

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

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

Dated: 8th April, 2022

To,

The Principal Secretary,
 Government of West Bengal,
 Kolkata-700 098

Sub: Diversion of 234.00 ha of forest land for construction of 1000 MW Turga Pumped Storage Project of WBSEDCL in Ajodya Hills under Purulia forest Division.

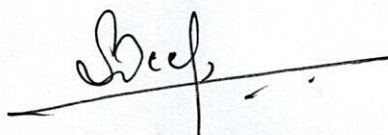
Sir,

I am directed to refer to Govt. of West Bengal's letter No. letter No.314-For/O/L/10T-12/2017 dated 11.03.2022 forwarding their response on the observation raised vide Ministry's letter of even no. dated 24.01.2022. The compliance report has been examined in consultation with National Authority and revealed the following:

- i. In comply to condition No. (ii) of Stage I of approval dated 12.04.2018, the State Govt. was reiterated to clarify the status of CA land with DSS . However, the DSS report has not been furnished. As per report done by DSS Cell of this Ministry, it shows that the proposed CA area of about 28.167 ha. falls in Recorded Forest Area(RFA) in terms of forest classes (as per the ISFR 2019) based on the interpretation of satellite data period 2017-2018. The details are as below:

S.N.	Name of CA site	Given Area (In Ha.)	Approx.area falling in RFA
1	Purba Totgaon, Jalpaiguri	158.899	3.13
2	Tilaboni, Purulia	8.733	8.18
3	Hariharpur, Purulia	6.11	6.11
4	Madhabpur, Purulia	7.017	7.017
5	Durku, Purulia	8.624	3.73
	Total:	189.383	28.167

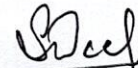
As above, the NFL proposed for CA is partially situated within the boundary of the forest and the boundaries on DSS software are also based upon the information provided by the State Govt. Therefore, either the area proposed for CA is forest land or the Digitized boundary of forest areas prepared by the State Govt are not correct and need correction. In view of this, the State Govt. may be requested to verify and confirm that all the proposed CA area is Non-forest land and free from all encumbrances. In addition, State Govt. may submit an undertaking that the digitized boundaries of concerned forest areas would be corrected and updated on the website and sent to FSI for correction in the DSS.



- ii. With regard to condition no.(viii) of Stage-I approval which states that "The encroachment, as reported by CCF Northern circle, West Bengal in the proposed CA area shall be evicted prior to mutation of land in favour of Forest Department. State Government shall ensure that the Non-forest land shall be free from all encumbrances. A certificate duly signed by the Nodal Officer (FCA) may be furnished in this regard" and accordingly State Govt. vide point (iii) of letter dated 24.01.2022 requested for certificate of Nodal Officer (FCA). The same is still awaited.
- iii. The fund of Rs.2,70,98,000/- deposited towards CA on 18.10.2021 as mentioned in the proforma which is duly signed by Addl.PCCF & Nodal Officer has not been confirmed by the National Authority with the remark to check the transaction details of the remittance and submit again the proposal to them for confirmation.
- iv. As per time line details on PARIVESH for instant proposal, the proposal is showing pending with State Govt. due to non-uploading the compliance report on PARIVESH. In this regard, it is advised that the compliance report may be uploaded immediately on PARIVESH before sending a physical copy of the letter to this Ministry for consideration of the reply of State Govt.

In view of above, govt. of West Bengal is requested to furnish the clarification/information on the points indicated above for further consideration of the proposal in the Ministry.

Yours faithfully,



(Sandeep Sharma)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests (FC)

Copy to:

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of West Bengal, Kolkata.
2. The Nodal Officer (FCA), O/o the PCCF, Government of West Bengal, Kolkata.
3. Regional office, Integrated Regional Office of Forests , Kolkata.
4. User agency.
5. Monitoring Cell
6. Guard file.