

F. No. 8-04/2016-FC
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change
(F.C. Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor bagh Aliganj Road,
New Delhi – 110003.

Dated: 02.08.2016.

To
The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Government of Gujarat,
Gandhi Nagar.

Sub: Diversion of 1576.81 ha of Reserved forest land for the development of Special Economic Zone and Industrial Park at Village - Siracha, Navinal, Dhrub, Mundra, Baroi, Gorasama, Luni, Bhadreshwar, Ta. Mundra, Dist. Kutch in favour of Adnai Group, Mundra Port and Special Economic Zone Ltd., Ahmedabad.

Sir,


I am directed to refer to the Govt. of Gujarat's letter No. FCA-1014/10-11/14/S.F-66/F dated 21.01.2016 on the above mentioned subject seeking prior approval of the central Government in accordance with Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. On examination of the said proposal, the following shortcomings noticed:

- (i) The complete compliance on Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 has not been submitted.
- (ii) A Compact Disk containing of Shape file / KML file for the proposed forest land for diversion ad proposed area for Compensatory Afforestation under this project is not given.
- (iii) Detailed component wise break up of SEZ facilities has not been given.
- (iv) With regard to the suitability of CA area, the Conservator of Forests, Katchchh Circle suggested that two areas Junachay and Amara are not adjoining to any forest areas and they are only grazing areas for cattle belongs to local people and suggested that these areas are not being recommended to be accepted as compensatory land.
- (v) The Conservator of Forests, Katchchh Circle observed that the user agency has already diverted the reserved forest of 2008.41 ha for the same cause, so this proposed area can be developed as forests only within SEZ. Therefore, there is

no need for any diversion of forest land for the same cause. In addition, he suggested that the conditions as stipulated in the proposal for diversion of 57.75 ha for laying of Railway line No. 8-163/97-FC dated 24.07.2004 and 1840.00 ha & 168.41 ha for development of port based SEZ vide letter No. 8-2/1999-FC (pt.) dated 27.02.2009 in favour of M/s Mundra Port should be fulfilled by the user agency, than only this proposal would be considered. If this proposal is considered for the diversion than the forest of Siracha of an area of 394.10 may be excluded because of the unique prominent *Acacia nilotica* forest in the district.

In view of above, the State Government may please furnish the para-wise reply on the points as indicated above to this Ministry for further consideration of the proposal.


Yours faithfully,


(Sandeep Sharma) 2.8.16

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

- 1) The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Gujarat, Gandhi Nagar.
- 2) The Addl. PCCF (Central), Regional Office, Bhopal, MoEF.
- 3) The Nodal Officer, O/o the PCCF, Government of Government of Gujarat, Gandhi Nagar.
- 4) The User Agency.
- 5) Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF.
- 6) Guard File.


(Sandeep Sharma) 2.8.16

Assistant Inspector General of Forests