

Government of India/ भारत सरकार
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change/ पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
Eastern Regional Office/ पूर्वी क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय
A/3, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar/ A/3, चंद्रसेखरपुर, भुवनेश्वर

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No. 5-ORB429/2020-BHU

15th
16th September, 2020

To

The Addl. Chief Secretary,
Forest & Environment Department,
Government of Odisha,
Bhubaneswar – 751 001.

Sub:- Diversion of 4.928 ha of Revenue forest land in favour of Tahasildar, Hatdihi Tahasil of Keonjhar District for creation of land bank for relocation of villagers of Pitanau Hamlet located in side Hadgarh Wildlife Sanctuary of Keonjhar Wildlife Division.

Madam,

I am directed to refer to State Govt. letter No10F(Cons)130/2020-12843/F&E dated 25.08.2020 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, the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change **hereby conveys approval** for diversion of 4.928 ha of Revenue forest land in favour of Tahasildar, Hatdihi Tahasil of Keonjhar District for creation of land bank for relocation of villagers of Pitanau Hamlet located in side Hadgarh Wildlife Sanctuary of Keonjhar Wildlife Division, subject to the fulfillment of the following conditions.

- i. The legal status of the diverted forest land shall be changed to revenue land.
- ii. The complete compliance of the FRA, 2006 shall be ensured by way of prescribed certificate from the concerned District Collector.
- iii. The user agency shall restrict the felling of trees to minimum numbers in the diverted forest land and trees shall be felled under strict supervision of the State Forest Department.
- iv. The land vacated in the protected area due to relocation of village shall be developed as per approved Wildlife Management Plan/NTCA guideline/CWLW.
- v. No fragmentation of forests/wildlife habitat should take place due to the relocation of project.
- vi. The relocation activity shall be undertaken solely as a process of consolidation of the wildlife habitat.

- vii. The land/villages within the forest which have been vacated shall be brought under the protected area network through enabling notification under Wildlife Protection Act after extinguishing all the existing rights over the vacated land.
- viii. The extent of land de-reserved/de-notified for resettlement shall not be more than the extent vacated by the settlers in the core area.
- ix. 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.
- x. The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the project proposal.
- xi. The user agency and the State Govt. shall ensure compliance of all the Court orders, provisions, rules, regulations and guidelines for the time being in force as applicable to the project.
- xii. Any other condition that the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change may stipulate from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife, shall be complied by the user agency.
- xiii. The detailed approved relocation plan specifying no. of families relocated, land allotted to each family, building plan, their livelihood options in the relocated place and other details may be submitted to this office, which should include sustainable and eco-friendly community living spaces.
- xiv. The people resettled in the forest land should be homogenous in the social strata so as to ensure that there is no conflict of religion, culture and social living standard which will enable them to adapt better to new surroundings.
- xv. Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and action would be taken as prescribed in Para 1.21 of Chapter-1 of Handbook of comprehensive Guidelines of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 as issued by Ministry's letter No.5-2/2017-FC dated 28.03.2019.
- xvi. The State Govt. shall ensure compliance of all the above conditions.

Yours faithfully,

Padma Mahanti

(Padma Mahanti)

Dy. Inspector General of Forests (C)

Copy to:-

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Nodal Officer (FCA), Forest Department, Govt. of Odisha, Aranya Bhawan, Chandrasekharapur, Bhubaneswar-751023.
2. The Tahasildar, Hatdihi Tahasil, Hatdihi, Dist: Keonjhar, Odisha.

Dy. Inspector General of Forests (C)