



भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS &
CLIMATE CHANGE

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FC-III/CH-22/2017-N3P | 2839 .

Dated: 03 November 2017.

To

✓ Principal Secretary (Forests),
Government of Chhattisgarh,
Forest Department,
Mantralaya, Mahanadi Bhavan,
New Raipur (CG).

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Sub: Diversion of 459.522 ha of Forest Land in favour of Chhattisgarh East West Rail Corridor Ltd., for Construction of East West Rail Corridor from Marwahi Forest Division (77.178 ha) and Katghora Forest Division (382.344 ha), under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in Bilaspur and Korba District in the State of Chhattisgarh.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the State Government of Chhattisgarh's letter no. F-5-65/2017/10-2 dated 12.10.2017 on the above subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section - 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and to say that scrutiny of the proposal in the Regional Office (WCZ) of the MoEF&CC at Nagpur revealed following:

- Date of submission of Part-II and its original copy, have not been mentioned by DCF, Marwahi. Further, names of signing authorities have not been mentioned in the Part-II and Part-III.
- Differential GPS maps of the area proposed for diversion as well as area identified for raising compensatory afforestation have not been submitted. The same needs to be submitted, along with soft copies of their KML/Shape files, by the State Government. →
- DCFs concerned have not certified that survey number pertaining to the non-forest land involved in the proposal do fall in the category of deemed forest land on which provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 are applicable.
- Girth wise abstract detail of tree enumeration has not been submitted along with the proposal. Further, Part-II submitted online mentioned density of 0.4 to 0.5 in Marwahi Forest Division while the State Government in its forwarding letter has mentioned density as 0.1 to 0.5. Discrepancy needs to be rectified by the State Government.
- Detail of CA sites submitted along with the proposal is inconsistent with the detail submitted online. As per CA details provided in online Part-II CA over 18 sites has been proposed involving an area of 1436.103 ha of forest land. Exact detail of sites identified for CA and their corresponding KML/Shape files needs to be uploaded on the online portal.
- Comprehensive details of compensatory afforestation stipulated and progress made thereof till date, in lieu of diversion of forest land under various categories in Forest Divisions of Marwahi and Katghora, has not been provided in the proposal. Further, progress of CA has been observed to be very slow as so far, compensatory afforestation has been undertaken only over 1256.186 ha and 1465.575 ha against the

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diverted forest land of 4,480.967 ha (47 cases) and 3,157.507 ha (18 cases) respectively in Bilaspur and Korba Districts.

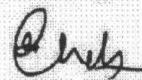
- vii. A report containing study conducted by the User Agency for the examination of alternatives and selection of final alignment, referred in the project justification note may be submitted by the State Government. Neither maps nor their KML/Shape files, depicting alternative alignments, have been submitted by the User Agency. Further, as per detail furnished in the justification note, no consultation was made with the State Forest Department before finalization of the alignment. Therefore, the certification of the alternative alignments by the DCFs concerned appears to have been made without physically verifying the information provided by the User Agency. A justification in this regard may be obtained from the DCFs concerned.
- viii. Examination of the cost benefit analysis, submitted along with the proposal, revealed that CB ratio exorbitantly high due to defective tools used for the estimation of parameters specified in the Guidelines dated 1.08.2017. CB analysis needs to be re-worked by applying appropriate techno-economic tools to suitably assess the parameters for assessment of losses and benefits of the project.
- ix. The proposal submitted in hard copy mentioned the area proposed for diversion as 459.522 ha while in the online portal area applied is 459.523 ha. Similarly, certain documents submitted along with the proposal mentioned area as 478.161 ha and 458.523 ha. Discrepancy may be rectified by the State Government.
- x. Area calculation statement has not been submitted along with the proposal. Complete area calculation statement, tabular form, indicating length and breadth, for each forest patch may be submitted by the State Government. Details of area of forest patches being bifurcated from the proposed alignment, indicating area on both left and right hand sides, may also be submitted by the State Government.
- xi. Component wise breakup of the forest land proposed land, if applicable, may be provided by the State Government.
- xii. Certificates from the DCFs concerned certifying the barest minimum requirement of forest land, location of project outside Pas/WLS, location of protected archaeological/ heritage site/defence establishment sites, no violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 etc. have not been submitted along with the proposal.
- xiii. As per details of flora and fauna submitted along with the proposal, it is observed that area is inhabited by several Schedule-I and Critically Endangered species. Comments of the PCCF (Wildlife) on the impact of the project on the schedule-I species and requirement of a plan, if any, for special protection and conservation measures of the species and other important wildlife in the area have not been submitted along with the proposal.
- xiv. A cross-sectional map depicting the RoW proposed for the construction of railway line and other ancillary structures proposed in the RoW may be submitted by the State Government.
- xv. Examination of the compliance of Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 revealed that complete documentary evidences in support of settlement of rights under the Act needs to be submitted in accordance with clause (a) of Form-I annexed to the MoEF&CC's advisory dated 5.07.2013.
- xvi. The State Government may obtain an undertaking from the User Agency in accordance with the provisions of the Guidelines dated 7.01.2013 issued by the MoEF&CC in this regard.
- xvii. Copy of R&R Plan for the displacement of 1644 families proposed to be displaced during the construction of the project has not been submitted along with the proposal.

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- xviii. The State Government may furnish its comments on construction, if any undertaken by the User Agency on Forest/Revenue Forest land especially from Km 98 to 135 Km without prior approval of Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and also complete detail of area involved in the project i.e. including the connecting railway line from the mine head to the main railway corridor.
- xix. Detail of total forest land involved in the all three Corridor of the project and status of grant of forest clearance may be intimated by the State Government.
- xx. Details of employment potential in terms of man days of skilled, semiskilled and unskilled persons on permanent (direct and indirect) and temporary (direct and indirect) basis have not been provided.

In view of the above, I am directed to request the State Government to submit the information on the shortcomings, as indicated above, to the Regional Office for further necessary action in the matter.

Yours faithfully,


(Charan Jeet Singh)
Scientist 'C'

Copy to:

1. The PCCF, Government of Chhattisgarh, Raipur
2. The Nodal Officer FCA, O/o of the PCCF, Government of Chhattisgarh, Raipur.
3. User Agency.
4. Guard File.


(Charan Jeet Singh)
Scientist 'C'