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पर्यावरण वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS &
CLIMATE CHANGE
INTEGRATED REGIONAL OFFICE
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F.No. FC-I/CH-81/2017-NGP /995

Date: 28/10/2022

To,

Additional Chief Secretary (Forests),
Government of Chhattisgarh,
Forest Department, Mantralaya,
Mahanadi Bhavan, Nava Raipur, Atal Nagar (CG).

Sub: Diversion of 2.37 ha of forest land in favour of CSPTCL for construction of 132 KV DCDS Line from 220/132 KV SIS Parswani to 132/25 KV Railway Traction S/S Mahasamund Transmission Line under FCA, 1980 in Mahasamund District in the State of Chhattisgarh.

Sir,

Kindly refer to the State Government of Chhattisgarh letter no. krmank/F-5-57/2017/10-2 dated 26.08.2017 on the above subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government in accordance with Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. It is to say that after examination of the proposal of the State Government, 'in-principle' approval was accorded by the Central Government vide letter of even number dated 23.04.2018. Now, the State Government of Chhattisgarh, vide letter no. krmank/F-5-57/2017/10-2 dated 05.09.2022, has 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, It is informed that on the basis of compliance report submitted by the State Government of Chhattisgarh, vide letter no. krmank/F-5-57/2017/10-2 dated 05.09.2022, the Central Government hereby accords "**Final Approval**" under Section - 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 2.37 ha of forest land in favour of CSPTCL for construction of 132 KV DCDS Line from 220/132 KV SIS Parswani to 132/25 KV Railway Traction S/S Mahasamund Transmission Line under FCA, 1980 in Mahasamund District in the State of Chhattisgarh subject to the fulfilment of the following conditions:

- (i). Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged;
- (ii). Compensatory afforestation shall be taken up by the Forest Department over 5.00 Ha degraded forest land (Compartment- RF 69, Tehsil- Mahasamund, District- Mahasamund) 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;
- (iii). The User Agency shall transfer the cost of raising and maintaining the compensatory afforestation, at the current wage rate, to the State Forest Department. The scheme may include appropriate provision for anticipated cost increase for works scheduled for subsequent years;
- (iv). No approach road shall be constructed in the forest area for transportation of steel and other material required for the transmission line. As far as possible the User Agency shall use the existing road and the proposed RoW for the transportation of the material and in the event of non-availability of such facilities, the User Agency shall transport material manually without construction of any path.

- (v). The User Agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if required;
- (vi). No labour camp shall be established on the forest land;
- (vii). The User Agency shall provide firewood 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;
- (viii). The boundary of the diverted forest land shall be demarcated on ground at the project cost, by erecting four feet high reinforced cement concrete pillars, each inscribed with its serial number, forward and back bearing and distance from pillar to pillar;
- (ix). The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal;
- (x). The User Agency shall ensure that because of this project, no damage is caused to the wildlife available in the area;
- (xi). Width of right of way for the transmission line shall be limited to 27m;
- (xii). The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government.
- (xiii). The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agency, department or person without prior approval of the Central Government;
- (xiv). The user agency shall install circuit breakers at suitable places besides maintain necessary ground clearance to prevent electrocution of wild animals;
- (xv). No felling of trees shall be done during the construction of transmission line in the forest land.
- (xvi). To minimize the felling for construction of transmission line, user agency shall comply with the following guidelines:
 - a) Below each conductor, width clearance of 3 mts. would be permitted for carrying the tension stringing equipment. The trees on such strips may be felled but after stringing work is completed, the natural regeneration will be allowed to come up.
 - b) One outer strip may be left clear to permit maintenance of the transmission line;
 - c) In the remaining width the right of way felling/pollarding/pruning of trees will be done with the permission of the local forest officer whenever necessary to maintain the electrical clearance, trees shall be allowed to be felled or lopped to the extent required, for preventing electrical hazards by maintaining the minimum 4.0 meter clearance between conductors and trees. The sag and swing of the conductors are to be kept in view while working out the minimum clearance mentioned as above;
 - d) User agency in consultation with the State Forest Department prepare a detailed scheme for creation and maintenance of plantation of dwarf species (preferably medicinal plants) in right of way under the transmission line, and provide funds for execution of the said scheme to the State Forest Department; and
 - e) In case a portion of the transmission lines to be constructed is located in hilly areas, where adequate clearance is already available, trees shall not be cut;
- (xvii). The user agency in consultation with the State Government shall create and maintain alternate habitat/home for the avifauna, whose nesting trees are to be cleared in this project. Bird's nests artificially made out of eco-friendly material shall be used in the area, including forest area and human settlements, adjoining the forest area being diverted for the project;

- (xviii). The State Government shall ensure that process of settlement of rights, in terms of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, if any, has been completed in accordance with the Guidelines issued by the MoEF&CC in this regard;
- (xix). The User Agency shall submit six monthly self-compliance reports as on 1st January and 1st July of every year to this office as well as to the Nodal Officer of the State;
- (xx). The State Government shall monitor compliance of conditions of Forest Clearance and shall submit in this regard yearly report as on 31st December of every year;
- (xxi). Any other condition that the concerned Regional Office of this Ministry may stipulate, from time to time, in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife;
- (xxii). The User Agency and the State Government shall ensure compliance to provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations and Guidelines, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project; and
- (xxiii). 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.
- (xxiv). The compliance report shall be uploaded on e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>).

Yours faithfully,

Chubey
28/10/22

Chaturbhuja Behera
Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. The Inspector General of Forests (RoHQ), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jorbagh Road, Aliganj, New Delhi- 110003.
2. The PCCF & HoFF, Government of Chhattisgarh, Sector-19, Aranya Bhavan, Atal Nagar, Naya Raipur (CG).
3. The Addl. PCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Chhattisgarh, Sector-19, Aranya Bhavan, Atal Nagar, Naya Raipur (CG).
4. User Agency.
5. Guard File.

Chubey
28/10/22

Chaturbhuja Behera
Inspector General of Forests