



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-I/MH-187/2020-NGP /9741

Date: 24.05.2022

To,

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

Sub: Diversion of 1.1248 ha of Forest Land in favour of National Highway Authority of India (NHAI), P. I. U. Solapur for Upgradation of two lane into four lane of Khudus to Dharmapuri Section of NH-965 from Km 77/800 to Km 115/350 at Village- Morchi, Tal- Malshiras in Solapur District in the State of Maharashtra.

Sir,

The undersigned is directed to refer APCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Maharashtra vide his letter No. Desk-17/NC/II/ID 12787/(20)/353/2020-21 dated 10.08.2020 on the above subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. After careful examination of the proposal of the State Government, '**in-principle**' approval was accorded by the Central Government vide its letter of even number dated 17.02.2021. The Addl. PCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Maharashtra has now submitted a report on the compliance of conditions stipulated in the 'in-principle' approval and requested the Central Government to grant final approval to the proposal.

In this connection, I am directed to say that on the basis of compliance report submitted by the Addl. PCCF and Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Maharashtra, vide his letter no. Desk-17/NC/RS-II/ID-12787(21)/469/2021-22 dated 06.07.2021 and letter no. Desk-17/Nodal/Pune/ID-12787(21)/891/21-22 dated 31.08.2021, letter no. Desk-17/Nodal/Pune/ID-12787(21)/1200/21-22 dated 12.10.2021 and letter no. Desk-17/NODAL/PUNE/12787(NH)/214/21-22 dated 26.04.2022 forwarding additional information as sought vide this office letters of even no. dated 12.08.2021, 30.09.2021 and 29.10.2021, the Central Government hereby accords '**final approval**' under Section - 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 1.1248 ha of Forest Land in favour of National Highway Authority of India (NHAI), P. I. U. Solapur for Upgradation of two lane into four lane of Khudus to Dharmapuri Section of NH-965 from Km 77/800 to Km 115/350 at Village- Morchi, Tal- Malshiras in Solapur District in the State of Maharashtra subject to 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 2.25 ha degraded forest land in Gut No. 285 at Village- Khudus, Taluka- Malshiras, District- Solapur at the cost of the User Agency. As far as possible, a mixture of local indigenous species along with 10% RET species of Solapur

District shall be planted and monoculture of any species may be avoided. Atleast one water body shall be constructed in the form of tank/ stop dams etc if the same are not available in the area or in nearby vicinity;

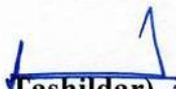
- iii. User agency shall restrict the felling of trees to minimum number in the diverted forest land and the trees shall be felled under the strict supervision of the State Forest Department and the cost of felling of trees shall be deposited by the User Agency with the State Forest Department;
- iv. The complete compliance of the FRA, 2006 shall be ensured by way of prescribed certificate from the concerned District Collector;
- v. 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 5,000 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;
- vi. State Forest Department shall undertake avenue plantation of 8 feet tall plants as per IRC norms at the cost of User Agency;
- vii. Speed regulating signage will be erected along the road at regular intervals in the Protected Areas/ Forest Areas;
- viii. The User Agency in consultation with Forest Department shall provide under/ over pass for safe passage of wild animals at suitable places as per Wildlife Institute of India's manual entitled "Eco-friendly Measures to Mitigate Impacts of Linear Infrastructure on Wildlife" published in 2016;
- ix. User Agency shall obtain Environmental Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if applicable;
- x. The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without prior approval of Central Government;
- xi. No labour camp shall be established on the forest land;
- xii. 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;
- xiii. 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;
- xiv. No additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for transportation of construction materials for execution of the project work;
- xv. 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;
- xvi. The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the project proposal;
- xvii. 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;

xviii. 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;

xix. 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;

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

Yours faithfully,


(C.B. Tashildar)
AIGF (Central)

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.


(C.B. Tashildar)
AIGF (Central)