



No. 5-WBB105/2019-BHU/KOL- 10

24th December, 2020

To

The Secretary,
Forest Department (Forest Branch),
Govt. of West Bengal,
Aranya Bhawan, (1st Floor)
Block-LA-10A, Sector-III, Salt Lake City,
KOLKATA – 700 098.

Sub:- Diversion of 2.7279 ha of forest land in favour of Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL) for Jagdishpur-Haldia-Bokaro-Dhamra UG pipeline under Bankura (N), Kangsabati (N) and Burdwan Forest Divisions.

Sir,

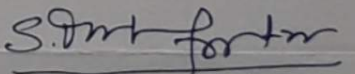
I am to refer to State Govt. letter No. 2421-For/O/L/10T-07/2019 dated 24.12.2019, wherein prior approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change for diversion of 2.7279 ha of forest land in favour of Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL) for Jagdishpur-Haldia-Bokaro-Dhamra UG pipeline under Bankura (N), Kangsabati (N) and Burdwan Forest Divisions, was sought in accordance with Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. After due consideration of the proposal by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, the in-principle approval for diversion of the said forest land was accorded by Ministry vide this office letter of even number dated 01.01.2020, subject to fulfillment of certain conditions. The Nodal Officer of the State Government has furnished compliance report in respect of the conditions stipulated in the in-principle approval and has requested to grant final approval of the proposal.

2. In this connection, I am to say that on the basis of the compliance report furnished by the APCCF (Nodal), West Bengal vide their letter No. 1271-FR/O/L/10T-07/2019 dated 22.12.2020 and uploading of the Stage-I compliance report in *Parivesh* web portal on 24.12.2020, **Stage-II/final** approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change is hereby granted under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 2.7279 ha of forest land in favour of Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL) for Jagdishpur-Haldia-Bokaro-Dhamra UG pipeline under Bankura (N), Kangsabati (N) and Burdwan Forest Divisions, subject to the fulfillment of the following conditions:-

- (i) Legal status of forest land proposed 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 be taken up by the Forest Department over 5.58 ha degraded forest land indentified in Kangsabati (N) Division (1.10 ha), Burdwan Division (3.26 ha) and Bankura (N) Division (1.22 ha) 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 C.A. Schemes over 5.58 ha of degraded forest land technically approved by Addl. PCCF (Nodal), West Bengal shall be implemented by the State Forest Department.

- (v) The 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) The pipeline shall be laid down 1.2 meter below the ground as proposed by the State Govt. and after laying down of pipe line the ground will be leveled.
- (vii) The layout of plan of the proposal shall not be changed without prior approval of Central Government.
- (viii) No labour camp shall be established on the forest land.
- (ix) Sufficient firewood, preferably the alternate fuel, shall be provided by the user agency to the labourer or any legal source of alternate fuel.
- (x) The boundary of the forest land being diverted shall be suitably demarcated on ground at the project cost, as per the directions of the concerned Divisional Forest Officer.
- (xi) No additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for transportation of construction materials for execution of the project work.
- (xii) The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal.
- (xiii) The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other user agency, department or person without prior approval of Govt. of India.
- (xiv) 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.
- (xv) Violation of any of these conditions will be dealt as per Para 1.21 (iii) of Chapter-1 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,

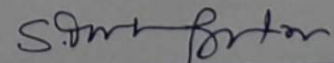


24.12.20
(Subrat Mohapatra)

Inspector General of Forests (C)
IRO, Kolkata

Copy to:-

1. The Asst. IGF (FC), Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh, New Delhi- 110 003.
2. The Addl. PCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Forest Department, Govt. of West Bengal, Aranya Bhawan, LA-10A, Sector-III, 4th to 6th Floor, Salt Lake City, Kolkata - 700 098.
3. The General Manager (Construction), GAIL (India) Ltd., 4th Floor, Finance Centre, CBD Action Area-II, Mothers Wax Museum Building, New Town, Kolkata-700156, West Bengal.



24.12.20
Inspector General of Forests (C)
IRO, Kolkata