- Sub: Proposal for diversion of 409.53 Ha (387.13 ha Horizontal area as per ETS & DGPS Survey) of forest land in Keshavapur RF, Medchal- Malkajgiri District for construction of 10 TMC reservoir at Kesshavapuram with associated components under Godavari river source for drinking water requirenments to Hydrabad City in favour of HMWS&SB, Hyderabad.-regarding.
- 1. The Government of Telangana, Environment Forests, Science & Technology (For.I) Department vide their letter No.1430/For.I(1)/2020 dated 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2020 submitted a proposal to obtain prior approval of the Central Government, as per the provisions contained in Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for the above mention subject. Details of proposal may be accessed on PARIVESH portal and the online no. of the proposal is FP/TG/WATER/36146/2018.
- 2. Preliminary scrutiny of the said proposal Ministry has observed the following shortcomings -
  - (i) No Objection Certificate regarding landowners of non-forest land is not submitted.
  - (ii) Cost Benefit analysis as per the latest guidelines of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has not been submitted along with proposal.
  - (iii) As per DSS analysis, for Compensatory Afforestation (CA) patches, it has been observed that all patches are located on hilly and undulating surface where top soil erosion has been observed. Site suitability for compensatory afforestation needs to be rechecked.
- **3.** The above shortcomings were communicated to Govt. of Telangana vide this Ministry's letter dated 10.07.2020. Now, the PCCF (HoFF) Govt. Telangana vide their letter Ref. No.6564/20174/FCA-1 dated 15.07.2020 has forwarded requisite information in response to this Ministry's letter dated 10.07.2020 the same is given as under:

S. No.	Observations raised by the MoEF&CC, New Delhi dt.10.07.2020	Reply submitted by the PCCF (HoFF) Telangana dt. 15.07.2020.					
1.	No Objection Certificate regarding land owners of non-forest land is not submitted.	In this regard it is informed that the non-forest CA lands are the Government Revenue lands and NOC issued by the concerned Collector and District Magistrates, Siddipet, Suryapet and Yadadri-Bhuvangir has been furnished along with the proposal in reference to cited in also updated in ministry portal at "copy of non-encumbrance certificate" Colum at 'details of lands identified for CA for the forest land' column and also at 'present owner file' column of 'additional information details' column in part-I and also at 'Details of Compensatory Afforestation scheme' part-II.  The State Government has also issued the Government Orders transferring the said non-forest CA lands, which are uploaded at 'additional information details' column. However, the same are submitted again.					
2.	Cost Benefit analysis as per the latest guidelines of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has not been submitted along with proposal.	In this regard it is informed that the revised Cost-Benefit Analysis as per the latest guidelines of MoEF&CC has been given.					
3.	As per DSS analysis, for Compensatory Afforestation (CA) patches, it has been observed that all patches are located on hilly and undulating surface where top soil	The PCCF (HOFF)(FCA), Telangana vide letter no, Ref.No.6564/201//FCA-1 dt 31.07.2020 informed that managing Director n, HMWSSB due to certain reason replaced CA land furnished before. The detail of the revised CA is given below:					
	erosion has been observed. Site suitability for compensatory afforestation needs to be rechecked.	District	Area in (ha)	Number of plants proposed for planting	Total number of plants		

Total	424.4694		90505
	12.00	1666	19992
Suryapet	279.777	200	55955
Yadari- Bhuvanagir	12.8919	200	2578
Siddipet	119.801	100.00	11980

It was also informed that the DFO Siddipet has inspected and reported that the revised areas for CA is suitable for planting (@ 100 plants per ha).

**4.** Details indicated in the proposal submitted by the Government of Telangana dated 30.06.2020 are as below:

# **FACT SHEET**

1.	Name of the Proposal	Proposal for diversion of 409.53 Ha (387.13 ha Horizontal area as per ETS & DGPS Survey) of forest land in Keshavapur RF, Medchal- Malkajgiri District for construction of 10 TMC reservoir at Kesshavapuram with associated components under Godavari river source for drinking water requirenments to Hydrabad City in favour of HMWS&SB, Hyderabad.
2.	Location:	, ,
(i)	State	Telangana.
(ii)	District	Medchal.
(iii)	Category	Drinking water.
(iv)	Total period for which the forest land is proposed to be diverted (in year).	Nil The said details about the lease period has been mentioned by the user agency in his part-I.
3.	Detail of user agency	
(i)	Name of the user agency	Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply And Sewerage Board (HMWS&SB), Hyderabad.
(ii)	Nature of user agency	State Government.
4.	Particular of Forests	
(i)	Name of Forest Division	Medchal
(ii)	Area of Forest land proposed for Diversion	409.53 Ha.
(iii)	Legal Status of Forest land	Reserved Forest = 409.53 Ha.
(iv)	Density of Vegetation	Area = $409.53$ Ha.
		Density = $0.1$
		Eco class = 3
5.	Maps	
	i. Differential GPS map of the area proposed for diversion	Provided with the proposal.
	ii. Differential GPS map of the area identified for raising CA	Provided with the proposal.
	iii. Survey of India toposheet on 1:50,000 scale showing the area proposed for diversion	Provided with the proposal.

	iv. Survey of India toposheet on	Provided with the proposal.
	1:50,000 scale showing the area	
	identified for CA	Y I I I DI DIVIDINI
	v. Land use plan	Uploaded in PARIVESH.
	vi. Forest Cover map	Not given.
6.	Vegetation	
	Species-wise and diameter class wise enumeration of trees.	As per reported by the PCCF (HoFF), there are 139274 number (as per random sampling method done in 37 plots in the proposed area of diversion) trees are coming in the proposed area for diversion.  Details of Species – wise and diameter class wise enumeration of trees are given.
	ii. Density	0.1
	iii. Number of trees to be felled	139274 number
		As per enumeration list submitted by the DFO of the proposal.
	iv. Working plan prescription for the	
	forest land proposed for diversion.	Not provided with the proposal.
7.	Vulnerability of area to soil erosion	The area is not Vulnerable to erosion as per part II of the
0	Dataile of wildlife messant in an 1 and 1	proposal.
8.	Details of wildlife present in and around the forest land proposed for diversion;	No.
9.	Approximate distance of proposed site	0
	for diversion from boundary of forest.	As reported by the DFO in his part-II.
10.	Whether forms part of National Park,	
	Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve,	
	Tiger Reserve, Elephant Corridor etc. (if	
	so, the details of the area the comments	No
	of the Chief Wildlife Warden to be annexed)	
11.	Whether any rare/ endangered/ unique	
	species of flora and fauna found in the	No
	area if so, details thereof.	
12.	Whether any protected archaeological/	
	heritage site/ defence establishment or	
	any other important monument is	Na
	located in the area. If so, the details thereof with NOC from competent	No
	authority, if required.	
13.	Whether the requirement of forest land	
	as proposed by the User Agency in col.2	
	of Part-I is unavoidable and bare	
	minimum for the project. If no,	TY (1 1 (1 )
	recommended area item-wise with details of alternatives examined.	Yes, as per the details mentioned on part II of the proposal.
14.	Whether any work in violation of the	
-"	Act has been carried out (Yes/ No). If	
	yes, details of the same including period	
	of work done, action taken on erring	No
	officials. Whether work in violation is	As per the details mentioned on part II of the proposal.
15.	still under progress.	
15.	Details of Compensatory Afforestation Scheme:	
	i. Details of non-forest area/	The Compensatory Afforestation has been proposed on
	degraded forest area identified for	equivalent non-forest land having extent 424.4695 ha. of non-
	compensatory Afforestation, its	forest land in three districts namely Siddipet, Yadari-Bhuvanagir
	distance from adjoining forest,	and Suryapet. The UA has also proposed CA site in degraded

	ii.	number of patches, size of each patch.  Map showing non-forest/	forest land (area: 1 take up balance s	aplings plantat	ion (i.e. 388850	nos) in nine	
	iii.	degraded forest area identified for compensatory Afforestation and adjoining forest boundaries.  Detailed compensatory Afforestation scheme including	District	Area in (ha)	Number of plants proposed for planting	Total number of plants	
		species to be planted, implementing Agency, time schedule, cost structure etc.	Siddipet	119.801	100.00	11980	
			Yadari- Bhuvanagir	12.8919	200	2578	
			Suryapet	279.777	200	55955	
				12.00	1666	19992	
			Total	424.4694		90505	
	iv.	Total financial outlay for compensatory Afforestation scheme.  Certificate from competent authority regarding suitability of area identified for compensatory Afforestation and from management point of view. To be signed by the concerned Deputy Conservatory of Forests.	The details of CA s 10 years has been s Rs. 2995.45684/- I PCCF (HOFF)( Ref.No.6564/201// The Certificate iss of Telangana reg Compensatory Aff	submitted.  Lakhs with responders  (FCA), Telation  FCA-1 dt 31.00  ued by the congarding suitab	pect to non-forestingana vide 7.2020 cerned Authority	st Land as The letter no,	
16.	settle the p and (Rec 2006	umentary evidence in support of ement of rights in accordance with provisions of the Scheduled Tribes Other Traditional Forest Dwellers cognition of Forest Rights) Act, on the forest land proposed to be rted enclosed.	FRA certificate vide his letter No.E2/1714/2018 dated 05.06.3 certifying the information in respect of all clauses of the Mo advisory dated 05.07.2013 i.e. diversion of 409.53 Ha (387.1 Horizontal area as per ETS & DGPS Survey) of forest large				
17.	Fore	Inspection Report of the Divisional st Officer in compliance to the litions stipulated in the col. 7 (xi, 8 and 9 previous approval.	The Site Inspection Officer, Medchal C proposal.				

18.	Whether the project requires environment clearance.	No
19.	Status of Wildlife clearance.	Not applicable.
20.	Catchment Area Treatment Plan.	Not applicable.
21.	Total command area of the project	Not applicable.
22.	Rehabilitation of Oustee	
	Number of SC Families	
	Number of ST families	-No-
	Number of Backward Families	
	Copies of R&R Plan	
23.	Cost Benefit Analysis	The details are enclosed with the proposal. The cost benefit ratio is 1.97.  Total annual benefit due to project is Rs.1070.85 cr as per
		proposal.
24.	Total Cost of the project	<b>Rs. 477759</b> /- Lakhs (As per Form A part 1 in parivesh.nic.in).
25.	Employment Potential	Regular Employment = 300 persons
		Temporary Employment = 0
		(As per Form A part 1 in parivesh.nic.in).
26.	Undertakings to bear the cost of CA and NPV	The User Agency has submitted the undertaking to bear the cost of NPV / CA.
27.	Recommendation with Specific conditions, (if any)	
	DFO	<b>Specific recommendation of DFO:</b> Recommended without any specific recommendations (As per part 2 uploaded in parivesh.nic.in)
	CF/APCCF	Recommended stating that it is essential requirement for the people of Hyderabad.
	PCCF/ Nodal Officer (FCA)	Recommended based on the recommendations of DFO and APCCF
	State Govt.	Recommended without any specific recommendations.

5. The RO, Chennai vide letter no. F. No TSA 170/2020-CHN dated 5th Aug 2020 forwarded the site inspection report to this Ministry. It was informed that the inspection was carried out on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2020 in the presence of Shri Chandra Sekhar Reddy IFS, APCCF Hyderabad Circle, Shri D.V. Reddy DFO and Shri Ravi Kumar Director, Water Board (Rep of UA).

#### **A.** Some of the Observations are listed below:

- (i) Most of the land in this forest block is plain and small hillocks are there on the South-Western and South-Eastern Side of the plot. A representative of UA cleared that, they are won't dig out the hillock area, but they will drill the rocks and get concrete bund in this area.
- (ii) After removing and uprooting of the natural vegetation, in the year 2001, 72,000 plants were planted by Urban Forestry wing of Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority, and now they are under different stages of maturity.
- (iii) As per the information provided by forest authorities, there are 1, 39,274 trees (as per random sampling method done in 37 plots in the proposed area of diversion) in the proposed area for diversion. The total value of the trees is Rs.111.825 lakhs as per enumeration report.
- (iv) At the time of inspection, no rare/endangered unique species of flora and fauna are found in this area. In the proposed site for diversion, there are no protected Archaeological/Heritage sites or any other important monuments.
- (v) The proposed area is not falling in any National park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant corridor.
- (vi) No work in violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has taken place in the proposed site.
- (vii) No encroachments are found in the proposed site

- (viii) Two Electrical lines are passing through the forest area proposed for diversion. As per the records made available, these electrical lines were erected way back in 1976, and in such case, the UA has to get NOC from the concerned department and measures are to be taken for their shifting, if at all permission for land transfer is granted, before to the execution of work.
- (ix) As per the report of UA which is authenticated by SG that suitable alternative land is not available, so this Forest Land can be considered for transfer.

## B. Brief about the proposed CA Lands based on inspection:

It was informed that State Government has proposed a CA scheme in 12 places falling in 11 areas totalling an area of 424.4695 ha. and proposed to plant 90,505 plants (as per the changed scheme). The areas that were proposed under the CA scheme have a mixture of topography—with hillocks, moderately sloppy areas and some areas have a good depth of soil. In these lands, the standing crop at places is moderate to heavily lopped and, in some areas, the crop is prominently developed. DDGF(C) has submitted area wise inspection report with photos. Some of the important facts observed are listed below with respect to 11 CA site proposed by the State government:

#### (a) Mahammadabad CA area:

• Area of the proposed CA land is 12.8919 ha. The trees here are moderately lopped and with the protection, they will get a chance to grow into trees. There is enough of area for planting. No encroachments are found in this area.

## (b) Kasarlapad CA Area:

- Area of the proposed CA land is 23.0564 ha.
- During the inspection, it was found that a water sump and water pipelines, were constructed recently under Mission Bhagiratha scheme. As per the District Collector, these structures were constructed without the knowledge of local officials just a few days before. As it is not possible for removing these structures, he mentioned that an area of 1 acre has been reduced, even though this construction is in 0.37 acres only.

### (c) Adivemula CA Area:

• Area of the proposed CA land is 120.4766 ha. As per DSS 76 Hecs are under 5/DS1 Dry Deciduous Scrub and as per Google earth images an area of about 66 hecs is plantable area

# (d) Thimmapuram CA Area:

• Area of the proposed CA area is 44.3023 ha. Patta Lands are inside the proposed area, which have been delineated on the map, but no right of way is provided to the patta holders. UA has to deliniate land for right of way and resurvey the area should be done, and the same has to be uploaded on to Parivesh Portal.

#### (e) Ramavaram CA Area:

• Area of the proposed CA land is 63.7908 ha. There is a temporary shed in the proposed area, which should be removed. There is a Patta Land inside the proposed area, which has been delineated.

#### (f) Chilkur CA Area:

- Area of the proposed CA land is 28.0456 ha.
- There is a Patta Land inside the proposed area, which has been delineated, but a right of way has to be given to them or the patta holders must be relocated.
- At the time of inspection few people mentioned that they are cultivating lands which come to about 4 acres. Issues related to these people also must be addressed.
- An electricity line is passing through one corner of this area, area under it must be delineated and right of way also to be given to the department concerned or the lines must be shifted out of the area.

# (g) Ravipadu CA Area:

 Area of the proposed CA land is 12.1053 ha. There is a Patta Land inside the proposed area in one corner of the plot and it has been delineated.

# (h) Regonda CA Area:

- Area of the proposed CA land is 23.2816 ha. An Adit tunnel is going under the proposed CA area.
- Local officials clarified that this audit tunnel has been plugged by the concerned department and they won't need it to be opened in future. Technically speaking, Adit tunnel is an entrance to an underground mine which is horizontal or nearly horizontal, by which the mine can be entered, drained of water, ventilated, and minerals extracted at the lowest convenient level.
- Here, in this case, water is flown through 8 km underground waterway/ tunnel. Adit tunnel, under this proposed CA area, has been constructed, so that, the excavated soil, boulders and other debris can be taken out without taking them way back up to the entrance of the main tunnel.

- Once the main tunnel is constructed Adit tunnels are so tightly closed, otherwise, the gushing waters cause immense damage to surroundings.
- During the inspection, I am briefed that the Adit tunnel has been tightly plugged, and the concerned department does not need the area in future.
- In larger interest, NOC may be obtained from the concerned department.

#### (i) Ramavaram CA Area:

• Area of the proposed CA land is 24.9237 ha. A good habitat for the Sloth Bears. As per Google Earth images, an area of about 14.0449 ha is plantable area.

# (j) Ummapur CA Area:

- Area of the proposed CA land is 41.6121 ha.
- There is a Granite mining area falling just outside the proposed CA land. Officers at the time of inspection appraised that as per the approved mining plan, it has a safety area/zone. This mining area must be fenced all around it, at the cost of miner or the cost of UA.
- **6.** The KML of proposed diversion area and CA area has been examined by the DSS cell of FC Division and following is observed:

## (a) Proposed diversion:

- (i) Proposed area for diversion of forest land falls under Rangareddy district of Telangana State.
- (ii) Calculated area of the forest land proposed for reservoir is found **387.98** ha. whereas the area given in the proposal for diversion is 409.53 ha. It is also mentioned in the proposal that the horizontal area as per ETS &DGPS survey of the proposed land is 387.13 ha.
- (iii) Proposed area for diversion classified as **Not in High Conservation Value (HCV) Zone** based on Decision Rule 1 and Decision Rule 2.
- (iv) Out of total forest area for diversion, 62 ha is classified as open forest, 277 ha. area as scrub, 2 ha. as water and 46 ha. as Non-Forest in terms of forest classes (as per the ISFR 2019) based on the interpretation of satellite data period 2017-2018.
- (v) Plantation is visible in the proposed forest land for diversion.

### (b) Proposed CA:

- (i) CA has been proposed in 15 patches which are located in Karimnagar and Nalgonda district of Telangana State. All CA sites has been proposed over non forest land.
- (ii) Some of the proposed CA sites has rocky terrain.
- (iii) Out of total area proposed for CA, 13 ha of land is classified as open forest, 257 ha as scrub and 154 ha of land as non-forest in terms of forest classes (as per the ISFR 2019) based on the interpretation of satellite data period 2017-2018. Patchwise details is given below:

S. No.	Village Name	Given Area	Calculated Area	Very Dense	Mod. Dense	Open Forest	Scrub	Non- Forest
		(in ha.)	(in ha.)	Forest	Forest			
1.	Mahammadabad	12.8919	12.8919	0	0	0	0	13
2.	Adivemula	120.4766	120.4770	0	0	0	115	6
3.	Ramavaram	63.7908	63.7908	0	0	0	36	28
4.	Regonda	23.2816	23.2816	0	0	0	16	7
5.	Ummapur	41.6121	6.2897	0	0	0	4	3
6.	Ummapur		35.3224	0	0	0	33	2
7.	Mirzapur	29.9832	11.9462	0	0	7	0	4

8.	Mirzapur		15.8964	0	0	0	12	4
9.	Mirzapur		2.1406	0	0	0	0	2
10.	Ramavaram	24.9237	24.9237	0	0	6	13	6
11.	Thimmapuram	44.3023	44.3023	0	0	0	12	32
12.	kasarlapadu	23.0564	23.0564	0	0	0	0	23
13.	Chilkur	28.0456	28.0456	0	0	0	6	22
14.	Ravipahad	12.1053	1.7991	0	0	0	2	
15.	Ravipahad		10.3062	0	0	0	8	2
	Total	424.4695	424.4699	0	0	13	257	154

(iv) As mentioned in the site inspection report submitted by RO (Central), 9 CA site has been proposed in degraded forest land (area: 350 ha) to take up balance saplings plantation. The KML/ Shapefile of these 9 DFL CA sites is not available on PARIVESH website.

#### **7.** Observations of the Division:

- **i.** The shortcomings observed were communicated vide this Ministry's letter dt 10.07.2020to Govt. of Telangana vide this Ministry's letter dated 10.07.2020. But the response to the ministry's letter has been send by PCCF (HoFF) Govt. Telangana vide their letter Ref. No.6564/20174/FCA-1 dated 15.07.2020.
- **ii.** As mentioned in the site inspection report submitted by RO (Central), nine CA site has been proposed in degraded forest land (area: 350 ha) to take up balance saplings plantation. The KML/ Shape file of these nine DFL CA sites is not available on PARIVESH website.
- **iii.** Financial outlay for compensatory Afforestation scheme proposed for degraded forest land is not mentioned.
- iv. Total period for which the area is proposed to be diverted is not mentioned in Parivesh.nic.in.

In view of the above facts related to the proposal, it is proposed that proposal may be submitted to the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC), in its meeting scheduled to be held on **18.08.2020**.

\*\*\*\*