

F. No. 8-47/2018-FC
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Aliganj, Jorbagh Road,
New Delhi - 110003
Dated: 31st December, 2019

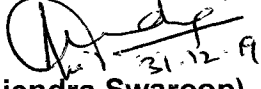
To
The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Government of Maharashtra,
Mantralaya, Mumbai.

Sub: Proposal for prospecting (Research) over an area of 121.83 ha of forest land under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory in India (LIGO) in village Dudhala, Anjanwada, Nandgaon Sawali (B), Tal-Aundha (Nagnath), District – Hingoli by taking 150 Bore Holes in 0.375 ha forest area.

Sir,
I am directed to refer to the Addl. PCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Maharashtra's letter no. Desk-17/NC/RS-1/ID-12563/1253/19-20 dated 31.10.2019 on the above subject forwarding a report on the compliance of conditions stipulated in the Stage-I approval dated 24.09.2018 and to say that examination of the said compliance report in the Ministry revealed following:

- (i) Given the fact that Stage-I approval under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for non-forestry use of 121.83 ha of forest land for establishment of Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory in India (LIGO) was granted by the Ministry on 24.12.2018, the State Government may kindly confirm the if final approval of the Central Government for carrying out prospecting in the same area is still required by the User Agency.
- (ii) Proposal for prospecting has only been granted Stage-I approval on 24.09.2018, the State Government may, therefore, confirm that if prospecting in the area has been undertaken by the User Agency without final approval of Central Government. In case, the User Agency has already undertaken prospecting, it amounts to violation of the conditions stipulated in the approval dated 24.09.2018 and the same should be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of the para 1.15 of the handbook of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in consultation with the Regional Office of the MoEF&CC.

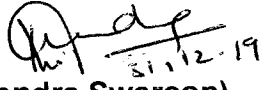
In view of the above, I am directed to request the State Government to kindly confirm if the User Agency still interested to go ahead with the proposal of prospecting or normal proposal granted Stage-I approval for non-forestry use of the same forest land.

Yours faithfully,

(Brijendra Swaroop)

Dy Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:-

1. The PCCF, Government of Maharashtra, Nagpur.
2. The Dy Director General of Forests (Central), Regional Office, Nagpur.
3. The Nodal Officer (FCA), Office of the PCCF, Government of Maharashtra, Nagpur.
4. User Agency.
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF, New Delhi.
6. Guard File.


(Brijendra Swaroop)
Dy Inspector General of Forests