



भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS
& CLIMATE CHANGE

Integrated Regional Office
Ground Floor, East Wing
New Secretariat Building
Civil Lines, Nagpur - 440001
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F.No. FC-II/MH-156/2021-NGP /9777

Date: 30.05.2022

To,

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Revenue and Forest Department,
Hutatma Rajguru Chowk
Madam Cama Marg
Mantralaya, Mumbai – 400032.

Sub: Diversion of 9.1321 ha of forest land in favour of Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation Limited for construction of Panvel-Karjat suburban corridor project (Double Railway Line) in Raigad district in the state of Maharashtra- regarding.

Sir,

The undersigned is directed to refer to State Government of Maharashtra letter No. FLD-1320/C.R.53/F-10 dated 10.03.2021 and APCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Maharashtra vide his letter No. Desk-17/NC/II/ID 12768/(70)/1831/2019-20 dated 07.02.2020 on the above subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and APCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Maharashtra's letter No. Desk-17/Nodal/Thane/ID-12768 (70)/741/2021-22 dated 09.08.2021, letter No. Desk-17/Nodal/Thane/ID-12768 (70)/2624/2021-22 dated 07.03.2022 and letter No. Desk-17/Nodal/Thane/ID-12768 (70)/363/2021-22 dated 13.05.2022 forwarding additional information as sought vide this office letters of even number dated 30.04.2021, 29.09.2021 and 31.03.2022 and to say that the said proposal has been examined in the Integrated Regional Office in light of the relevant provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and Guidelines issued thereunder and approved by the Regional Empowered Committee constituted under Section - 4 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

After careful examination of the proposal of the State Government and on the basis of the approval of the proposal by the Regional Empowered Committee, the Central Government hereby accords '**in-principle**' under Section - 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 Diversion of 9.1321 ha of forest land in favour of Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation Limited for construction of Panvel-Karjat suburban corridor project (Double Railway Line) in Raigad district in the state of Maharashtra subject to the fulfilment of the following conditions:

- i. Legal status of the forest land shall remain unchanged;
- ii. **Compensatory afforestation**
 - a. Compensatory afforestation shall be taken up by the Forest Department over 20.00 ha degraded forest land in Compt. No. 647 at Village- Aaptvne, Taluka- Sudhagad, District- Raigad. As far as possible, a mixture of local indigenous species along with 10% RET species of Raigad District shall be planted and monoculture of any species may be avoided. Atleast four water bodies shall be constructed in the form of tank/ stop dams etc if the same are not available in the area or in nearby vicinity;
- iii. The cost of compensatory afforestation at the prevailing wage rates as per compensatory afforestation scheme and the cost of survey, demarcation and erection of permanent pillars if required on the CA land shall be deposited in advance with the 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;

iv. **NPV:**

- a. The State Government shall charge the Net Present Value (NPV) for the 9.1321 ha forest area to be diverted under this proposal from the User Agency as per the orders of the 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 WP (C) No. 202/1995 and as per the guidelines issued by the Ministry vide letters 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 5-3/2007-FC dated 05/02/2009 in this regard;
 - b. 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 Government from the User Agency. The User Agency shall furnish an undertaking to this effect;
- v. User agency shall restrict the felling of trees to minimum number in the diverted forest land and the trees shall be felled under the 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;
 - vi. User Agency in consultation with State Forest Department shall prepare a site specific 10 years Wildlife Management Plan. The plan so prepared shall be approved by Chief Wildlife Warden and a copy of same shall be submitted to Integrated Regional Office along with the Stage-I compliance;
 - vii. The authorities from Morbe Dam Authority and User Agency shall frequently conduct the safety audits and for any adverse impact on dam in future the Dam Authorities and User Agency shall be directly liable;
 - viii. User Agency in consultation with State Forest Department shall construct underpasses at same places as are in existing line with wider openings and interconnected guided bio fences for smooth movement of wildlife. For purpose of dimensions of all such under passes the manual of Wildlife Institute of India entitled "Eco-friendly Measures to Mitigate Impacts of Linear Infrastructure on Wildlife, published in 2016" shall be consulted. A detail report in this regard shall be submitted to Integrated Regional Office along with Stage- I compliance report;
 - ix. 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/>);
 - x. The complete compliance of the FRA, 2006 shall be ensured by way of prescribed certificate from the concerned District Collector;
 - xi. Speed regulating signage will be erected along the railway line at regular intervals in the Protected Areas/ Forest Areas;
 - xii. User Agency shall obtain Environmental Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if applicable;
 - xiii. The avenue plantation of tall plants in both side of railway line shall be done by the State Forest Department at the cost of User Agency. A scheme in this regard shall be prepared and submitted to Integrated Regional Office;
 - xiv. To improve the Forest/ Tree cover and to reduce pollution in the State, as mandated in National Forest Policy, 1988 and Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986 respectively, the User Agency with involvement of Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMC's) and in consultation with local DCF shall raise at least 25,000 seedlings of forestry species

along with bamboo, fruit bearing, medicinal, ornamental and indigenous/local for 10 years. At least 50% of seedlings shall be planted in the vicinity of project area and remaining 50% of seedlings shall be distributed among villagers as per choice of villagers. The concerned JFMC's shall maintain record of plantation/ seedling distribution to villagers;

- xv. The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without prior approval of Central Government;
- xvi. No labour camp shall be established on the forest land;
- 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 the Forest Development Corporation or any other legal source of alternate fuel;
- xviii. The boundary of the diverted forest land shall be suitably demarcated on ground at the project cost, as per the directions of the concerned Divisional Forest Officer;
- xix. No additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for transportation of construction materials for execution of the project work;
- xx. 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;
- xxi. The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the project proposal;
- xxii. The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agencies, department or person without prior approval of Govt. of India;
- xxiii. Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and action would be taken as per the MoEF&CC Guideline F. No. 11-42/2017-FC dt 29/01/2018;
- xxiv. Any other condition that the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change may stipulate from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife;
- xxv. The compliance report shall be uploaded on *e-portal* (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>).

After receipt of a report on the compliance of conditions no iii, iv (a), v, vi, viii, ix, x, xiii, xiv and undertakings, duly authenticated by the competent authority in the State Government, in respect of all other conditions, from the State Government, formal approval will be considered in this regard under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

This issues with the approval of DDGF (C)/ Regional Officer (Central), Integrated Regional Office, MoEF & CC, Nagpur.

Yours faithfully,

(N.K. Dimri)

Technical Officer (Gr. I)

Copy to:

- i. The PCCF (HoFF), Government of Maharashtra, Nagpur.
- ii. The Addl. PCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Maharashtra, Nagpur.
- iii. User agency.
- iv. Guard file.

(N.K. Dimri)

Technical Officer (Gr. I)