



भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
 पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS &
 CLIMATE CHANGE**
Sub Office of the Regional Office, Chennai
 Green House Complex, Gopal Reddy Road
 Vijayawada – 520010, Andhra Pradesh
 email: iro.vijayawada-mefcc@gov.in



F. No. 4-APB171/2022-VIJ/41

Date 3rd January, 2024

To

The Special Chief Secretary to the Government of Andhra Pradesh,
 Environment, Forests, Science & Technology Department, Government
 of Andhra Pradesh, Room No.268, 1st Floor, 4th Block, Andhra Pradesh
 Secretariat, Velagapudi, Amaravati, Guntur District - 522503

Subject: Diversion of 2.63 ha. of forest land in Compartment No. 313 of Gulamaliabad South RF (0.87 ha), Dhone Range and in Compartment No. 334, Rangapuram RF (1.76 ha), Dhone Range, Kurnool Division for erection of 220 KV DC line from 400/220 KV SS Jammalamadugu to the proposed 220/132/33 KV SS Bethamacherla in Kurnool District in favour of Executive Engineer, Construction Division, APTRANSCO, Kurnool

Sir

Please refer to State Government's letter no. 846/Section.II/2022/1698927 dated 2/5/2022, 25/8/2022 and 23/8/2023 seeking prior approval of Central Government under Section '2' (1) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for the above project.

After careful consideration of the proposal submitted by the State Government and with the approval of the competent authority, I am directed to convey the Central Government's ***In-principle*** approval under **Section-2(1) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980** for diversion of **2.63** ha. of forest land in Compartment No. 313 of Gulamaliabad South RF (0.87 ha), Dhone Range and in Compartment No. 334, Rangapuram RF (1.76 ha), Dhone Range, Kurnool Division for erection of 220 KV DC line from 400/220 KV SS Jammalamadugu to the proposed 220/132/33 KV SS Bethamacherla in Kurnool District in favour of Executive Engineer, Construction Division, APTRANSCO, Kurnool, subject to the following conditions:-

1. Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged.
2. The boundary of the diverted forest land shall be suitably demarcated on ground at the project cost as per the directions of concerned Divisional Forest Officer.
3. Compensatory afforestation and its maintenance over degraded forest area

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- of **5.26 ha within 6.28 ha** identified in Compartment no.49 & 50 of Gundlakonda shall be carried out by the State Forest Department from the funds to be provided by the User Agency;
4. The Forest Department shall ensure that the CA scheme as proposed in the diversion proposal shall be implemented in its entirety and the approved compensatory afforestation scheme shall not be changed without prior approval of the Central Government;
 5. **As reported, plantation of dwarf medicinal species under the transmission line is not possible as the area is having rocky patch, hence, as proposed additional compensatory afforestation shall be carried out over an extent of 2.63 ha of degraded forest land identified in Compartment no.316, Gulamaliabad South RF, Dhone Range, at the cost of the UA;**
 6. The State Government shall upload the kml file of the 2.63 ha of DFL area identified for additional CA, in the PARIVESH PORTAL in consultation with the NIC, New Delhi;
 7. The State Government shall charge the Net Present Value of the diverted forest land measuring **2.63 ha** from the User Agency, as per the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 28.03.2008 and 09.05.2008 in IA Nos.826 in 566 with related IA's in Writ Petition (Civil) No.202/1995 and Ministry's guideline No.5-3/2011-FC(Vol-I) dated 06.01.2022 and clarification issued vide letter dated 19.01.2022 and 22.03.2022;
 8. Additional amount of the Net Present Value (NPV) of the diverted forest land if any, becoming due after revision of the same by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in future, shall be charged by the State Government from the User Agency. **The User Agency shall furnish an undertaking to this effect;**
 9. **Considering violation of FCA, 1980, action to be taken on User Agency/ Forest Department officials are as follows;**
 - a. The State Government shall realize penalty (Penal NPV) of 5 times of NPV plus 12 percent simple interest till the deposit is made for an **exact extent** of area, i.e., **0.02725 ha**, under violation as per provisions made in the comprehensive hand book under section 1.21 (ii) (a) and (b);
 - b. The State Government shall furnish a detailed report on violation along with details of erring officials for further action under section 3A & 3B of the Adhinyam.
 - c. The State Government shall take action on Forest Department Officials as per provisions made in the comprehensive hand book under section 1.21 (ii) and (d) and **complete action taken report shall be submitted before issuance of Stage II approval;**
 10. All the funds received from the User Agency under the project shall be transferred/ deposited to CAMPA fund only through e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>);
 11. Width of RoW shall be maintained as per the standard specification as per the Ministry's guidelines and additional forest area shall not be utilized beyond **2.63 ha**. **The User Agency shall furnish an undertaking to this effect;**

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12. Disturbance shall be kept minimal by creating labour camps outside the forest area and it will be the responsibility of the User Agency to ensure that the labourers & staff engaged in execution of work do not destruct nearby forest flora & fauna;
13. The User Agency at its cost shall provide bird deflectors, which are to be fixed on the upper conductor of the transmission line at suitable intervals to avoid bird hits;
14. The User Agency shall comply with the guidelines for laying transmission lines through forest areas issued by Ministry vide letter No.7-25/2012-FC dated 05/05/2014 & 19/11/2014.
15. No additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for the transportation of construction materials for execution of the project work;
16. Future pollarding / pruning of trees will be done with the permission of the local forest officer wherever necessary for the maintenance of the transmission lines;
17. The User Agency shall provide firewood, preferably alternate fuel to the labourers and the staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the adjacent forest areas;
18. The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without prior approval of the Central Government;
19. The User Agency and the State Government shall ensure compliance to all the Acts, Rules, Regulations and Guidelines of the Ministry, for the time being in force, as applicable to such project and all other mandatory clearances required for such transmission line projects shall be obtained by the User Agency;
20. Any other condition that the DDG, Regional Office, Chennai 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;
21. In the event of failure to comply with any of the above conditions the User Agency is liable for penal action as per the provisions made in the Rules / guidelines issued under **Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980**;
22. The KML file of the area diverted and Compensatory Afforestation area shall be uploaded in the e-green watch portal with all requisite details and same shall be submitted along with compliance report.
23. The period of diversion under this approval shall be co-terminus with the period of lease to be granted in favour of the user agency or the project life, whichever is less.
24. The State Government shall ensure settlement of rights under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (2 of 2007), before issue order for working permission and diversion as the case may be;
25. The State Government shall process and submit compliance report on the above conditions through online (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>);

After receipt of compliance report on fulfilment of the conditions mentioned above, the proposal shall be considered for final approval under Section 2(1) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. Further, it may also be

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noted that this in-principle approval shall be valid for a period of 2 years from the date of issue of this letter. **In the event of non-compliance of the above conditions, this in-principle approval shall be deemed to be null and void.**

Yours faithfully

Sd/-

(Balaji Kari)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests (Central)

Copy to:-

1. The Inspector General of Forests (ROHQ Division), Govt. of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhavan, Agni Wing, Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi - 110 003.
2. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Forests Department & HoFF, AP Forest Department, AranyaBhavan, P.V.S. Landmark, Ground Floor, Opposite to IHC Corporate, Industrial Park, Mangalagiri, Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh-522503
3. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests/Nodal Officer (FCA), Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Forests Department, AranyaBhavan, P.V.S. Landmark, Ground Floor, Opposite to IHC Corporate, Industrial Park, Mangalagiri, Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh-522503
4. The Executive Engineer, Construction Division, APTRANSCO, Kurnool
5. Guard file.

Sd/-

(Balaji Kari)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests (Central)

Signed by Balaji Kari

Date: 03-01-2024 15:01:40

Reason: Approved