



STATE FOREST HEADQUARTERS
OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS & HOFF
PLOT NO.GD/2/12, ARANYA BHAWAN, CHANDRASEKHARPUR
BHUBANESWAR-751023

No. 24041 /9F(RLY)- 413/2021
Dated, Bhubaneswar, the 28th November, 2022

From

Sri Susanta Nanda, IFS
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer, FC Act
O/o the PCCF & HoFF, Odisha

To

The Deputy Director General of Forests (Central)
Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
Integrated Regional Office, A/3 Chandrasekharpur
Bhubaneswar-751023

Sub: Diversion of 594.618 ha (292.289 ha in Nayagarh Forest Division and 302.329 ha in Boudh Forest Division) of forest land in connection with Khurda- Bolangir New BG Rail Link Project 112 Km to 180 Km under Nayagarh and Boudh Forest Division by East Coast Railway.

Ref: Letter No. 5-ORA528/2022- BHU dated 20.09.2022 of the Dy. Inspector General of Forest (Central), GoI, MoEF & CC, IRO, Bhubaneswar.

Sir,

In reference to the above mentioned subject, this is to inform that the Government of India, MoEF & CC, IRO, Bhubaneswar had deferred the proposal in the REC meeting held on 20th September, 2022 with certain observations with a request to furnish compliances for non-forestry use of 594.618 ha of forest land in favour of East Coast Railway in Boudh & Nayagarh District. The user agency has furnished the compliances and subsequently DFO of Boudh & DFO, Nayagarh have submitted the point wise compliances after due examination and accordingly, I am to submit the information as below on the observation of REC:-

Observation (1):- As the proposed railway line is in the elephant impact zone and elephant corridor, so elephant overpasses, underpasses and viaducts at appropriate positions as identified by the local Divisional Forest Officer should be constructed, fencing of the railway line towards the sanctuary side should be done so that elephant will not enter the track and will use the under passes and overpasses.

Compliance:- In compliance to the above, the DFO, Boudh Division & Nayagarh Division have reported that the user agency has furnished an undertaking that as the proposed railway line is in the elephant impact zone and elephant corridor, elephant overpasses, underpasses and viaducts at appropriate positions as identified by the local Divisional Forest Officer would be constructed, fencing of the railway line towards the sanctuary side shall be done so that elephant will not enter the track and will use the under passes and overpasses, which are enclosed as **Annexure-I & I (a)**.

Observation (2):- *Speed of the train should be less than 20 Km per hour in the stretch and Forest Department/ Railway Authority should regularly inform each other regarding the movement of elephant so that the train can be stopped without harm to elephants as and when required.*

Compliance:- In compliance to the above, the DFO, Boudh & Nayagarh Division have reported that the condition has already been incorporated in the approved Site Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan duly approved by PCCF (WL) & CWLW, Odisha vide his Memo No. 9733 dated 28.10.2022, which is enclosed as **Annexure-II**.

Observation (3):- *A Comprehensive Wildlife Management Plan should be prepared addressing all the issues raised during the site inspection/REC meeting, not only for safety of elephant but also for all the wildlife found in the locality duly approved by CWLW.*

Compliance:- In compliance to the above, the DFO, Boudh & Nayagarh Division have reported that the Site Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan has been prepared and approved by the PCCF (WL) & CWLW, Odisha Bhubaneswar addressing the safety of elephant, other Wildlife and habitat management vide his letter No. 8564 dated 22.09.2022 (**Copy enclosed as Annexure-III**) with additional condition i.e. speed of the train should be less than 20 Km per hour in the stretch and Forest Department/ Railway Authority should regularly inform each other regarding the movement of elephant, so that the train can be stopped without harm to elephants as and when required has been incorporated in the approved Wildlife Conservation Plan as intimated vide his Memo No. 9732 dated 28.10.2022 of the PCCF (WL) & CWLW, Odisha.

Observation (4):- *From the DSS as well as the site inspection report, it appears that the proposed railway line is very close to the boundary of Baisipalli Wildlife Sanctuary (From Buguda Colony to Baniguchha, approximately 15 KM). As per the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India order in IA No. 1000 of 2003 dated 03.06.2022, the Railway Authority should realign the above stretch keeping in view the minimum distance 1 KM from the boundary of Baisipalli Wildlife Sanctuary.*

Compliance:- In compliance to the above, considering the representation of the project proponent dated 18.11.2022 (Copy enclosed as **Annexure-IV**) the PCCF & HoFF has passed an order that this project is an ongoing project and construction of railway line is not one of the prohibited activities in the ESZ, as per the 9th February, 2011 guideline issued by Ministry of Environment & Forest, Government of India and more ever this phase of the Railway line project, i.e. 112 Km to 180 Km

stretch is permitted as per Para 44 (e) of the judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India dated 03.06.2022 in IA No. 1000 of 2003 subject to forest clearance as it involves forest land (Copy enclosed as Annexure-V).

The DFO, Nayagarh Division in her compliance has further mentioned that, the railway line has been realigned after the objection from DFO, Nayagarh and is present within 1 Km (300 mt) from the boundary of Baisipalli Sanctuary. Further, shifting is not practically feasible as it will pass through the middle of the Brutanaga reservoir for which Stage-I approval has been accorded vide F. no. 8-23/2010-FC of Government of India, MoEF & CC (FC Division) dated 31st August, 2010.

It is therefore requested to consider the above information and process the diversion proposal at the earliest.

Yours faithfully,

Encl: As above

Sd/- 28/11/22
Principal Chief Conservator of Forest
Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer, FC Act

Memo No. *24042* /Dt. *28-11-2022*

Copy alongwith its enclosures forwarded to the OSD-cum- Special Secretary to Government, FE & CC Department, Government of Odisha for favour of kind information and necessary action with reference to the Letter No. Letter No. 5-ORA528/2022- BHU dated 20.09.2022 of the Dy. Inspector General of Forest (Central), GoI, MoEF & CC, IRO, Bhubaneswar.

Sd/- 28/11/22
Principal Chief Conservator of Forest
Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer, FC Act

Memo No. *24043* /Dt. *28-11-2022*

Copy forwarded to the Regional Chief Conservator of Forests, Bhubaneswar Circle for information and necessary action.

Sd/- 28/11/22
Principal Chief Conservator of Forest
Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer, FC Act

Memo No. *24044* /Dt. *28-11-2022*

Copy forwarded to the Divisional Forest Officer, Boudh/ Nayagarh Forest Division for information and necessary action.

Sd/- 28/11/22
Principal Chief Conservator of Forest
Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer, FC Act

Memo No. *24045* /Dt. *28-11-2022*

Copy forwarded to the Deputy Chief Engineer (Con)-II, East Coast Railway, West Annex Building Rail Vihar, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar- 751023 for information and necessary action.

Sd/- 28/11/22
Principal Chief Conservator of Forest
Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer, FC Act