



OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS, ROURKELA CIRCLE,
AT/P.O. PANPOSH, ROURKELA-769 004.

Memo No. 2532 /3F(Misc)1127/2021 Date: 02.08.2022

To

The Chief Conservator of Forests
(Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer, FC Act),
O/o the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,
Odisha, Bhubaneswar.

Sub: Diversion of 18.389 ha of Revenue forest land for widening of loading platform at Sardega Railway Station under Sundargarh Forest Division by South Eastern Railway, Jharsuguda.- GoI Observations regarding.

Ref: 1. Letter No.5-ORC516/2022-BHU Dated 23.05.2022 of ERO, MoEF & CC, GoI
2. Your Memo No.10910 Dtd.27.05.2022
3. Memo No.4918 Dtd. 01.08.2022 of DFO, Sundargarh Division.

With reference to the aforecited Memos on the captioned subject, the DFO, Sundargarh Division vide his Memo No. 4917 Dtd. 01.08.2022 addressed to the undersigned and copy thereof endorsed to you in the next Memo of even date has submitted the point-wise compliance report with the observations made vide Letter F.No. 5-ORC516/2022-BHU Dated 23.05.2022 by GoI, MoEF & CC in respect of the above project which may kindly be perused.

The point-wise compliance submitted by the DFO, Sundargarh Division is as follows:-

(a) The DFO, Sundargarh has reported that no violation has been committed by the user agency under FC Act, 1980. However, as per KML file submitted by the user agency, it is observed that the user agency has already constructed/widened the loading platform over forest land in plot No. 581 in violation of FC Act, 1980.

The DFO, Sundargarh has reported that, the portion of Loading platform which has been constructed/widened over an area of 2.8Ac in plot no. 581 has already been included in the diversion proposal approved by MOEF & CC, Govt. Of India vide letter no. F.NO.8-67/2013-FC of dt. 11.06.2014(copy enclosed). Now the balance portion of 9.07 Ac which is part of plot no.581 has been applied for diversion for the purpose of Construction/Widening of the Loading Platform in this proposal. The DFO, Sundargarh has already visited the site and found that, no construction in the proposed Forest Diversion area is there. Therefore, no violation has been committed by the User Agency.

(b) The DFO, Sundargarh has not uploaded the details C.A Scheme prepared by him & NOC issued by the competent authority for C.A land in Parivesh wed portal.

As reported by the DFO, Sundargarh Division, the Compensatory Afforestation Scheme over 40.662 ha has been prepared and uploaded in the Parivesh Portal. The NOC for CA land was submitted with approval of Tahasildar, Himgir duly authenticated both the DGPS & CA map. The same was uploaded in the Parivesh Portal. However, letter of allocation of the said identified land by Collector & District Magistrate, Sundargarh has not been submitted. Hence, the User Agency has been asked to submit the allocation letter vide this Office letter No.4817 dt.28.07.2022. However, as per the instructions in the meeting at IRO Bhubaneswar, chaired by DDGF, MoEF & CC, IRO, Bhubaneswar, the allocation letter from Collector has not been insisted upon.

(c) The C.A Scheme has not been technically approved by the competent authority of the State Govt.

As reported by the DFO, Sundargarh Division, the CA Scheme over 40.662 ha has been prepared and submitted along with the forest diversion proposal to the higher quarter vide this Office memo No.1468 dt.17.03.2022.

(d) As per DSS report, it is observed that a non-metal road is passing through the C.A Patch-3 and some portion is also encroached by human settlement.

As reported by the DFO, Sundargarh Division, the non-metal road as seen in the map has already been excluded from the CA area. Similarly the paddy field and human settlement have also been excluded from the CA area. After exclusion of both 40.662 ha area is available for Compensatory afforestation purpose, which is more than double the extent of diverted land.

(e) As per Para 2.8 (ii) of Handbook of FC act guidelines C.A over degraded forest land C.A Scheme shall be prepared for minimum 1000 saplings per hectare of identified C.A land thus, total 40,662 nos. of saplings needs to be planted. However, the DFO, Sundargarh has proposed for planting of total 18,493 nos. of seedlings over 40.662 ha of degraded revenue forest land Hence, State Govt. has to identify additional degraded forest land to plant balance 22,169 nos. of seedlings.

As reported by the DFO, Sundargarh Division, the Site specific Compensatory Afforestation Scheme was prepared as per the plantation suitability based on the field visit by the Range Officer, Gopalpur 18,493 nos. of seedlings to be planted over 40.662 Ha of degraded revenue forest land of Plot No.549, 569,731,746,748,728 under Khata No.75 in Village Kalobahal of Gopalpur Range under Hemgir Tahasil. (ANR 34.537ha @ 500 Plants per ha & ANR over 6.125ha @ 200 Plants per ha). This Site Specific Compensatory Afforestation was sent to higher quarter vide this Office memo No.1468 dt.17.03.2022.

But, as per the above objection vide letter No.5-ORC516/2022-BHU dt.23.05.2022 of IRO MoEF, Bhubaneswar, the User Agency was asked to find suitable Degraded Revenue Forest Land (DRFL) patch for plantation of balance no. of seedling vide this Office letter No.2903 dt.31.05.2022. For the identification and submission this DRFL patch for plantation of balance no. of seedling, the User Agency took time and could not submit it till today.

This was later clarified in the discussions in the meeting held on 29.07.2022 at 11.30 AM in conference hall of IRO by Deputy Director General of Forests, MoEF & CC, Bhubaneswar. Where he impressed upon the fact that the condition of plantation of 1000 nos. of seedling/ha of compensatory afforestation land has been deleted, as per Forest Conservation Rules, 2022(notified on 28.06.2022). Hence, as per the new developments, for compliance of this objection, it is requested by the DFO, Sundargarh that, the Compensatory Afforestation Scheme over 40.662Ha (Six patches) of degraded revenue forest land of Plot No.549, 569, 731, 746, 748 & 728 under Khata No.75 in Village Kalobahal of Gopalpur Range under Hemgir Tahasil with a financial outlay of Rs.2,84,45,152/- (Including One Time Cost Norm along with 18 month old seedlings) is to be accepted and approved.

The copy of the compensatory afforestation Scheme submitted by the DFO, Sundargarh is enclosed herewith for favour of your kind information and necessary action.

Encl: As above.

Regional Chief Conservator of Forests,
Rourkela Circle

Memo No. 2533 Date: 01.08.2022

Copy forwarded to the Divisional Forest Officer, Sundargarh Division for information and necessary action with reference to his Memo No. 4917 Dtd. 01.08.2022.

Regional Chief Conservator of Forests,
Rourkela Circle