



No.5-ORC618/2023-BHU

13<sup>th</sup> December, 2023

To

The Addl. Chief Secretary,  
Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department,  
Government of Odisha,  
Kharavel Bhavan, Bhubaneswar- 751001.

Sub: Diversion of 33.152 ha of forest land for construction of Bhalumaska-Singapur Doubling Railway project from 128.95 Km to 163.725 Km under Rayagada Forest Division by Deputy Chief Engineer (Con)-II, East Coast Railway, Rayagada, Odisha.

Ref: State Govt. letter No.FE-DIV-FLD-0104-2023-24598/FE&CC dated 25.11.2023.

Sir,

With subject and reference cited above, I am directed to inform that the State Govt. vide letter under reference has submitted the above mentioned proposal to this office seeking prior approval of Central Government under Section-2 of Forests (Conservation) Act, 1980. On scrutiny of the proposal, the following has been observed.

- The State Govt. has identified notified degraded forest land for raising CA in lieu of forest land proposed for diversion. The Nodal Officer (FCA) has accepted the proposal on 09.02.2023, the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Rules, 2022 shall apply to the proposal. The exception given for Central Govt. agencies for CA over twice the degraded forest land is not applicable to the instant project, since the instant forest diversion proposal involves 16.503 ha of non-forest land for execution of the project. Therefore, State Govt. should identify equivalent non-forest land for raising CA and submit details CA Scheme with relevant Maps and KML file.
- Earlier Ministry vide letter No.8-80/87-FC dated 08.09.1987 has accorded final forest clearance for diversion of 901.53 ha of forest land for construction of Koraput-Rayagada Railway line. The State Govt. has not furnished the status of compliance of stipulated conditions of final forest clearance dated 08.09.1987.

It is therefore requested to kindly furnish information on the above observation to this office for further processing of the proposal.

Yours faithfully,

*Padma Mahanti*

(Padma Mahanti)

Dy. Inspector General of Forests (C)

Copy to:

- The PCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Forest Department, Govt. of Odisha, Aranya Bhawan, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar – 751 023 for kind information and necessary action.
- The Dy. Chief Engineer (Con-II)/VSKP, East Coast Railway, Rayagada-765001, Odisha for information and necessary action.

Dy. Inspector General of Forests (C)