

SPEED POST

No. TR-2005/GEN / 922

August 19, 2005

To,

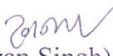
Shri Sandeep Kumar
Assistant Inspector General of Forests
Ministry of Environment & Forests
Paryavaran Bhawan, CGO Complex, Lodi Road
New Delhi – 110 003

Sub : Diversion of 77.87 ha of forest land for establishment of Gas Based Thermal Power Project in Udaipur Forest Division of South Tripura District of Tripura in favour of Tripura Power Development Company Private Limited.

Ref : Ministry's letter No. 8-60/2005-FC dated 19.07.2005.

Sir,

Referring to your letter above, I am to enclose herewith a copy of the site inspection report of the above project for further necessary action at your end.


(Khazan Singh)
Chief Conservator of Forests (C)

Site Inspection Report on the proposal of Govt. of Tripura for diversion of 77.87 ha of forest land for establishment of Gas Based Thermal Power Project at Palatara in Udaipur Division

Date of Inspection:

The project site was inspected by RCCF on 16.7.05 accompanied with following Officers.

1. Shri Tangwan PCCF, Tripura
2. Shri D.K.Sharma ,CF Southern Circle, Udaipur
3. Shri S. Chakarvorty, Manager (Tech & CO-ordination), Tripura State Power Regulatory Commission
4. Shri N. Deka, Chief Engineer, ONGC
5. Shri A.K. Singh, SE (Electrical), ONGC
6. Shri V. George Jenner, DFO, Udaipur

1. Legal status of the forest land proposed for diversion :

Chandrapur, Reserve Forest

2. Itemwise break up :

1. Power block	- 9.3 ha
2. Plant facilities	- 9.3 ha
3. Administration building	-10.93 ha
Fore station, 400 KV switch yard, stores security house	
4. Lay down area	- 17.4 ha
5. Stores open & closed	- 2.02 ha
6. Green belt	- 27.92 ha
7. water reservoir	- 2.42 ha

	79.29 ha

Out of which 4.73 Acres is private jote land so the forest area is 77.87 ha. However for which item of work private jote land will be used is not clear, which needs to be ascertained from User Agency.

3. Whether proposal involves any construction of building or not. If so detail thereof:

Following buildings are proposed in forest land

- (a) Administrative building - 10.93 ha

However it is not clear whether for plant facilities & lay down area any buildings are proposed. This needs clarification from User Agency.

4. Total cost of the project at present cost :

Rs. 38000 mn

5. wildlife :

Proposed area does not form part of Natiponal Park/Sanctuary or Biosphere Reserve.

6. Vegetation :

Total nos of trees involved - 964

It is a degraded forest consisting of Sal & its associates felling of trees will affect the local ecosystem. The area will become more open.

Important species

Sal & its associates

Above 60 cms = 961

Below 60 cms = 3

7. Background note :

To utilize commercially exploitable gas resources in Tripura leading to industrial development in the region and to facilitate growth in energy requirement Tripura Power Development Company Pvt. Ltd. (TPDCPL) proposes to implement a two phase (750 MW & 375 MW) Gas Based Combined cycle Power Project at Palatana in Udaipur District of Tripura.

The capacity of the project is proposed to be about 750 MW in the first phase and 375 MW in the second phase. The latest and highly efficient Advantage Class Machines (ACM's) will be used for this project. This would be the first instance of use of ACM's in the North eastern Region.

8. Compensatory Afforestation :

The degraded forest area of 381 acres selected for raising CA is suitable for CA.

CA area is in 3 patches. of 72 ha, 72 ha & 10 ha respectively

Map and detail has been given. These are plot No. 240, 572, 87, 2912, 2927 Khatian No. 72 2/2 2/3 Mouza South Tuibandel, Khedabari, Chardual under Tuibandel beat of Kakraban Forest Range.

Detail CA scheme given & total cost of raising CA & its maintenance upto 5 years works out to be Rs. 39,375/-.

9. Violation of FCA :

No violation has taken place.

10. whether proposal involves rehabilitation of displace person ; If yes, whether rehabilitation plan has been prepared by State Govt. or not

11 families are involved out of which 7 families belong to SC/ST.

However displacement of families is not involved as they live outside the project area, only their cultivated paddy lands (jote land) are involved.

No rehabilitation plan has been prepared. Only 5.39 acres of jote land is affected .

11. Reclamation Plan :

Not required.

12. Detail Catchment & Command area under project :

Not applicable.

13. Cost-benefit analysis :

Has been given in Annexure 7. But Cost-benefit ratio has not been worked out.

14. Recommendation of PCCF :

PCCF & State Govt. has recommended the case.

15. Utility of project :

During construction period of 3 years total manpower required is 3000 & during operation of the project = 250-300 persons.

Break up of SC/ST not given.

16. Whether land being diverted has any socio-cultural religious value :

No

17. Situation with respect to Protected Area:

The nearest Protected Area is Trishna Wildlife Sanctuary which is at a distance of 7.7 Km from proposed project site.

18. Recommendation of RCCF :

It is a proposal for diversion of 77.87 ha of forest land for establishment of a Gas Based Power Plant of 750 MW capacity in I phase.

The proposed plant would facilitate development of NE region through harvesting of natural gas resource of the State & trade of surplus with deficient regions in form of power which would be fed to National Power Grid.

Before deciding the present site the State Govt. explored three alternatives sites in Udaipur district. These are Gokalpur, Shilaghati & Tipania. The alternative sites were rejected for following reasons :

- | | | |
|-----------|---|---|
| Gokalpur | - | Accessibility of area is through thickly populated area |
| | - | Narrow approach road & difficulty in widening it |
| | - | Topography of the area highly undulating |
| Shilagati | - | For the same reason as Gokalpur |
| Tipania | - | Area is densely forested |
| | - | Village is close by |
| | - | Paddy fields within the plant |

The advantage of present site at Chandrapur RF

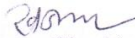
- Availability of about 200 acres of facility flat land
- Population density low, so displacement is minimum
- Close to highway for easy approach
- Security for gas & water pipeline

However, there are certain shortcomings in the project which needs clarifications from the User Agency & State Govt. :

1. The proposal is not comprehensive. It is only for establishment of power house. The source of gas & its distance from the proposed site & whether this would involve any forest area has not been indicated by User Agency. Similarly the water source is Gumti river but whether the water pipeline would pass through any forest area needs to be spelt out. In case no forest land is involved the User Agency should give an undertaking that no more forest land would be required for water pipeline & gas pipeline.

2. The area to be diverted is not clear. In the forwarding letter 77.87 ha forest area is indicated whereas in the Part II of the proposal area indicated is 76.54 ha which needs to be clarified.
3. Itemwise breakup of area is also not very clear. It is mentioned that for Power facilities 9.3 ha is required. The type of facilities are not spelt out. Similarly for lay down area 17.4 ha is indicated but item stores are reflected in both item No. 3 & 5. Whether item No. 5 is for temporary use, needs to be clarified.
4. The Forest Deptt. Is managing this forest under JFM management since 2003. There are 146 members & they are protecting 280 ha of forest area thus, sustaining 80 families of nearby area. So far R. 2.05 lakh has been funded under JFM activities.

In consideration of all above facts & after getting clarification from User Agency & State Govt., the proposal could be considered subject to the conditions as suggested by CF in Part III of the proposal.


(Khazan Singh)
Chief Conservator of Forests (C)