F. No. 8-53/1996-FC Government of India Ministry of Environment Forests & Climate Change (FC Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Aliganj, Jor Bag Road, New Delhi - 110003. Dated: 19 April, 2018

To

The Principal Secretary (Forest), Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar

Proposal for diversion of 1295 ha of balance forest land out of total 2107ha. Stage-I approved forest land in addition to 812ha. of forest land already finally approved for construction of Rengali Irrigation Project(Barrage and canal system) in Angul, Dhenkanal, Cuttack and Keonjhar Districts of Odisha.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the State Government's letter No. 10F (cons)-11/2018 (pt)/5885/F&E dated 14.03.2018 forwarded their response on Ministry's letter dated 16.08.2017. However, the comments on point no 5 of referred Ministry's letter dated 16.08.2017 has not been given by the State Government stating that the said representation has not been received by them.

In view of above, a copy of representation as received by FAC members from EIA resource and Response Center, New Delhi is sent herewith with a request to offer your comment at the earliest for further consideration of the proposal in this Ministry. In addition, the State Government is also requested to provide the details of funds deposited in the account of Adhoc CAMPA in the prescribed format. A copy of the format is enclosed for your ready reference.

Encl: As above

Yours faithfully

Assistant Inspector General of Forests (FC)

Copy to:

1. The Principal Chief Conservator Forests, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar

2. The Nodal Officer, O/o the PCCF, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar

3. Addl. PCCF (Central), Regional Office, Bhubaneswar with a request to provide their comments on the representation as received by FAC members from EIA resource and Response Center, New Delhi

4. User Agency

5. Monitoring Cell

6. Guard file

Assistant Inspector General of Forests (FC)



ERC's Review FAC Meeting on 15 June 2017 Rengali Irrigation Project, Odisha

Project

Construction of Rengali Irrigation Project in Odisha

Comments

User Agency tried to befool the Forest Department by asking for Stage II of the remaining area from 2107 ha (Stage I approved in 1996!) i.e. for 1295 ha. This was purely manipulation as the User Agency had changed the alignment greatly, as well as involved new forest land which came to the notice of the FD and the PCCF, Odisha has recommended for processing the proposal of user agency to MoEF&CC, GoI for Stage-II forest clearance for only 874.5957 ha. The officers responsible in hiding the fact should be identified and penalised.

SIR of Regional Office of MoEF&CC at Bhubaneswar finds several lapses, but underplays. It is interest to note that the overpasses for elephants for a 'Final Approved' forest clearance project in 2003, are still not complete. It is as if elephant would wait at the other end for years and cross when the User Agency has the time and inclination to complete the bridges.

The declaration of non-forest land transferred to the Forest Department as Reserve Forest has not yet been done. Has the transfer actually happened? Furthermore, Reservoir has not been declared as Reserved Forest as yet. Can a project that could wait for 21 years not wait for another few months to complete the process! Why the R.O. is in a hurry to green signal the project.

There is clear fact that the Forest Department has saved the 'erring officers' from legal action by non-submission of 'notification of the forest land as notified forest'. 'The court Misc. Case No.15 of 1999 instituted against the erring official has been adjudicated under Orissa Forest Act and all the erring officials has been acquitted by the Hon'ble SDJM Court Kamakshyanagar vide their judgment dated 30th July, 2005 due to lack of submission of notification of the forest land as notified forest by the Forest Authority. Three more number of cases are pending in the court of SDJM, Kamakhyanagar.'

Suggestion

The compliance of stage II clearance conditions of 812 ha of forest diversion (Phase I) should be completed first before considering further Clearance. The erring officers of the Water

PROFORMA FOR VERIFICATION OF DEPOSITS IN COMPENSATORY AFFORESTATION FUND

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