



No. 5-ORC405/2020-BHU

17<sup>th</sup> April, 2020

To

The Addl. Chief Secretary,  
Forest & Environment Deptt.,  
Govt. of Odisha,  
Bhubaneswar.

Sub:- Diversion of 10.420 ha of forest land for construction of Sambalpur-Titilagarh double of Railway line project in Sambalpur, Bargarh, Subarnapur & Bolangir District of Odisha coming under Sambalpur, Bargarh, Subarnapur & Bolangir Forest Division by East Coast Railway.

Madam,

I am to refer to State Govt. letter No10F(Cons)13/2020-1560/F&E dated 21.01.2020 on the above mentioned subject seeking prior approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change under section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

2. After due consideration of the proposal of the State Government and on the basis of approval of Regional Empowered Committee meeting held on 13.04.2020, the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change hereby conveys '*Stage-I/in-principle*' approval for diversion of 10.420 ha of forest land for construction of Sambalpur-Titilagarh double of Railway line project in Sambalpur, Bargarh, Subarnapur & Bolangir District of Odisha coming under Sambalpur, Bargarh, Subarnapur & Bolangir Forest Division by East Coast Railway, subject to the fulfillment of the following conditions.

- i) Legal status of forest land shall remain unchanged.
- ii) Forest land will be handed over only after required non-forest land for the project is handed over to the user agency.
- iii) Compensatory afforestation shall be taken up by the Forest Department over 52.41 ha degraded forest land indentified in Bonda Kalijharan RF under Bolangir Range of Bolangir Forest Division at the cost of the user agency. As far as possible, a mixture of local indigenous species shall be planted and monoculture of any species may be avoided.
- iv) The cost of compensatory afforestation at the prevailing wage rates as per compensatory afforestation scheme and at the cost of survey, demarcation and erection of permanent pillars if required on the CA land shall be deposited in advance with Forest Department by the project authority. The CA will be maintained for 10 years. The scheme may include appropriate provision for anticipated cost increase for works scheduled for subsequent years.
- v) The State Govt. shall charge the Net Present Value (NPV) for 10.420 ha forest area to be diverted under this proposal from the user agency as per the Orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India dated 30.10.2002, 01.08.2003, 28.03.2008, 24.04.2008 and 09.05.2008 in IA No.566 in Writ Petition (Civil) No.202/1995 and as per the guidelines issued by Ministry vide letter No.5-1/1998-FC (Pt.II) dated 18.09.2003, as well as letter No.5-2/2006-FC dated 03.10.2006 and No.5-3/2007-FC dated 05.02.2009 in this regard.

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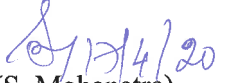
- vi) Additional amount of the NPV of the diverted forest land, if any, becoming due after finalization of the same by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India on receipt of the report from the Expert Committee, shall be charged by the State Govt. from the user agency. The user agency shall furnish an undertaking to this effect.
- vii) As proposed by State Govt., Site Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan duly approved by CWLW, Odisha shall be implemented at project cost. The Site Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan has to be prepared in consultation with Regional Office, MoEF&CC and a copy to be sent to Regional Office for record.
- viii) The proposed line passes through large patches of forests rich in wildlife at many places. So proposed railway line alignment should not be final and railway authorities should be ready to accommodate bridges/underpasses as per the suggestion of CWLW, Odisha while preparing the Site Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan.
- ix) All the funds received from the user agency under the project shall be transferred/deposited to State CAMPA fund only through (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>).
- x) The complete compliance of the FRA, 2006 shall be ensured by way of prescribed certificate from the concerned District Collector.
- xi) The user agency shall restrict the felling of trees to minimum number in the diverted forest land and the trees shall be felled under strict supervision of the State Forest Department and the cost of felling of trees shall be deposited by the user agency with the State Forest Department.
- xii) Speed regulating signage will be erected along the railway line at regular intervals in the Protected Areas/Forest Areas.
- xiii) The user agency shall provide suitable under/over passes in Protected Area/Forest Area as per recommendations of CWLW/NBWL.
- xiv) The user agency shall obtain Environmental Clearance as per the provisions of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, if applicable.
- xv) The layout plan of the proposed forest land shall not be changed without the prior approval of Central Government.
- xvi) No labour camp shall be allowed in the forest area.
- xvii) Sufficient firewood, preferably the alternate fuel, shall be provided by the user agency to the labourer after purchasing the same from the State Forest Department or Forest Development Corporation or any other legal source of alternate fuel.
- xviii) The user agency while executing works, shall not fell any tree or damage forest growth in the surrounding forest area in any manner.
- xix) The boundary of the forest land to be diverted shall be suitably demarcated on ground at the project cost, as per the directions of the concerned Divisional Forest Officer.
- xx) No additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for any activity related to the project work.

- xxi) The period of diversion under this approval shall be co-terminus with the period of lease granted in favour of user agency or the project life, whichever is less.
- xxii) The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the project proposal.
- xxiii) The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agencies, department or person without the prior approval of Government of India.
- xxiv) The State Govt. and user agency shall ensure compliance to provisions of the all the Court orders, provisions, rules, regulations and guidelines for the time being in force as applicable to the project.
- xxv) Any other conditions that the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change may impose from time to time in the interest of afforestation, conservation and management of flora and fauna in the area, shall be complied by the user agency.
- xxvi) The compliance report of the Stage-I approval shall be uploaded on e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in>).

3. After receipt of the report on compliance to the conditions stipulated above, from the State Government of Odisha, final/Stage-II approval for diversion of the said forest land under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 will be issued by this Ministry. Transfer of forest land to user agency should not be effected by the State Government of Odisha till final/Stage-II approval for its diversion is issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change.

4. However, to facilitate speedy execution of projects involving linear diversion, the in-principle approval may be deemed as the working permission for tree felling and commencement of work, if the required funds for CA, NPV and all other compensatory levies specified in the in-principle approval are realized from the user agency, the State Govt. may allow the commencement of work of the linear project in forest land for a period of one year as per Para 11.2 of Chapter-11 of Handbook of Guidelines issued under F.C. Act, 1980 vide Ministry's letter No.5-2/2017-FC dated 28.03.2019.

Yours faithfully,

  
(S. Mohapatra)

Dy. Director General of Forests (C)

Copy to:-

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Nodal Officer (FCA), Forest Department, Govt. of Odisha, Aranya Bhawan, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar-751023.
2. The Divisional Forest Officer, Sambalpur/Bargarh/Subarnapur/ Bolangir, Sambalpur/Bargarh/Subarnapur/Bolangir, Odisha
3. The Deputy Chief Engineer (Con.), East Coast Railways, Sambalpur, Dist: Sambalpur, Odisha
4. Guard file.

  
Dy. Director General of Forests (C)

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प्रेषित / Despatcher

दिनांक / Date 27/4/20