F. No. 8-31/2019-FC
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(FC Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Aliganj, Jor Bag Road,
New Delhi - 110003.
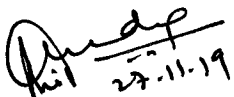**Dated: 27ᵗʰ November, 2019**

To

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Government of Maharashtra
Mumbari..

Sub: Proposal for diversion of 374.75 ha of forest land under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for rehabilitation of Rantalodhi Village of Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve in compartment No. 14-B, District Chandrapur of the State of Maharashtra.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the State Government's letter No. FLD-2019/C.R. 291/F-10 dated 04.11.2019 on above mentioned subject, seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and to say that preliminary scrutiny of the proposal revealed following shortcomings:

i. Information on non-forestry works, if any carried out on the said forest land granted in the year 2002, has not been made available by the State Government. Further, no request for the withdrawal of the earlier proposal has been received from the State Government so far. In case, the State Government is not interested in said forest land, a formal request to withdraw/close the proposal may be submitted by the State Government.

ii. Requirement of forest land appears to has been exaggerated. The State Government needs to rationalize the area requirement in light of the following:

    a. As per the earlier approval granted in the year 2002, an area of 180 ha was sought for rehabilitation of the Rantalodhi village. Current proposal envisage rehabilitation over more than double the area sought earlier. Justification for sharp increase in the area requirement needs to be furnished by the State Government.

    b. An area of 138.84 ha was approved for agriculture in the year, however, under the current proposal, requirement for agriculture has been shoot up to 200 ha which does not seems to be prudent. Accordingly, State Government needs to optimize the area for the same. Similarly, requirement of 35 ha proposed for civic amenities without any supporting detail, also needs to be rationalized by the State Government.

    c. Area from the TATR proposed to be vacated is 175.26 ha while in lieu of the same, an area of 374.75, more than double, is proposed for rehabilitation without any valid and convincing justification. The State Government needs to optimize the area requirement in accordance with the provisions provided
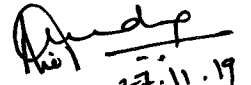
in the guidelines dated 20.05.2019 issued by the MoEF&CC, pursuant to the order dated 28.01.2019 passed by Hon'ble Supreme Court.

    d. The State Government, after optimization of the area proposed for rehabilitation may provide an area change matrix in comparison to 180 ha approved in the year 2002.

    e. The State Government 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.

(i)   The State Government is also requested to submit a maps along with KML/Shape files of 175.26 ha of area being vacated by the villagers from the TATR.

(ii)   Recommendation of the PCCF in Part-IV of Form-A have not been uploaded in the online proposal. The same needs to be uploaded by the authority concerned.

(iii)   R & R Plan proposed to be implemented for the rehabilitation of the villagers from the TATR may be submitted by the State Government.

iii.

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

Yours faithfully

27.11.19

(Brijendra Swaroop)
Deputy Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:
1. The Principle Secretary (Forest), Government of Maharashtra, Mumbai
2. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Maharashtra, Nagpur
3. The Nodal Officer, O/o the PCCF, Government of Maharashtra, Nagpur
4. User Agency
5. Monitoring Cell of FC Division
6. Guard file