

I/3039/2020

**Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(FC Division)**

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Aliganj, Jor Bag Road,
New Delhi - 110003.

Dated: 24th November, 2020

To

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Government of Chhattisgarh
Mahanadi Bhawan, Naya Raipur
(Chhattisgarh)

Sub: Proposal for non-forestry use of 255.3 ha of forest land under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in favour of Dy Director Achanakmar Tiger Reserve (ATR) for relocation of villages in Mungeli Forest Division from the core area of ATR in Bilaspur District (Chhattisgarh) - reg.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the State Govt.'s letter No. No. F 5-13/2020/10-2 dated 14.10.2020 on above mentioned subject, seeking prior approval of the Central Govt. under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and to say that preliminary scrutiny of the proposal revealed following shortcomings:

- i. Proposal involves relocation of total 133 families for which an area of 255.3 ha of forest land been proposed for rehabilitation of three villages. Detailed area calculation statement i.e. forest area proposed for allotment per family and basis of calculation relied thereof and purpose wise breakup of the area proposed for various amenities has not been reported in the proposal.
- ii. The State Govt. may also intimate, if area proposed for various components of rehabilitation has been rationalized based on certain standardized parameters prescribed/developed in this regard or requirement of proposed area is arbitrary based on the observations and estimations of the state officials.
- iii. In the first phase, 6 villages have been reported to be relocated from the ATR. Detail of area where 6 villages have been relocated in first phase, forest area, if any, involved and prior approval obtained, etc has not been mentioned in the proposal. Status of relocation done from ATR so far, may be submitted along with maps may be submitted by the State.
- iv. The State Govt. is requested to confirm if the proposal is in compliance of guidelines dated 22.05.2019 issued by MoEF&CC which, *inter alia*, provides that area proposed for rehabilitation should be equal to the area proposed to be vacated from the Protected Area. Compliance of said Guidelines by the State Govt. cannot be ascertained as the detail of area proposed to be vacated has not been provided in the proposal. The same needs to be provided by the State along with its differential GPS and kml/shape files. Further, total area of villages to be relocated, falling in Core/Buffer Area of ATR along with the legal status of land may also be indicated.
- v. As per earlier proposal, a total of five villages were to be relocated from the ATR, while the extant proposal envisages relocation of three villages only, status of relocation of remaining two villages needs to be intimated by the State.
- vi. Comments of the State on the requirement of forest land proposed earlier for

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relocation of five villages needs to be furnished. In case the forest land proposed in the old proposal is not required by the State, the same needs to be withdrawn by the State. Comments in this regard needs to be obtained from the State.

vii.R&R Plan proposed to be implemented for the rehabilitation of the villagers from the ATR may be submitted by the State Govt.

The State Govt. is, therefore, requested to furnish the information, as indicated above, to this Ministry for further consideration of the proposal.

Yours faithfully

sd/-

(Surender Mehra)

Deputy Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. The PCCF&HoFF, Govt.of Chhattisgarh, Raipur
2. The Nodal Officer, O/o the PCCF, Govt.of Chhattisgarh, Raipur
3. Regional Officer, Integrated Regional Office, Raipur
4. User Agency
5. Monitoring Cell of FC Division
6. Guard file