



सत्यमेव जयते

भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
 पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS & CLIMATE
CHANGE**
Sub Office at Vijayawada of Regional Office, Chennai
Green House Complex, Gopal Reddy Road
Vijayawada-10, AP
email: *iro.vijayawada-mefcc@gov.in*



F.No.4-APB167/2022-VIJ/286

Date: As per e-sign

To.

The Special Chief Secretary to the Government of Andhra Pradesh,
 Environment, Forests, Science & Technology Department,
 Room No.268, 1st Floor, 4th Block, Andhra Pradesh Secretariat,
 Velagapudi, Amaravati Guntur District-522503

Subject: Diversion of 2.21 ha (revised from 1.36 ha) of forest land in Compartment Nos.238 & 239 of North Dhone RF, Dhone Range, Kurnool Division for construction of new double line and electrification track between Guntur and Guntakal Stations at Dhone (Rly km.325/4 to 359/2) in favour of Deputy Chief Engineer, Construction, Guntakal Division, South Central Railway - Reg.

Sir,

Please refer to the State Government's letter No 891/Section.II/2022(1699526) dated 27.04.2022, 981/Section.II/2022/1699526 dated 13.06.2023 and online application No. FP/AP/RAIL/149334/2021 seeking prior approval of the Government of India for diversion of forest land in accordance with Section'2' of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for the above-mentioned project. After careful consideration of the proposal, the In-principle (Stage-I) has been accorded vide letter no F.No.4-APB167/2022-VIJ/1005 dated 21.06.2023. The State Government has furnished complete compliance report on the conditions stipulated in the in-principle approval vide letter dated 19.10.2025 and 09.12.2025.

After careful consideration of the compliance report submitted by the State Government, I am directed to convey the Central Government's **Final Approval (Stage-II)** under Section '2' of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of **2.21 ha** (revised from 1.36 ha) of forest land in Compartment Nos.238 & 239 of North Dhone RF, Dhone Range, Kurnool Division for construction of new double line and electrification track between Guntur and Guntakal Stations at Dhone (Rly km.325/4

to 359/2) in favour of Deputy Chief Engineer, Construction, Guntakal Division, South Central Railway subject to the following conditions:-

1. The legal status of forest land shall remain unchanged;
2. The State Forest Department shall raise and maintain plantation in degraded forest land identified over an extent of 4.42 ha of DFL area has been identified for CA purpose in Compt No 237 & 238 of North Dhone RF, Dhone Beat, Section & Range from the funds to be provided by the User Agency;
3. The approved CA land and compensatory afforestation scheme shall not be changed without prior approval of the Central Government;
4. Considering the presence of fauna like Black Bucks, the User Agency shall construct underpass/culverts at appropriate places (based on the usual route/crossing places and other such places wherever required) and dimensions of such underpass / culverts shall depend on nature of fauna existing in and around forest area proposed for diversion;
5. All other mitigation measures required as per the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) prescribed for such linear projects shall be implemented, if necessary, at the cost of the User Agency;
6. Tree felling shall be carried out wherever necessary under the strict supervision of the DFO concerned;
7. While execution of the project, earth cutting involving excavation of huge quantity of materials, hence proper disposal plan to dispose such excavated material shall be implemented in consultation with the DFOs concerned and the UA shall not take soil from the nearby the forest areas for execution of the project and no additional path / road shall be made to execute the project.
8. Proper SMC plan shall be prepared and implement to check soil erosion, at the project cost;
9. Proper labour camps shall be constructed in the non-forest area and in any case, labour camp shall not be made within the RF area;
10. The DFOs shall monitor the project site regularly and submit such monitoring reports to the SO Vijayawada so as to take remedial measures, if required and the UA shall submit undertaking to comply with the same at the cost of the project;
11. Speed regulating signage will be erected along the railway line at regular intervals in the Protected Areas/ Forest Areas;
12. The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without prior approval of the Central Government;
13. Sufficient firewood, preferably the alternate fuel, shall be provided by the User Agency to the labourers after purchasing the same from the State Forest Department or the Forest Development Corporation or any other legal source of alternate fuel;
14. The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the project proposal;
15. The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred or sublet to any other agencies, department or person without prior approval of Govt. of India;
16. Pre-fabricated structures should be used to the maximum possible extent to reduce the extent of disturbance in the habitat;

17. The total forest area utilized for the project shall **not exceed 2.21 ha** and the forest area diverted shall not be used for any purpose other than those shown in the diversion proposal.
18. The User Agency and the State Government shall ensure compliance to the all acts, rules, regulation and guidelines of the Ministry, for the time being in force, as applicable to the railway line projects;
19. Any other conditions that the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change Regional Office, Chennai/Sub Office, Vijayawada (Central) 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;
20. Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and action would be taken as prescribed in para 1.16 of Chapter 1 of the Handbook of Comprehensive Guidelines of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 as issued by this Ministry's letter dated 29.12.2023.
21. The State Government, before issuing the final diversion order, shall ensure that the user agency has complied with all the provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, Hon'ble Court Order (s) and NGT Order (s), including compliance of Forest Rights Act, 2006, pertaining to this project, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project; and
22. The User Agency shall submit the annual self-compliance report in respect of the above stated conditions to the State Government, concerned Regional Office, Chennai/Sub Office, Vijayawada(Central) by the end of March every year regularly.
23. The User Agency has made payment Rs. **1,24,56,894/-** towards CA and NPV (Rs. 1,03,40,200/- towards CA and Rs. 21,16,694/- towards NPV). The levies paid by the UA shall be utilized for the same as per the approved plan/scheme.

Yours faithfully,

(Balaji Kari)
Assistant Inspector General of Forest

Copy to:

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Forests Department & HoFF, AP Forest Department, Aranya Bhavan, P.V.S. Land Mark, Ground Floor, Opposite to IHC Corporate, Industrial Park, Mangalagiri, Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh-522503
2. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests/Nodal Officer (FCA), Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Forests Department, Aranya Bhavan, P.V.S. Land Mark, Ground Floor, Opposite to IHC Corporate, Industrial Park, Mangalagiri, Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh-522503

3. The IGF, RO(HQ) Division, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhavan, Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj, New Delhi 110 003 for information
4. CEO, National CAMPA, Second floor, Agni Wing, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh, New Delhi 110 003
5. Deputy Chief Engineer, Construction, Guntakal Division, South Central Railway, Anantapur District, Andhra Pradesh-515801
6. Guard file