

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Aliganj, Jor Bag Road,
New Delhi - 110003.

Dated: 06-10-2025

To
The Addl. Chief Secretary (Forests),
Government of Odisha,
Bhubaneswar

Sub Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 87.520 ha of forest land for construction of Hidsing Irrigation Project including alternate Road in Angul Forest Division under Angul District by Executive Engineer, Cuttack Investigation Division, Cuttack of Water Resource Department, Govt. of Odisha (Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/20559/2016).

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Odisha's letter No. FE-DIV-FLD-0025-2024-11966/FE&CC dated 05.07.2024 on the above mentioned subject for seeking prior approval of the Central Govt. under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. Further, it is informed that the proposal along with additional information submitted by the State Govt. vide letter dated 9F (IRRIG)-349/2021 dated 18.08.2025 was considered by the Advisory Committee Meeting held on 26.09.2025. After the examination of the proposal, the Advisory committee has deferred the proposal; for want of the following document/information:

- i. The proposed project area falls within a critical elephant habitat and the Mahanadi Elephant Reserve (proposed for extension). Further, it is observed that open canals are proposed under the project, which may obstruct elephant movement and pose a risk to their safety. Therefore, a detailed wildlife mitigation plan may be prepared in consultation with the Chief Wildlife Warden, incorporating suitable mitigation measures at strategic locations and other site-specific interventions to ensure unhindered and safe passage for elephants.
- ii. As per the DSS analysis, cultivation land, water stream (Bauli Nallah) and road is visible in the proposed forest land for diversion. The State Govt, shall provide justification in this regard.
- iii. The component wise KML file of the entire project area (forest & non-forest) is not available. The same shall be provided.
- iv. The State shall ensure that Compensatory Afforestation (CA) sites are free from all sorts of encroachments and encumbrances. A detailed report in this regard shall be submitted.

In view of the above, the State Government is requested to submit the information/documents, as indicated above, to this Ministry for further consideration of the proposal.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-

(S. Sundar)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. PCCF (HoFF), Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
2. DDGF (Central), Integrated Regional Office of the MoEF&CC at Bhubaneswar.
3. APCCF cum Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
4. User Agency.
5. Monitoring Cell of FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi.