



भारत सरकार / Government of India  
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय / Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change  
एकीकृत क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय / Integrated Regional Office  
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No. 5-ORB501/2022-BHU

22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2022

To

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

Sub:- Proposal for re-diversion of 0.181 ha (0.113 ha in Keonjhar Forest Division and 0.068 ha in Bonai Forest Division) of Forest land for laying of 132 KV underground Power Cable over a distance of 6.751 Km along the RoW of NH-520 and the approach road from NH-520 to Kamanda Steel Plant for Change in Land Use by M/s Rungta Mines Ltd.

Madam,

I am directed to refer to State Govt. letter No.10F(Cons)14/2022-7264/FE&CC dated 18.04.2022 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 '*Stage-I/in-principle*' approval for re-diversion of 0.181 ha (0.171 ha for re-diversion and 0.010 ha for change in land use) of Forest land for laying of 132 KV underground Power Cable over a distance of 6.751 Km along the RoW of NH-520 and the approach road from NH-520 to Kamanda Steel Plant for Change in Land Use by M/s Rungta Mines Ltd., subject to the fulfillment of the following conditions.

**A: Conditions which need to be complied prior to handing over of forest land by the State Forest Department.**

- i. The user agency shall transfer online, the Net Present Value (NPV) of 0.171 ha forest land being re-diverted under this proposal, as per the Orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India dated 28.03.2008, 24.04.2008 and 09.05.2008 in Writ Petition (Civil) No.202/1995 and the guidelines issued by this Ministry vide its letter No.5-3/2011-FC (Vol-I) dated 06.01.2022, 19.01.2022 & 22.03.2022. The requisite funds shall be transferred through online portal in CAMPA account of the State concerned.
- ii. All the funds received from the user agency under the project shall be transferred/deposited in CAMPA account only through e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>). Amount deposited through other mode will not be accepted as compliance of the Stage-I clearance.

- iii. The compliance report of the Stage-I approval shall be uploaded on e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>).
- iv. The boundary of the proposed forest land for diversion, shall be demarcated on ground at the project cost, by erecting four feet high reinforced cement concrete pillars, each inscribed with its serial number, distance from pillar to pillar and GPS co-ordinates.

**B: Conditions which need to be strictly complied on field after handing over of forest land to the user agency by the State Forest Department but the compliance in form of undertaking shall be submitted prior to Stage-II approval.**

- i. Legal status of forest land proposed for diversion shall remain unchanged.
- ii. At the time of payment of Net Present Value (NPV) at the then prevailing rate, the user agency shall furnish an undertaking to pay the additional amount of NPV, if so determined, as per the final decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.
- iii. The user agency shall comply with the conditions stipulated in the final forest clearance granted to M/s NHA for four/six laning, widening and strengthening of existing two lane of NH-215 (Rimuli-Rajamunda Section) in Keonjhar and Sundargarh District of Odisha vide Ministry's letter No.5-ORA198/2014-BHU dated 16.04.2019.
- iv. The user agency shall also comply with the conditions stipulated in the final forest clearance granted vide Ministry's letter No.5-ORB389/2019-BHU dated 23.03.2020 for construction of approach road from NH-520 to Kamanda Steel Plant of M/s Rungta Mines Ltd.
- v. As proposed by the State Govt. the underground cable will be laid 1.5 meter beneath the ground surface, having a strip of 1.0 meter width and after lying down of the cable the ground will be leveled.
- vi. Laying of power cable line should be done simultaneously with digging of trench.
- vii. The user agency shall obtain Environmental Clearance as per the provisions of Environment (Protection) Act, 1980, if applicable.
- viii. The user agency shall take adequate safety measures for accidental leakage of power cable line.
- ix. No labour camp shall be established on the forest land and the user agency shall provide fuels preferably alternate fuels to the labourers and the staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the nearby forest areas.
- x. No additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for any activity related to the project work.
- xi. The user agency while executing works, shall not fell any tree or damage forest growth in the surrounding forest area in any manner.
- xii. The layout plan of the proposed forest land shall not be changed without the prior approval of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change.
- xiii. The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal.
- xiv. The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other user agency, department or person without the prior approval of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change.
- xv. No damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused.
- xvi. The concerned Divisional Forest Officer, will monitor and take necessary mitigative measures to ensure that there is no adverse impact on the forests in the surrounding area.
- xvii. The user agency shall submit annual self monitoring report on compliance of stipulated conditions to the Nodal Officer (FCA) of the State and concerned Integrated

Regional Office of this Ministry by the end of March every year.

- xviii. 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.
- xix. The State Govt. and user agency shall ensure compliance to provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, NGT Order (s) & Hon'ble Court Order (s) pertaining to this project, if any, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project.

**3. 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 the Handbook of comprehensive guidelines of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 as issued by this Ministry's letter No.5-2/2017-FC dated 28.03.2019.**

4. After receipt of the report on compliance to the conditions stipulated above, from the State Government of Odisha, final/Stage-II approval for re-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.

5. "The State Govt. or a Senior Office not below the Rank of a Divisional Forest Officer, having jurisdiction over the forest land proposed to be re-diverted, duly authorized in this behalf by the State Govt. can pass an order for tree cutting and commencement of work of a linear project in forest land for a period of one year. Such order shall be passed only after full realization of funds for compensatory afforestation, Net Present Value (NPV), Wildlife conservation Plan, plantation of dwarf species of medicinal plants, and all other compensatory levies, specified in the Stage-I (in-principle) approval from the User Agency, and where ever applicable, transfer and mutation of non-forest/revenue forest land in favour of State Forest Department" as stipulated in 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 CCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Forest Department, Govt. of Odisha, Aranya Bhawan, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar-751023.
2. The Authorized Signatory, M/s Rungta Mines Ltd., Main Road, Barbil-758035, Dist: Keonjhar, Odisha.

Dy. Inspector General of Forests (C)