

F. No. 8-41/2016-FC
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road,
New Delhi: 1100 03,
Dated: 03 November, 2016

To

The Special Secretary to Government (Forests),
Environment, Forests, Science & Technology Department,
Andhra Pradesh Secretariat,
Hyderabad,

Sub: Proposal for diversion of forest lands for establishment of Industrial hub in favour of Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation Limited (APIIC Ltd.)-reg.,

Sir,

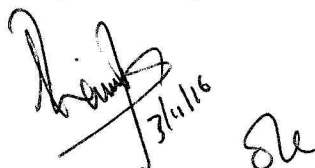
I am directed to refer to the State Government of Andhra Pradesh's letters No. 3744/Section. II/2016 dated 14.09.2016, No. 3742/Section.II/2016 dated 14.09.2016, No.3043/Section.II/ 2016 dated 14.09.2016 and No. 3743/Section.II/2016 dated 09.09.2016 forwarding the following proposals for seeking prior approval of the Central Government in accordance with Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980:

S. No	Letter No. and date	Proposed forest area for diversion	Compartment details	Purpose
1.	No.3744/Section. II / 2016.dated 14.09.2016	1018.22 Ha	Compartment Nos. 209, 211 and 212 of Nallajerla R.F., Eluru Division	Establishing home and building products Hub as Nallajerla Industrial zone
2.	No.3742/Section. II / 2016.dated 14.09.2016	1017.27 Ha	Compartment Nos.216 to 220 of Unguturu I & II Block Eluru Division	For Energy and logistic support
3.	No.3043/Section.II/ 2016 dated 14.09.2016	1137.57 Ha	Compartment No. 210, 213, 214, 215 Nallajerla – II R.F., Eluru Division	Establishing Bio Technology Hub
4.	No. 3743/Section.II/2016 dated 09.09.2016	1294.94 Ha	Compartment Nos. 199, 200, 201, Ramasingavaram Forest Block, of Eluru Division	Establishing of Mega food processing Hub

2. After examining the above said proposals, the following shortcomings noticed:

- (i) **The activities proposed are non-site specific**
- (ii) **The gram sabha resolutions for entire area proposed have not been attached with FRAs.** The State Govt. has submitted FRA Certificates in all four proposals without signature of concerned Collector & District Magistrate indicating documents is digitally signed and no physical signature is required.
- (iii) The shape file / KML file of the forest land proposed for diversion, and proposed area for Compensatory Afforestation in each project is not given.

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- (iv) The proposed area for diversion is 4468 ha. by one user agency only i.e. Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation Limited (APIIC Ltd.). However, a consolidated proposal is not submitted for prior approval of this Ministry under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for consideration
3. The forest cover of Andhra Pradesh is significantly less than the National average. Moreover, with the projects being non site specific, attention is drawn towards the provisions of the guidelines as stipulated under para 2.1(vii) 3 of the Handbook of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 regarding "*Diversion for non-site specific projects*" states that: - *A large number of proposals for diversion of forest land for non-site specific projects like industries, construction of residential colonies, institutes, disposal of fly ash, rehabilitation of displaced persons, etc. are received by the Central Government. Normally, there should not be any justification for locating non-site-specific projects on forest land.*
4. In view of above, I am directed to inform that the above said proposals have been considered in the Ministry and to request the State Government to explore the existing alternatives actively and must give complete justification establishing in-escapability for locating the project in forest area.

This issue with the approval of competent authority

Yours faithfully,


(Rajagopal Prashant)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests (FC)

Copy to:-

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad.
2. The Nodal Officer, under FCA, 1980 O/o PCCF, Forest Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad.
3. The Addl. PCCF, Regional Office, Chennai (SEZ).
4. User Agency.
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF & CC, New Delhi.
6. Guard File.


(Rajagopal Prashant)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests (FC)

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