

F. No. 8-23/2018-FC
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bagh Road, Alganj,
New Delhi – 1100 03,
Dated: 22nd April, 2019,

To,

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Department of Environment, Forests, Science and Technology
Government of Andhra Pradesh,
A.P. Secretariat, Velagapudi,
Amaravati-522503.

Sub: - Proceeding of the meeting held on 21.02.2019 discussion on the proposals submitted by the Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA)-regarding.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the following proposals as submitted by the Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA) for seeking prior approval under Section-2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for various purposes as detailed below:

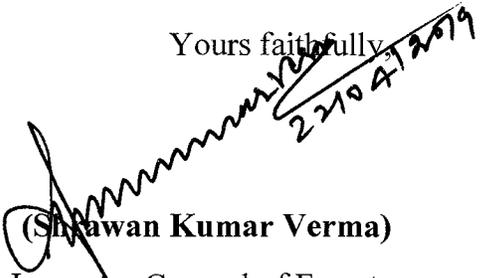
S. N.	Reference Letter of State Govt.	File No. of Ministry	Area proposed for diversion	Purpose
1.	68/Section-II/2018 dated 11.01.2018	8-23/2018-FC	150.84 ha	Establishment of Eco Theme Park
2.	64/Section-II/2018 dated 11.01.2018	8-24/2018-FC	434.85 ha	Capital city infrastructure projects in AP Capital Region
3.	63/Section-II/2018 dated 11.01.2018	8-25/2018-FC	123.82 ha	Science City under capital city
4.	67/Section-II/2018 dated 11.01.2018	8-26/2018-FC	118.3 ha	Development of Eco Tourist Village
5.	62/Section.II/2018 dated 11.01.2018	8-27/2018-FC	250.08 ha	IIF&CC, Head Quarters of APFD, APFDC, APPCB and NGC under capital city
6.	61/Section.II/2018 dated 11.01.2018	8-28/2018-FC	231.33 ha	Development of Bio Diversity Park
7.	62/Section.II/2018 dated 11.01.2018	8-29/2018-FC	1625.53 ha	Establishment of Aerospace, Precision Engineering Innovation and Research and Green Mobility Park in Venkatayapalem Exten-1 & Exten-8 RFs
8.	66/Section.II/2018 dated 11.01.2018	8-30/2018-FC	371.80 ha	Development of E-5 Park

2. The said proposals were discussed in FAC meeting held on 15.11.2018 and after discussions and thorough deliberation on the matter with the APCCF, Regional Office, Chennai, Nodal Officer (FCA) Govt. of Andhra Pradesh and officials of APCRDA, the Committee decided **not to recommend for 'in-principle' approval** for these proposals. The detailed minutes of FAC may kindly be seen at parivesh.nic.in

3. As per direction of the Hon'ble MEF, a meeting for discussion on these proposals was convened on 21.02.2019 in New Delhi under the chairmanship of DGF&SS, MoEF&CC, GoI, New Delhi and this meeting was attended by the representatives of APCRDA as well as Govt. of Andhra Pradesh. The decision taken in the said meeting has already been communicated vide this Ministry's letter of even number dated 25.03.2019 (**copy enclosed**) for further necessary action.

Encl.as above.

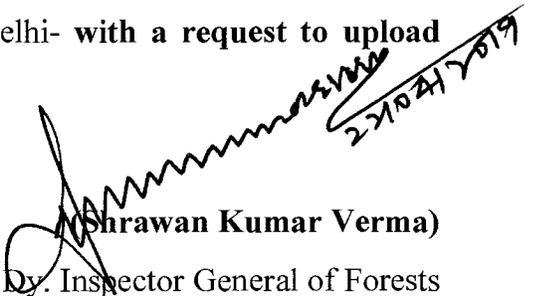
Yours faithfully,


22/04/2019

(Shrawan Kumar Verma)
Dy. Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Andhra Pradesh, Amaravati.
2. The Nodal Officer (FCA), Office of the PCCF, Government of Andhra Pradesh, Amaravati.
3. The Addl. Director General (Central), Regional Office (Southern Eastern Zone), Chennai.
4. All Concerned Files as indicated in para (1) above.
5. User Agency.
6. Monitoring Cell of FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi- **with a request to upload against each proposal.**
7. Guard File.


22/04/2019

(Shrawan Kumar Verma)
Dy. Inspector General of Forests

File No. 8-23/2018-FC
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj
New Delhi: 1100 03

Dated: 25th March, 2019

Sub: Proceedings of the meeting held on 21.02.2019 discussion on the proposals submitted by the Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA)-reg.

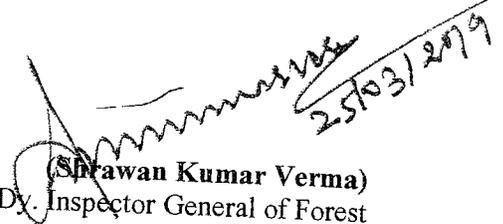
As per direction of the Hon'ble MEF, a meeting for discussion on the proposals submitted by the Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA) was held on 21.02.2019 at 4:00 P.M. in Krishna Conference Hall, IPB, New Delhi under the chairmanship of DGF&SS, MoEF&CC, GoI, New Delhi. The meeting was attended by the representatives from APCRDA and Govt. of Andhra Pradesh as below:

- a) DGF&SS, MoEF&CC, GoI, New Delhi.
- b) ADG (FC), MoEF&CC, GoI, New Delhi.
- c) IGF (FC), MoEF&CC, GoI, New Delhi.
- d) APCCF (C) Regional Office, (SEZ), Chennai.
- e) Dy. IGF (SKV), MoEF&CC, GoI, New Delhi.
- f) Mr. G. Anantharam, Pr. Secretary (EFS&T), Govt. of Andhra Pradesh.
- g) Dr. MD. Ilyas Rizvi, PCCF (HoFF), Govt. of Andhra Pradesh
- h) Ms. M. Revathi, CCF (Vigilance), Govt. of Andhra Pradesh
- i) Dr. L. Sreedhar, IAS, Commissioner, APCRDA, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh
- j) Dr. Sekhar Babu, IFS, Group Director APCRDA, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh Mr.A. Sreenivasulu, Addl. Director APCRDA Govt. of Andhra Pradesh.

2. The following observations were made/decision taken: -

- i. The APCRDA officials made presentation giving justification about the diversion proposals and also stated that they will try and create adequate green cover in APCR area by plantations. However, this argument was not very convincing.
- ii. The APCRDA has no significant additional information based on which the recommendation of Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) can be reviewed.
- iii. The proposals cannot be considered again and the decision taken by FAC may not be reviewed.
- iv. The State Govt. may submit revised proposals minimising diversion of forest land and providing justification for such diversion.

3. The meeting ended with thanks to the Chair.


(Shrawan Kumar Verma)
Dy. Inspector General of Forest

Distribution:

1. All Participants.
2. The Principal Secretary (Forests), Government of Andhra Pradesh.
3. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Andhra Pradesh.
4. Nodal Officer, Office of the PCCF, Government of Andhra Pradesh.
5. PPS to DGF&SS/PPS to ADGF (FC)/ PPS to IGF (FC) in MoEF&CC, New Delhi
6. Monitoring Cell of FC Division, MoEF & CC, New Delhi.
7. Guard File.

b/c


27/3/19

Agenda No. 1

File No. 8-23/2018-FC

Sub: Diversion of 150.84 Ha. of forest land in favour of Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA) for establishment of Adventure Eco Theme Park under Capital City Infrastructure Development Projects in Kondaveedu Forest Block, Guntur Division & District of Andhra Pradesh, in favour of (APCRDA). — regarding.

1. The Government of Andhra Pradesh, department of Environment, Forests, Science & Technology (Section. II) vide their letter No. 68/Section. II/2018 dated 11.01.2018 submitted the above proposal to obtain prior approval of the Central Government, in terms of the Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
2. As per APCRDA Act, the Capital Region has been notified with an area of 8603 Sq km out of which 407.96 Sq km only is Reserved Forest (RF), i.e. about 4.8% of the total area.
3. The AP Govt initially had requested for diversion of 19256.8 ha forest land which was revised to 13267 ha and was submitted to Ministry on 25.04.2015. This was further revised to 12444.89 ha of Forest area. This proposal was placed before the FAC in its meetings on 13.05.2016, 12.07.2016 and on 16.05.2017. FAC on 16.05.2017 constituted an Expert Committee headed by Shri Ajay Kumar, APCCF, RO, Dehradun. The Expert Committee visited the Site on 19th - 22nd June 2016 and submitted its report. The proposal was again placed before the FAC in its meeting on 17.08.2017 along with the Expert Committee report. Out of out of 12444.89 ha forest area applied for diversion FAC considered only 2087.09 ha as a special case, although this was non-site specific, in view of security reasons. The orders for in-principal approval was issued by the ministry on 20.09.2017.
4. Meanwhile the Hon'ble NGT, Principal Bench, Delhi issued order against any diversion of 251.77 ha of forest land in Tadepali RF area.
5. The AP Govt again submitted five proposals for diversion of 5229.69 ha of forest land for non-site specific projects and the same were not considered by this Ministry.
6. Now AP Govt. has again submitted eight proposals for diversion of 3307.27 ha forest land and instant proposal is one of them.
7. The RO, Chennai was asked to submit SIR on the proposal. RO submitted the report on 22.10.2018 and wherein, *inter alia*, it has been stated that the proposal is non-site specific.
8. The above proposal was placed before the FAC as Agenda item in its meeting held on 15.11.2018.

Decisions of FAC:

After discussions and thorough deliberation on the matter with the APCCF (R.O. Chennai), Nodal Officer (FCA) Govt. of Andhra Pradesh and officials of APCRDA, it observed that:

1. Area under RF is less than 5% of the entire area of Capital Region, which in the opinion of FAC is too less area as a green cover in any capital city.
2. The User Agency has not explored the possibilities of taking up the project on non-forest land which is more than 95% of the entire area of Capital Region.
3. The State Govt. should make efforts to increase the total area under green cover, in line with some of the best capital regions in the country and also should make efforts in increasing the density of the existing RFs in the capital region.

Considering all the above facts **FAC decided not to recommend for 'in-principle' approval** for this proposal.



Agenda No. 2

File No. 8-24/2018-FC

Sub: Proposal for diversion of 434.85 hectares of forest land for development of Integrated Institutional Complex under Capital City Infrastructure Development Projects in Kondaveedu Forest Block, Guntur Division & District of Andhra Pradesh, in favour of Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA).— regarding.

1. The Government of Andhra Pradesh vide their letter No. 64/Section-II/2018 dated 11.01.2018 submitted the above proposal to obtain prior approval of the Central Government, in terms of the Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
2. As per APCRDA Act, the Capital Region has been notified with an area of 8603 Sq km out of which 407.96 Sq km only is Reserved Forest (RF), i.e. about 4.8% of the total area.
3. The AP Govt initially had requested for diversion of 19256.8 ha forest land which was revised to 13267 ha and was submitted to Ministry on 25.04.2015. This was further revised to 12444.89 ha of Forest area. This proposal was placed before the FAC in its meetings on 13.05.2016, 12.07.2016 and on 16.05.2017. FAC on 16.05.2017 constituted an Expert Committee headed by Shri Ajay Kumar, APCCF, RO, Dehradun. The Expert Committee visited the Site on 19th - 22nd June 2016 and submitted its report. The proposal was again placed before the FAC in its meeting on 17.08.2017 along with the Expert Committee report. Out of out of 12444.89 ha forest area applied for diversion FAC considered only 2087.09 ha as a special case, although this was non-site specific, in view of security reasons. The orders for in-principal approval was issued by the ministry on 20.09.2017.
4. Meanwhile the Hon'ble NGT, Principal Bench, Delhi issued order against any diversion of 251.77 ha of forest land in Tadepali RF area.
5. The AP Govt again submitted five proposals for diversion of 5229.69 ha of forest land for non-site specific projects and the same were not considered by this Ministry.
6. Now AP Govt. has again submitted eight proposals for diversion of 3307.27 ha forest land and instant proposal is one of them.
7. The RO, Chennai was asked to submit SIR on the proposal. RO submitted the report on 22.10.2018 and wherein, *inter alia*, it has been stated that the proposal is non-site specific.
8. The above proposal was placed before the FAC as Agenda item in its meeting held on 15.11.2018.

Decisions of FAC:

After discussions and thorough deliberation on the matter with the APCCF (R.O. Chennai), Nodal Officer (FCA) Govt. of Andhra Pradesh and officials of APCRDA, it observed that:

1. Area under RF is less than 5% of the entire area of Capital Region, which in the opinion of FAC is too less area as a green cover in any capital city.
2. The User Agency has not explored the possibilities of taking up the project on non-forest land which is more than 95% of the entire area of Capital Region.
3. The State Govt. should make efforts to increase the total area under green cover, in line with some of the best capital regions in the country and also should make efforts in increasing the density of the existing RFs in the capital region.

Considering all the above facts **FAC decided not to recommend for 'in-principle' approval** for this proposal.



Agenda No. 3

File No. 8-25/2018-FC

Sub: Proposal for diversion of 123.82 hectares of forest land for setting up of Science City under Capital City Infrastructure Development Projects in Mothadaka Forest Block, Guntur Division & District of Andhra Pradesh, in favour of Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA)— regarding.

1. The Government of Andhra Pradesh, vide their letter No. 63/Section.-II/2018 dated 11.01.2018 submitted the above proposal to obtain prior approval of the Central Government, in terms of the Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
2. As per APCRDA Act, the Capital Region has been notified with an area of 8603 Sq km out of which 407.96 Sq km only is Reserved Forest (RF), i.e. about 4.8% of the total area.
3. The AP Govt initially had requested for diversion of 19256.8 ha forest land which was revised to 13267 ha and was submitted to Ministry on 25.04.2015. This was further revised to 12444.89 ha of Forest area. This proposal was placed before the FAC in its meetings on 13.05.2016, 12.07.2016 and on 16.05.2017. FAC on 16.05.2017 constituted an Expert Committee headed by Shri Ajay Kumar, APCCF, RO Dehradun. The Expert Committee visited the Site on 19th - 22nd June 2016 and submitted its report. The proposal was again placed before the FAC in its meeting on 17.08.2017 along with the Expert Committee report. Out of out of 12444.89 ha forest area applied for diversion FAC considered only 2087.09 ha as a special case, although this was non-site specific, in view of security reasons. The orders for in-principal approval was issued by the ministry on 20.09.2017.
4. Meanwhile the Hon'ble NGT, Principal Bench, Delhi issued order against any diversion of 251.77 ha of forest land in Tadepali RF area.
5. The AP Govt again submitted five proposals for diversion of 5229.69 ha of forest land for non-site specific projects and the same were not considered by this Ministry.
6. Now AP Govt. has again submitted eight proposals for diversion of 3307.27 ha forest land and instant proposal is one of them.
7. The RO, Chennai was asked to submit SIR on the proposal. RO submitted the report on 22.10.2018 and wherein, *inter alia*, it has been stated that the proposal is non-site specific.
8. The above proposal was placed before the FAC as Agenda item in its meeting held on 15.11.2018.

Decisions of FAC:

After discussions and thorough deliberation on the matter with the APCCF (R.O. Chennai), Nodal Officer (FCA) Govt. of Andhra Pradesh and officials of APCRDA, it observed that:

1. Area under RF is less than 5% of the entire area of Capital Region, which in the opinion of FAC is too less area as a green cover in any capital city.
2. The User Agency has not explored the possibilities of taking up the project on non-forest land which is more than 95% of the entire area of Capital Region.
3. The State Govt. should make efforts to increase the total area under green cover, in line with some of the best capital regions in the country and also should make efforts in increasing the density of the existing RFs in the capital region.

Considering all the above facts FAC **decided not to recommend for 'in-principle' approval** for this proposal.



Agenda No. 4

File No. 8-26/2018-FC

Sub: Proposal for diversion of 118.30 hectares of forest land for establishment of Eco-Tourism Village under Capital City Infrastructure Development Project in Pedamaddur Forest Block, Guntur Division & District of Andhra Pradesh, in favour of Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA)— regarding.

1. The Government of Andhra Pradesh, vide their letter No. 67/Section-II/2018 dated 11.01.2018 submitted the above proposal to obtain prior approval of the Central Government, in terms of the Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
2. As per APCRDA Act, the Capital Region has been notified with an area of 8603 Sq km out of which 407.96 Sq km only is Reserved Forest (RF), i.e. about 4.8% of the total area.
3. The AP Govt initially had requested for diversion of 19256.8 ha forest land which was revised to 13267 ha and was submitted to Ministry on 25.04.2015. This was further revised to 12444.89 ha of Forest area. This proposal was placed before the FAC in its meetings on 13.05.2016, 12.07.2016 and on 16.05.2017. FAC on 16.05.2017 constituted an Expert Committee headed by Shri Ajay Kumar, APCCF, RO, Dehradun. The Expert Committee visited the Site on 19th - 22nd June 2016 and submitted its report. The proposal was again placed before the FAC in its meeting on 17.08.2017 along with the Expert Committee report. Out of out of 12444.89 ha forest area applied for diversion FAC considered only 2087.09 ha as a special case, although this was non-site specific, in view of security reasons. The orders for in-principal approval was issued by the ministry on 20.09.2017.
4. Meanwhile the Hon'ble NGT, Principal Bench, Delhi issued order against any diversion of 251.77 ha of forest land in Tadepali RF area.
5. The AP Govt again submitted five proposals for diversion of 5229.69 ha of forest land for non-site specific projects and the same were not considered by this Ministry.
6. Now AP Govt. has again submitted eight proposals for diversion of 3307.27 ha forest land and instant proposal is one of them.
7. The RO, Chennai was asked to submit SIR on the proposal. RO submitted the report on 22.10.2018 and wherein, *inter alia*, it has been stated that the proposal is non-site specific.
8. The above proposal was placed before the FAC as Agenda item in its meeting held on 15.11.2018.

Decisions of FAC:

After discussions and thorough deliberation on the matter with the APCCF (R.O. Chennai), Nodal Officer (FCA) Govt. of Andhra Pradesh and officials of APCRDA, it observed that:

1. Area under RF is less than 5% of the entire area of Capital Region, which in the opinion of FAC is too less area as a green cover in any capital city.
2. The User Agency has not explored the possibilities of taking up the project on non-forest land which is more than 95% of the entire area of Capital Region.
3. The State Govt. should make efforts to increase the total area under green cover, in line with some of the best capital regions in the country and also should make efforts in increasing the density of the existing RFs in the capital region.

Considering all the above facts FAC decided not to recommend for 'in-principle' approval for this proposal.



Agenda No. 5

File No. 8-27/2018-FC

Sub: Proposal for diversion of 250.08 ha. of forest land for establishment Forest Academy, IIF&CC, APFD, APFDC, APPCB and NGC under Capital City Infrastructure Development Projects in Kondaveedu Block, Guntur Division and District Andhra Pradesh in favour of Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA) — regarding.

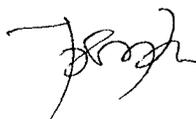
1. The Government of Andhra Pradesh, Department of Environment, Forest and Science & Technology submitted a proposal vide their letter No. 62/Section-II/2018 dated 11.01.2018 submitted the above proposal to obtain prior approval of the Central Government, in terms of the Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
2. As per APCRDA Act, the Capital Region has been notified with an area of 8603 Sq km out of which 407.96 Sq km only is Reserved Forest (RF), i.e. about 4.8% of the total area.
3. The AP Govt initially had requested for diversion of 19256.8 ha forest land which was revised to 13267 ha and was submitted to Ministry on 25.04.2015. This was further revised to 12444.89 ha of Forest area. This proposal was placed before the FAC in its meetings on 13.05.2016, 12.07.2016 and on 16.05.2017. FAC on 16.05.2017 constituted an Expert Committee headed by Shri Ajay Kumar, APCCF, RO Dehradun. The Expert Committee visited the Site on 19th - 22nd June 2016 and submitted its report. The proposal was again placed before the FAC in its meeting on 17.08.2017 along with the Expert Committee report. Out of out of 12444.89 ha forest area applied for diversion FAC considered only 2087.09 ha as a special case, although this was non-site specific, in view of security reasons. The orders for in-principal approval was issued by the ministry on 20.09.2017.
4. Meanwhile the Hon'ble NGT, Principal Bench, Delhi issued order against any diversion of 251.77 ha of forest land in Tadepali RF area.
5. The AP Govt again submitted five proposals for diversion of 5229.69 ha of forest land for non-site specific projects and the same were not considered by this Ministry.
6. Now AP Govt. has again submitted eight proposals for diversion of 3307.27 ha forest land and instant proposal is one of them.
7. The RO, Chennai was asked to submit SIR on the proposal. RO submitted the report on 22.10.2018 and wherein, *inter alia*, it has been stated that the proposal is non-site specific.
8. The above proposal was placed before the FAC as Agenda item in its meeting held on 15.11.2018.

Decisions of FAC:

After discussions and thorough deliberation on the matter with the APCCF (R.O. Chennai), Nodal Officer (FCA) Govt. of Andhra Pradesh and officials of APCRDA, it observed that:

1. Area under RF is less than 5% of the entire area of Capital Region, which in the opinion of FAC is too less area as a green cover in any capital city.
2. The User Agency has not explored the possibilities of taking up the project on non-forest land which is more than 95% of the entire area of Capital Region.
3. The State Govt. should make efforts to increase the total area under green cover, in line with some of the best capital regions in the country and also should make efforts in increasing the density of the existing RFs in the capital region.

Considering all the above facts **FAC decided not to recommend for 'in-principle' approval** for this proposal.



Agenda No. 6

File No. 8-28/2018-FC

Sub: Proposal for diversion of 231.33 hectare of forest land for establishment of Bio-diversity Park under Capital City Infrastructure Development Projects in Nidumukkala Forest Block, Guntur Division & District of Andhra Pradesh, in favour of Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA) — regarding.

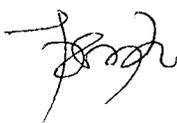
1. The Government of Andhra Pradesh, Department of Environment, Forests and Science & Technology (Section. II) vide their letter No. 61/Section-II/2018 dated 11.01.2018 submitted the above proposal to obtain prior approval of the Central Government, in terms of the Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
2. As per APCRDA Act, the Capital Region has been notified with an area of 8603 Sq km out of which 407.96 Sq km only is Reserved Forest (RF), i.e. about 4.8% of the total area.
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4. Meanwhile the Hon'ble NGT, Principal Bench, Delhi issued order against any diversion of 251.77 ha of forest land in Tadepali RF area.
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3. The State Govt. should make efforts to increase the total area under green cover, in line with some of the best capital regions in the country and also should make efforts in increasing the density of the existing RFs in the capital region.

Considering all the above facts FAC decided not to recommend for 'in-principle' approval for this proposal.



Agenda No. 7

File No. 8-29/2018-FC

Sub: Proposal for diversion of 1625.53 ha. of forest land for establishment of Aerospace, Precision Engineering Innovation and Research and Green Mobility Park in Venkatayapalem Exten-1 & Exten-8 RFs in Guntur Division and District of Andhra Pradesh, in favour of Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA). — regarding.

1. The Government of Andhra Pradesh, Department of Environment, Forests, Science & Technology (Section. II) vide their letter No. 62/Section-II/2018 dated 11.01.2018 submitted the above proposal to obtain prior approval of the Central Government, in terms of the Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
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3. The State Govt. should make efforts to increase the total area under green cover, in line with some of the best capital regions in the country and also should make efforts in increasing the density of the existing RFs in the capital region.

Considering all the above facts FAC decided not to recommend for 'in-principle' approval for this proposal.



Agenda No. 8

File No. 8-30/2018-FC

Sub: Proposal for diversion of 371.80 ha. of forest land for development of E-5 Park under Capital City Infrastructure Development Projects in Karlapudi Forest Block, Guntur Division & District of Andhra Pradesh in favour of Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA).- regarding.

1. The Government of Andhra Pradesh, department of Environment, Forests and Science & Technology (Section. II) vide their letter No. 62/Section-II/2018 dated 11.01.2018 submitted the above proposal to obtain prior approval of the Central Government, in terms of the Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
2. As per APCRDA Act, the Capital Region has been notified with an area of 8603 Sq km out of which 407.96 Sq km only is Reserved Forest (RF), i.e. about 4.8% of the total area.
3. The AP Govt. initially had requested for diversion of 19256.8 ha forest land which was revised to 13267 ha and was submitted to Ministry on 25.04.2015. This was further revised to 12444.89 ha of Forest area. This proposal was placed before the FAC in its meetings on 13.05.2016, 12.07.2016 and on 16.05.2017. FAC on 16.05.2017 constituted an Expert Committee headed by Shri Ajay Kumar, APCCF, RO, Dehradun. The Expert Committee visited the Site on 19th -22nd June 2016 and submitted its report. The proposal was again placed before the FAC in its meeting on 17.08.2017 along with the Expert Committee report. Out of out of 12444.89 ha forest area applied for diversion FAC considered only 2087.09 ha as a special case, although this was non-site specific, in view of security reasons. The orders for in-principal approval was issued by the ministry on 20.09.2017.
4. Meanwhile the Hon'ble NGT, Principal Bench, Delhi issued order against any diversion of 251.77 ha of forest land in Tadepali RF area.
5. The AP Govt again submitted five proposals for diversion of 5229.69 ha of forest land for non-site specific projects and the same were not considered by this Ministry.
6. Now AP Govt. has again submitted eight proposals for diversion of 3307.27 ha forest land and instant proposal is one of them.
7. The RO, Chennai was asked to submit SIR on the proposal. RO submitted the report on 22.10.2018 and wherein, *inter alia*, it has been stated that the proposal is non-site specific.
8. The above proposal was placed before the FAC as Agenda item in its meeting held on 15.11.2018.

Decisions of FAC:

After discussions and thorough deliberation on the matter with the APCCF (R.O. Chennai), Nodal Officer (FCA) Govt. of Andhra Pradesh and officials of APCRDA, it observed that:

1. Area under RF is less than 5% of the entire area of Capital Region, which in the opinion of FAC is too less area as a green cover in any capital city.
2. The User Agency has not explored the possibilities of taking up the project on non-forest land which is more than 95% of the entire area of Capital Region.
3. The State Govt. should make efforts to increase the total area under green cover, in line with some of the best capital regions in the country and also should make efforts in increasing the density of the existing RFs in the capital region.

Considering all the above facts **FAC decided not to recommend for 'in-principle' approval** for this proposal.

