



No. 5-ORC406/2020-BHU

14th September, 2020

To

The Addl. Chief Secretary,
Forest & Environment Deptt.,
Government of Odisha,
Bhubaneswar-751 001

Sub: Diversion of 7.184 ha of forest land for construction of 132 KV Single Conductor Transmission line from 132/33 KV Grid Sub-Station, Brajarajnagar to RTSS Belpesar by OPTCL, EHT Construction Division, Jharsuguda under Jharsuguda Forest Division of Jharsuguda District.

Madam,

I am directed to refer to State Govt. letter No10F(Cons)21/2020-1985/F&E dated 28.01.2020 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 decision of Regional Empowered Committee meeting held on 24.02.2020 and uploading of the proposal in *Parivesh* web portal on 10.09.2020, the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change hereby conveys '**Stage-I/in-principle**' approval for diversion of 7.184 ha of forest land for construction of 132 KV Single Conductor Transmission line from 132/33 KV Grid Sub-Station, Brajarajnagar to RTSS Belpesar by OPTCL, EHT Construction Division, Jharsuguda under Jharsuguda Forest Division of Jharsuguda District, subject to the fulfillment of the following conditions.

- i) Legal status of proposed forest land for diversion 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 taken up by the State Forest Department over 36.00 ha degraded forest land identified in Ambithi RF under Kolabira Range of Jharsuguda 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.

Contd...2

- v) The State Govt. shall charge the Net Present Value (NPV) for 7.184 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.
- 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) 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/>).
- viii) The complete compliance of the FRA, 2006 shall be ensured by way of prescribed certificate from the concerned District Collector.
- ix) The user agency at its cost shall provide bird reflectors, which are to be fixed on upper conductor of transmission line at suitable intervals to avoid bird hits.
- x) The user agency in consultation with the State Forest Department shall prepare a detailed scheme for creation and maintenance of plantation of dwarf species (preferably medicinal species) in right of way under the transmission line, and provide funds for execution of the said scheme by the State Forest Department.
- xi) 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 and 19.11.2014.
- xii) The user agency shall obtain Environmental Clearance as per the provisions of Environment (Protection) Act, 1980, if applicable.
- xiii) The layout plan of the proposed forest land shall not be changed without the prior approval of Central Government.
- xiv) No labour camp shall be allowed in the forest area.
- xv) 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.
- xvi) The user agency while executing works, shall not fell any tree or damage forest growth in the surrounding forest area in any manner.
- xvii) 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.

- xviii) No additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for any activity related to the project work.
- xix) 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.
- xx) The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the project proposal.
- xxi) 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.
- xxii) The State Govt. and user agency shall ensure compliance to provisions of the all Court orders, provisions, rules, regulations and guidelines for the time being in force as applicable to the project.
- xxiii) The compliance report of the Stage-I approval shall be uploaded on e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in>).
- xxiv) The user agency is to provide an NOC from MCL as the line is passing through the diverted forest land of Orient Coal Mines of MCL before issue of Stage-II approval.

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,

Padma Mahanti

(Padma Mahanti)

Dy. Inspector General of Forests (C)

Copy to:

1. The PCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Forest Department, Govt. of Odisha, Aranya Bhawan, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar-751023.
2. The Dy. General Manager (Elect.) EHT Construction Division, Odisha Power Transmission Corporation Ltd. (OPTCL), Jharsuguda, Odisha.

Dy. Inspector General of Forests (C)

