

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Jor Bagh Road Aliganj
New Delhi-110003

Dated: April, 2023

To

Additional Chief Secretary (Forests),
Government of Odisha
Bhubaneswar.

Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in favour of Department of Water Resources Govt. of Odisha for non-forestry use of 139.319 (originally proposed area 159.895 ha) of forest land for construction of Chheligada Medium Irrigation project in R. Udayagiri Block of Gajapati district of Odisha.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Odisha's letter no. 4923/9F (Irrig.)-207/04 dated 14.03.2023 submitting the additional information in respect of the Ministry's letter dated 15.02.2023 and inform that the following shortcomings have been observed:

- i. The State has confirmed that the UA has violated the provisions of the FCA, 1980 however, the detail of area involved and the period of violation has not been intimated.
- ii. The excavation work done during 2022 has been mentioned as one of the components of the violation. However, the present status of the work and the purpose for which excavation was done has not been mentioned.
- iii. The State has informed that the Divisional Forest Officer, Paralakhemundi Division has already issued show cause notice to the Superintending Engineer, Chheligada, Heads works Division, Mahendragarh, Gajapati for violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 vide his office memo No.4123 dated 05.11.2022 and reply was to be submitted by the UA within 15 days. The State Government shall submit the updated action taken report in this regard.

In view of the above, it is requested to submit the above mentioned information at an earliest for further consideration of this proposal.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-

(Suneet Bhardwaj)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. PCCF (HoFF), Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
2. APCCF cum Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
3. DDGF (C), MoEF&CC's IRO Bhubneswar

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4. User Agency
5. Monitoring Cell of FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi.