

File No: 5-ORC561/2023-BHU (E-206782)
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Aliganj, Jor Bag Road,
New Delhi - 110003
Dated:21-04-2026

To

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

Sub: Proposal seeking *ex-post facto* approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 23.714 ha of forest land for construction of Pandit Raghunath Murmu Medical College and Hospital in the District of Mayurbhanj under Baripada Forest Division (Proposal No. FP/OR/DISP/148081/2021)-reg.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Odisha's letter FE-DIV-FLD-0008-2023-5917/FE&CC dated 03.04.2023 on the above subject seeking approval of the Central Government in accordance with Section 2 (i) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and to say that after examination of the proposal the following has been observed:

- i. The DFO, Baripada has reported elephant movement in the Jamsole Reserve Forest, located approximately 0.5 km from the project area. Accordingly, the State Government shall furnish the comments/views of the PCCF (Wildlife) and the Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha, on the likely impact of the project on the wildlife.
- ii. The State Government and the Regional Office, in the Site Inspection Report, have indicated that the User Agency has constructed a Medical College over the entire area of 23.714 ha proposed for diversion under the provisions of the Adhiniyam, 1980. Accordingly, the State Government shall furnish the chronological details of the violation, along with the updated action taken in this regard, supported by documentary evidence.
- iii. The User Agency has utilized forest land for non-forestry purposes since 2015 without obtaining prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2(ii) of the VSESA, 1980. Accordingly, the State Government shall furnish justification for the delay in submission of the proposal for diversion of the said forest land.
- iv. The Regional Office, Bhubaneswar, in its Site Inspection Report (SIR), has observed that a small portion of the identified Compensatory Afforestation

(CA) land at Purunapani contains huts of local villagers, and seasonal agricultural activities have also been noticed in certain parts. Further, as per DSS analysis, structures are visible in CA plot Nos. 8 and 149. Accordingly, the State Government shall ensure that the proposed CA land is free from encroachment and encumbrances.

- v. As per Part-II of the online application form, the number of trees enumerated in the land proposed for diversion is 535. However, as per the Site Inspection Report (SIR) of the Regional Office, Bhubaneswar, the number of trees enumerated is 353. In view of this discrepancy, the State Government shall furnish the correct number of trees enumerated and proposed for felling in the area
- vi. As per the State Government's letter dated 03.04.2023, Compensatory Afforestation (CA) has been proposed over an area of 49.952 ha. However, as per the information available in Part-II, CA has been proposed over 48.596 ha of revenue forest land. In view of this discrepancy, the State Government shall carry out the necessary corrections on the PARIVESH portal.

In view of above, the State Government is requested to furnish information, as indicated above, for further consideration of the proposal in the Ministry.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-

(Deepika Chaudhary)

Deputy Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

- i. PCCF (HoFF), Department of Forests, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
- ii. Dy. DGF (Central), Regional Office of the MoEF&CC at Bhubaneswar.
- iii. Nodal Officer (FCA), Department of Forests, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
- iv. User Agency
- v. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi for uploading on PARIVESH portal.