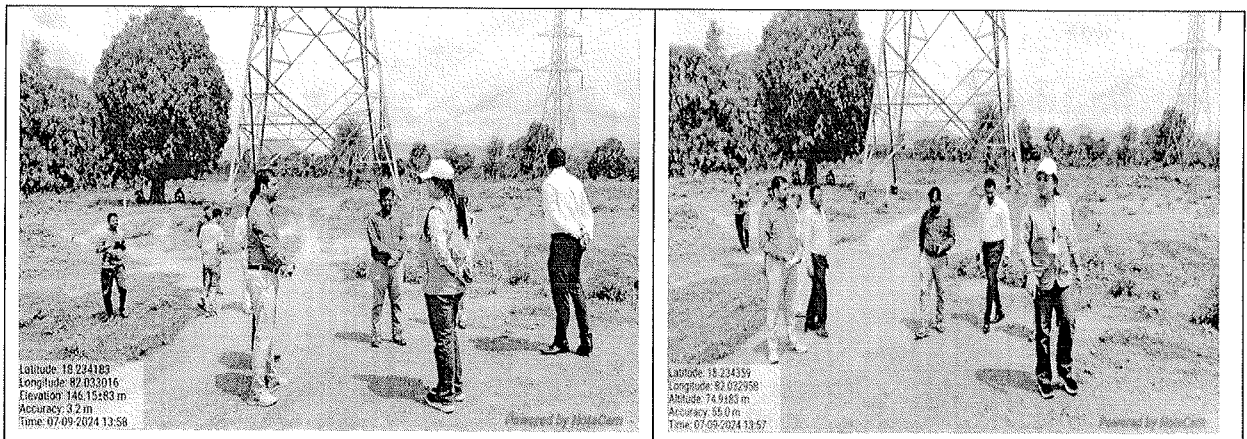
*Forest area violation : 4.275 ha*

*Without stringing of 54 nos towers include forest area = 0.950 ha*

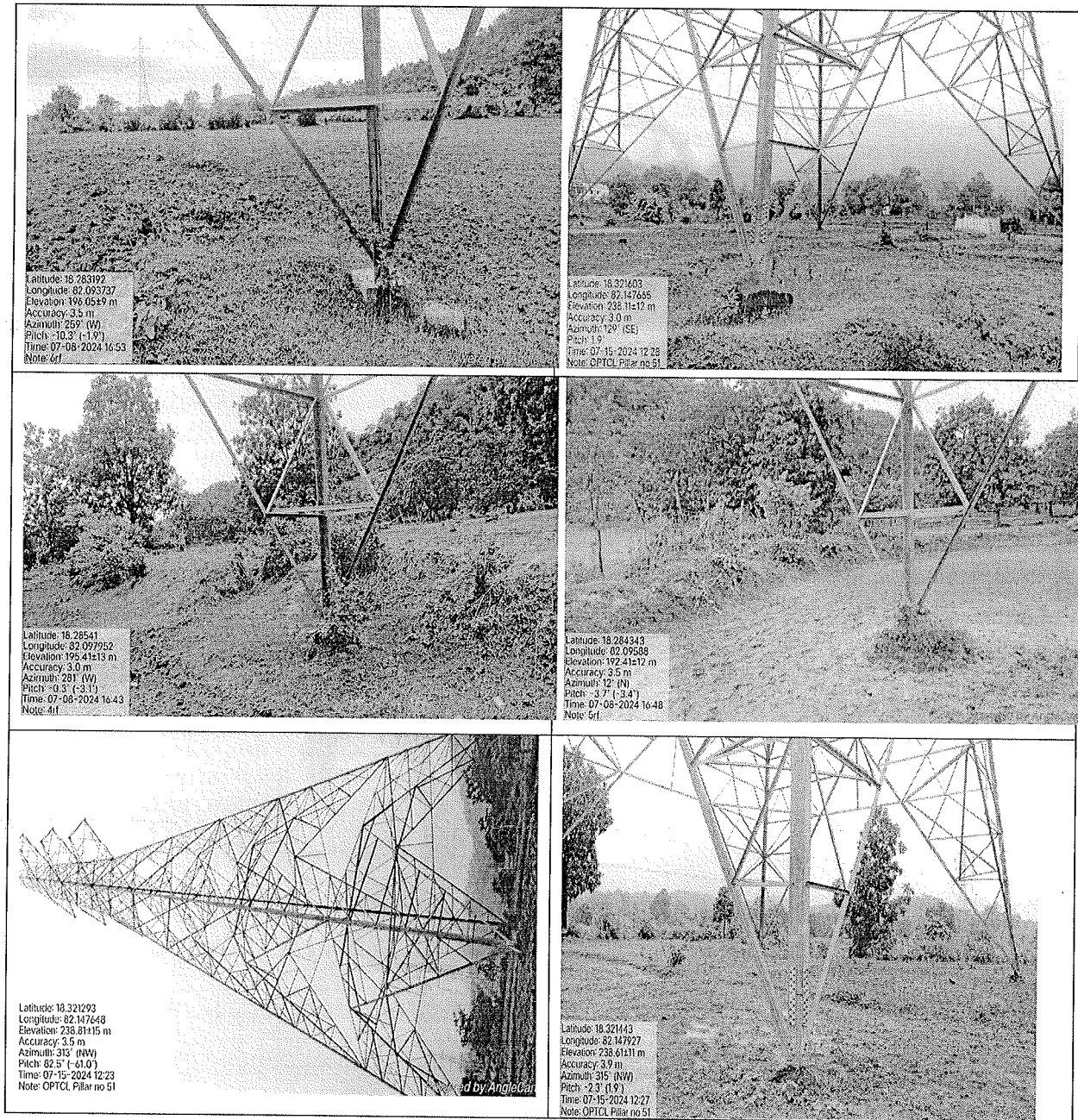
*With stringing of conductor between 14 nos of towers  
Sl. No.103 to 143 = 3.325 ha*

*Total forest area violated = 4.275 ha*

***However, in DSS analysis 67 numbers of towers were seen to be erected on forest land. The same was verified on field during site inspection. The actual area of land where these 67 towers are erected needs to be re-calculated and penalty fixed accordingly. The location of 67 towers is enclosed herewith. Photographs of violations in Revenue Forest land are furnished below:***



Photographs of violations in Tarlakota PRF are furnished below:



10. Whether proposal involves rehabilitation of displaced persons. If yes, whether rehabilitation plan has been prepared by the State Government or not:

*The project does not require displacement of any human habitation and therefore, the resettlement and rehabilitation plans are not required.*

11. Reclamation plan:

Not applicable.

Details and financial allocation:

-

**12. Details on catchment and command area under the project:**

Not applicable.

**Catchment area treatment plan to prevent siltation of reservoir:**

Not applicable.

**13. Cost benefit ratio:**

*The cost benefit ratio is reported to be 2:1.*

**14. Recommendations of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests/State Government:**

*Recommended.*

**15. Recommendations of the Deputy Director General of Forests (Central) along with detailed reasons:**

*Enclosed along with the report.*

**16. Conservator of Forests (Central) shall give detailed comments on whether there are any alternative routes/alignment for locating the project on the non-forest land:**

*It was reported by the user agency that avoiding dense vegetation, hilly area, human habitation, forest plantation and dense village forest, Line No.II is found to be most suitable route.*

**17. Utility of the project:**

*The project may improve the voltage profile of nearby villages. The project may generate a regular employment of 20 persons and temporary employment of 25000 persons.*

**Numbers of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribes to be benefited by the project:**

*Not reported.*

**18.**

**(a) Whether land being diverted has any socio-cultural/ religious value:**

*Not reported.*

**(b) Whether any sacred grove or very old growth trees/forests exist in the areas proposed for diversion:**

*Not reported.*

**(c) Whether the land under diversion forms part of any unique eco-system:**

*Not reported.*



**19. Situation with respect to any Protected Area:**

*During site inspection, it was reported that the project is about 44 km from Kangher valley National Park.*

**20. Recommendation based on site inspection of project :**

*The area of violation by construction of 67 towers needs to be ascertained by the State Government. Since this is a repeated and perpetual violation by the user agency, 5 times CA on non forest land/revenue forest land, 5 times NPV with correct area calculation of violation of all 67 towers (after a joint re-verification) needs to be imposed. Strict action against the erring officials of the user agency as well as those who failed to stop the misuse of forest land for non forestry activity without proper clearances, as mandated by law, needs to be taken up at an early date.*

*Since, this is a public utility project, this is recommended with the aforesaid condition.*

*Padma Mahanti*

(Dr. PADMA MAHANTI)  
DIGF (CENTRAL)

**Project Name: Proposal for diversion of 48.782 Ha. forest land for non-forest purpose for 220 kV LILO Transmission Line from Existing LoC No. 70 of 220 Kv Malkangiri-Balimela Transmission Line to 220/ 33 kv Grid Sub - Station, Khairput, Govindapalli by Odisha Power Transmission Corporation Limited in Forest Division & District: Malkangiri (Violations of FC Rule, Tower Constructed prior to Stage-2 Approval)**

<b>Tower ID</b>	<b>Lat</b>	<b>Long</b>
1	18.23400171	82.03306451
2	18.2352836	82.03510489
3	18.23788858	82.03927562
4	18.24093464	82.04410374
5	18.24386145	82.047111648
6	18.24875615	82.06133672
7	18.25250356	82.06400382
8	18.25485738	82.06571078
9	18.25766104	82.07256938
10	18.25849434	82.0746524
11	18.2603193	82.07916635
12	18.26124967	82.08143544
13	18.27733287	82.08742893
14	18.28322304	82.09371504
15	18.28433983	82.09592347
16	18.28543941	82.09794873
17	18.2865571	82.10006285
18	18.28818724	82.10240759
19	18.28983447	82.10473738
20	18.29100226	82.10632061
21	18.29306878	82.10787951
22	18.29512176	82.10940316
23	18.29731069	82.11096185
24	18.3019826	82.11382299
25	18.30431176	82.11448561
26	18.3066715	82.11959673
27	18.30772085	82.12188356
28	18.30821558	82.12296934
29	18.30911705	82.13227639
30	18.30979462	82.13429187
31	18.32179854	82.14862786
32	18.32873534	82.1482706
33	18.33691699	82.14778323
34	18.33940851	82.14765971
35	18.34192995	82.14755851
36	18.34570647	82.14915997
37	18.34861356	82.15242443
38	18.35585212	82.16393104
39	18.36061796	82.17305035
40	18.36239593	82.17362655

41	18.36455412	82.17433573
42	18.36717355	82.17518158
43	18.37013865	82.179773
44	18.37272801	82.18374405
45	18.38631968	82.19013648
46	18.39292607	82.1911474
47	18.3940971	82.19262537
48	18.39533226	82.19415476
49	18.39654813	82.19567965
50	18.39786342	82.19733128
51	18.40101674	82.20055732
52	18.40265388	82.20221212
53	18.40433964	82.20394751
54	18.40806583	82.20459188
55	18.4103596	82.20498343
56	18.42101919	82.20830675
57	18.42261782	82.20947851
58	18.42458232	82.21102799
59	18.42609485	82.21215177
60	18.43463246	82.21343621
61	18.44186515	82.21433734
62	18.44401421	82.21504045
63	18.44864376	82.21647772
64	18.45396608	82.21806629
65	18.45608207	82.21875548
66	18.464364	82.221242
67	18.46650779	82.22189401

## GIS-DSS ANALYSIS

(DR-1= DECISION RULE-1, DR-2= DECISION RULE-2, OF=OPEN FOREST,MDF=MODERATELY DENSE FOREST, VDF= VERY DENSE FOREST)

1. File No. FP/ORA/487/2021

Date: 10<sup>th</sup> December 2021

2. Area- 48.782 ha

3. Name of the Project: Proposal for diversion of 48.782 Ha. forest land for non-forest purpose for 220 kV LILO Transmission Line from Existing LoC No. 70 of 220 Kv Malkangiri-Balimela Transmission Line to 220/ 33 kv Grid Sub - Station, Khairput, Govindapalli by Odisha Power Transmission Corporation Limited in Forest Division & District: Malkanagiri.

4. Location

- State: Odisha
- District: Malkanagiri

5. Data provided by the User/State:

- Shape file/KML/DGPS Point/ Map file of Land to be Diverted: Available
- Shape file/KML/DGPS Point/ Map file for Compensatory Land: Available

6. GIS- DSS analysis of Land to be diverted

Sr. No	Land to be Diverted	Area as per .kml file (In hectares )	GIS-DSS Analysis		Result
			DR-1	DR-2	
1	Malkanagiri Forest Division	47.896	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Total</b>			<b>47.896</b>		
(*Not-Inviolate -Land can be diverted for any Non-Forest activity) (*Inviolate- Land can not be diverted for any Non-Forest activity )					

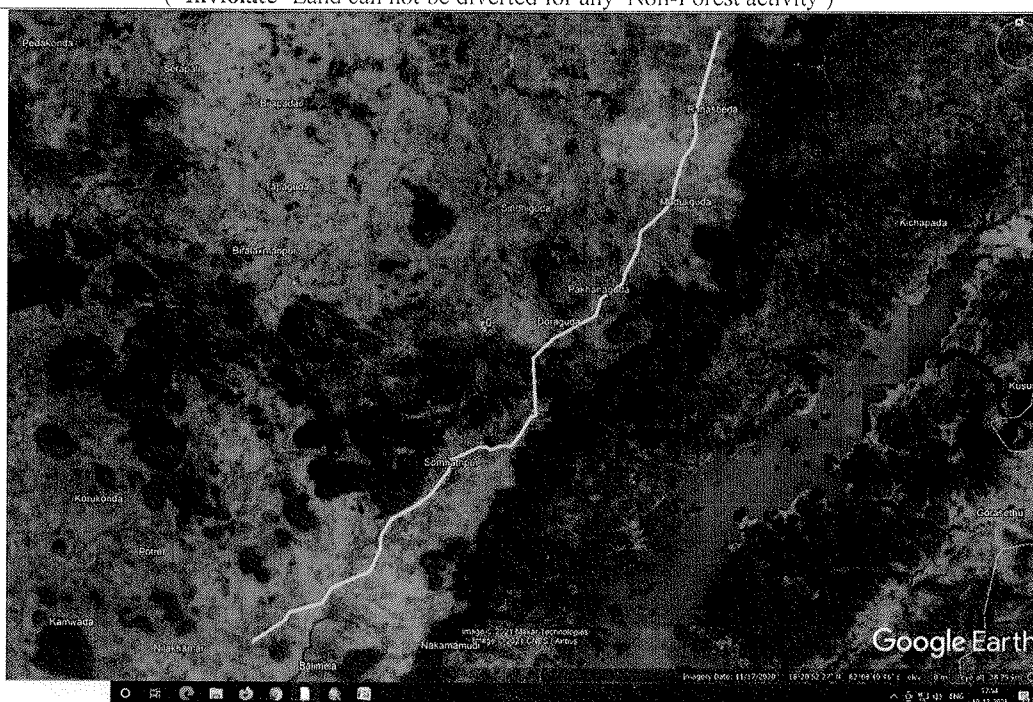


Fig:1 Google Earth image of diversion land (Date:17.11.2020)

## GIS-DSS ANALYSIS

(DR-1= DECISION RULE-1, DR-2= DECISION RULE-2, OF=OPEN FOREST, MDF=MODERATELY DENSE FOREST, VDF= VERY DENSE FOREST)

### 7. GIS- DSS analysis of Compensatory Afforestation land

In terms of standards followed in ISFR 2019 (interpretation of satellite data period 2017-2018) regarding density classes:

**Patch:1 (CA Land, Malkangiri Forest Division)**

Sr. No.	Compensatory Afforestation		Area as per .kml file (In hectares)	Forest Cover Density Classes as per DSS (Area in hectares)					
				Suitable (Plantation)			Not Suitable (Plantation)		
	Name of CA	Range		OF	Non-Forest	Scrub	MDF	VDF	Water
1	Ranginiguda PRF	Chitrakonda	82.093	-	82	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>			<b>82.093</b>	<b>82.0</b>			<b>-</b>		

*As per the GIS-DSS analysis, the net suitable area for plantation in proposed Compensatory afforestation patch is 82.093 ha.*

### 8. Observations:

- i. The NET Suitable area for plantation as per GIS-DSS analysis is 82.093 ha.
- ii. Agriculture activity observed in the CA Land.
- iii. The proposed CA land patch falls under Non Forest category under FCM (Fig:3).

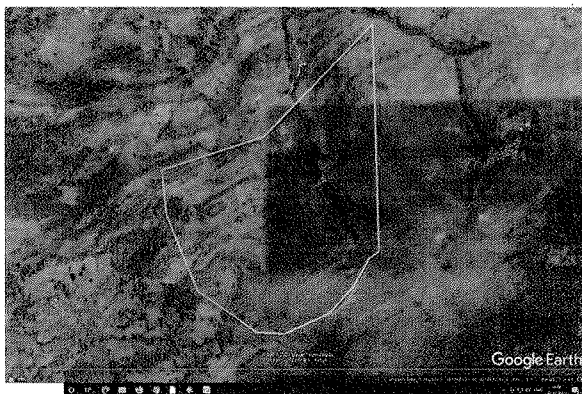


Fig: 2 Google Earth image of CA land (Date:26.05.2021)

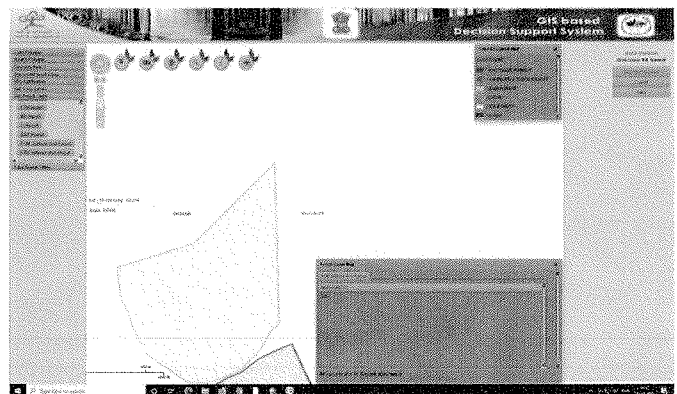


Fig: 3 FCM of proposed CA land

## GIS-DSS ANALYSIS

(DR-1= DECISION RULE-1, DR-2= DECISION RULE-2, OF=OPEN FOREST, MDF=MODERATELY DENSE FOREST, VDF= VERY DENSE FOREST)

### Patch:2 (CA Land, Malkangiri Forest Division)

Sr. No.	Compensatory Afforestation		Area as per .kml file (In hectares)	Forest Cover Density Classes as per DSS (Area in hectares)					
				Suitable (Plantation)			Not Suitable (Plantation)		
	Name of CA	Range		OF	Non-Forest	Scrub	MDF	VDF	Water
1	Ranginiguda PRF	Chitrakonda	16.422	-	16.0	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>			<b>16.422</b>	<b>16.0</b>			<b>-</b>		

*As per the GIS-DSS analysis, the net suitable area for plantation in proposed Compensatory afforestation patch is 16.422ha.*

#### 8. Observations:

- i. The NET Suitable area for plantation as per GIS-DSS analysis is 16.422 ha.
- ii. The proposed CA land patch falls under Non Forest under FCM (Fig:5).

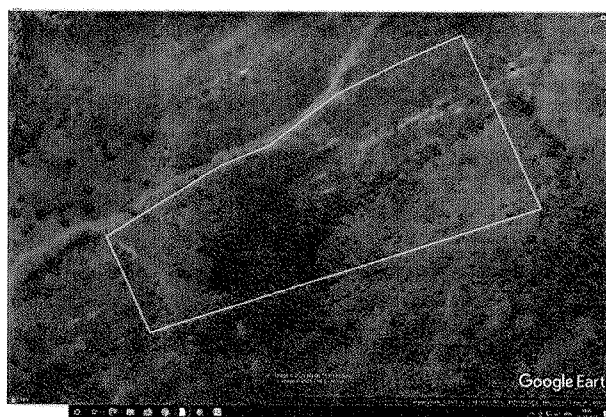


Fig: 4 Google Earth image of CA land (Date: 26.05.2021)

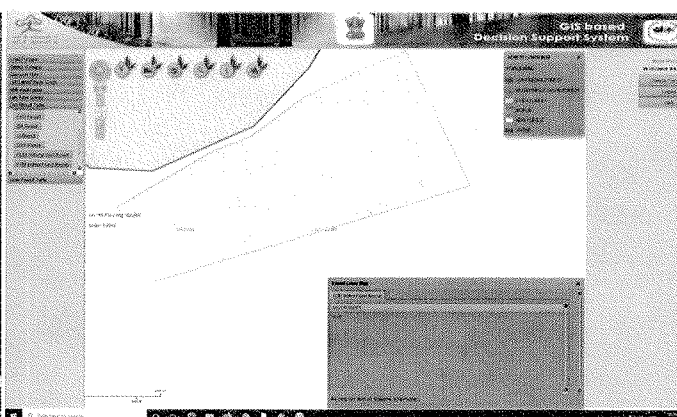


Fig: 5 FCM of proposed CA land

#### FCM Summary of CA Land

Sl No.	Forest Cover	Area(ha.)
1	NON FOREST	82.0
2.	NON FOREST	16.0
<b>Total</b>		<b>98.0</b>

- \*VDF- Very Dense Forest (More than 70% Tree Cover)
- \*MDF- Moderately Dense Forest (40-70 % Tree Cover)
- \* OF- Open Forest (10-40% Tree Cover)
- \* SCRUB- Shrub / Bushy (Less than 10% Tree Cover)
- \* NF- No Forest Cover (0% Tree Cover)