

Government of Odisha  
Forest and Environment Department

-0-

10F (Cons) 294/2016 14.2.2016 F&E dated 06.07.17

From

Sri Debidutta Biswal, IFS  
Special Secretary to Government

To

The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Central),  
Government of India, Ministry of Environment and Forests & Climate Change,  
Eastern Regional Office, A-3, Chandrasekharapur,  
Bhubaneswar

**Sub:** Proposal for diversion of 14.530 ha. of forest land for construction of Aherajore Irrigation (Barrage with canal) Project at village Debadarah and other villages coming within the canal alignment in Lakhanpur Block of Jharsuguda District, Odisha

Sir,

I am directed to invite reference to GoI, MoEF&CC, Eastern Regional Office letter F.No. 5-ORC308/2016-BHU dt. 23.2.2017 on the above mentioned subject and to say that the MoEF&CC, Eastern Regional Office had communicated certain observations pertaining to above cited forest diversion proposal and requested the State Government to provide information/compliance thereon. The Addl. PCCF(Forest Diversion) & Nodal Officer, FC Act vide his letter No. 15039 dt. 28.6.2017 has furnished required compliance, based on which the point wise compliance of such observations are furnished below.

**Observation (1):** *During Power Point Presentation, it was observed that if the barrage is constructed at about 90 meter below the proposed site on the river, important forest can be saved. This possibility may be technically explored.*

**Compliance:** In compliance to the above, based on the report of DFO, Jharsuguda, it has been intimated that the feasibility of constructing the Aherajore barrage at about 90 mtr below the proposed area, has been explored by the User Agency. As submitted by the User Agency, shifting of the existing barrage to another site, as suggested by ERO, may not be feasible on the following grounds.

- The submergence area in the Barrage Pond shall increase to 20.20ha from current submergence of area 18.15ha.
- The submergence of forest area will increase from the current extent of 3.21ha to 4.32ha.

- The river is getting flatter in downstream and therefore the length of the barrage shall become 265mtr. from the current requirement of 177mtr. which would increase by 52.3% leading to very high project cost.
- Since the river bank at 90mtr. downstream of the current site is not confined and no rocky outcrop is visible at river bed, the geology is not suitable for construction of Barrage from geological view point.
- In case of lowering of the principal levels, the ayacut area shall decrease and thereby intended benefits would not be extended to be beneficiaries.

**Observation (2):** *During Power Point Presentation, it was observed that the coordinates of the barrage & canal system have not been properly aligned. The alignment of the canal may be changed which is wrongly going across the contour. The correct shape file clearly showing the barrage & canal system need to be submitted.*

**Compliance:** In this context, based on the submission of User Agency, it has been reported that the co-ordinates of the barrage and canal system have been properly aligned. The canal alignment is taken as per contour and any alternation of the canal alignment if considered at this stage, either requires more forest area or leading to reduction in the ayacut area. Further, the canal might get affected by the back-water drainage from the Hirakud Reservoir. Hence, the alignment of canal may not be changed. The correct shape file clearly showing the barrage & canal system is submitted herewith.

**Observation (3):** *The FRA certificate has been issued in two types of forms i.e. Form-I for linear projects and Form-II for non-linear projects. However, the proposal is for construction of barrage including canal system. Hence, this project is to be considered as non-linear project and accordingly, a single FRA Certificate may be furnished.*

**Compliance:** As informed earlier, this irrigation project has two components i.e. canal(linear) and barrage pond(non-linear) for which user agency has filed this proposal online as a HYBRID project and accordingly the relevant fields were filled/uploaded by the project proponent in the portal of the Ministry and the same was processed accordingly by the State Government. Accordingly, as per the MoEF&CC's guideline No.F. No.11-9/98-FC (pt) dated 5<sup>th</sup> July 2013 prescribing separate formats for linear and non-linear projects, FRA certificates, as applicable for both Non-linear portion (Barrage pond/reservoir) in Form II and Linear portion (Canal) in Form I has been obtained from the District Collector, Jharsuguda. In this context, it is further explained that the submergence portion (Barrage pond) of the project affects limited no. of villages/ population and as per the prescriptions

of the MoEF&CC. Grama Sabhas of project affected villages were carried out in these areas for issuing FRA Certificate pertaining to forest land in barrage area in Form II. Similarly, the canal is aligned through several villages and are considered a boon for the local population as they would be directly benefited by the irrigation project. Besides, canal being a linear project, Collector, Jharsuguda had furnished certificate in Form I as prescribed by MoEF&CC. Therefore keeping in view of both linear and non-linear nature of project, the certificates furnished by the Collector, Jharsuguda in two forms may be accepted.

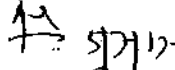
**Observation (4):** *As per the norm of CAT plan, 2% to 3% of the project cost is to be earmarked for CAT plan. However, in this project the cost of CAT plan is less than 2%. Hence, the CAT plan may be modified earmarking 3% of the project cost towards implementation of CAT plan. The increase in allocation of CAT plan to be used for treatment of water harvesting structures.*

**Compliance:** In compliance to the above, the revised Catchment Area Treatment Plan has been prepared which has been technically approved by Addl. PCCF, Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer, FC Act amounting Rs.1,30,57,800/-. Copy of revised CATP is enclosed as **Annexure-I**. The revised cost of CATP is more than 2% of the total project cost of this irrigation project (Rs. 55.9965 crores).

Above compliances of the observations may be considered by the Eastern Regional Office of the Ministry and in-principle approval of MoEF&CC, GoI, Eastern Regional Office for this irrigation project may be communicated to this department for further follow up action at this end.

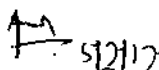
Yours faithfully

Encl: In two sets

  
Special Secretary to Government

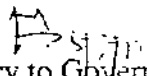
Memo No. 14207 /F&E., Dated- 06-07-17

Copy forwarded to the Pr.C.C.F., Odisha /Principal Chief Conservator of Forests(WL) & CWLW, Odisha for information & necessary action with reference to letter No. 15039 dt. 28.6.2017 of the Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests(Forest Diversion) & Nodal Officer, FC Act, O/O PCCF, Odisha.

  
Special Secretary to Government

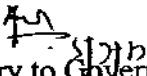
Memo No. 14208 /Dated. 06-07-17

Copy forwarded to the Regional Chief Conservator of Forests, Sambalpur Circle  
Divisional Forest Officer, Jharsuguda for information and necessary action.

  
Special Secretary to Government

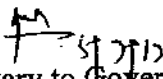
Memo No. 14209 /Dated. 06-07-17

Copy forwarded to the Water Resources Department/Collector, Jharsuguda for  
information and necessary action.

  
Special Secretary to Government

Memo No. 14210 /Dated. 06-07-17

Copy forwarded to the Executive Engineer, IB Investigation Division, Sundargarh, Dist.  
Sundargarh Pin 770020 for information and necessary action.

  
Special Secretary to Government