



Memo No. 1387 /4F. (Misc.)-2022.
Dated, Malkangiri the 16th March, 2022.

To

The Regional Chief Conservator of Forests,
Koraput Circle, Koraput.

Sub: - Proposal for Diversion of forest land (48.782 Ha.) for Construction of 220 KV LILO Transmission line from existing Balimela-Malkangiri 220 KV line to Grid Sub-station, Khairput, Govindapalli, Malkangiri District.
(Proposal No. FP /OR/TRANS/50828/2020).

Ref: - Memo No. 1816 dated 01.02.2022 of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer, FC Act., O/o the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Odisha, Bhubaneswar.

In inviting a kind reference to the above captioned subject, it is to inform you that the proposed project for Construction of 220 KV LILO Transmission line from existing Balimela-Malkangiri 220 KV line to Grid Sub-station, Khairput, Govindapalli, Malkangiri District by OPTCL is to provide quality and continuous power supply to the Khairput Block i.e. the most backward and LWE affected area of Malkangiri District where Bonda Tribes (one of the PVTG of Odisha) are living. This project involves 48.782 Ha. area i.e. 4.499 Ha. PRF & 44.283 Ha. Revenue Forest area.

On filed verification, it is found that 5 Nos. of Web Towers (in Tarlakotta PRF area) has been erected by OPTCL without any string attached, which constitutes over 0.04 Ha. (7.8MtrX7.8MtrX 3 Towers=182.52Mtr, 10.3MtrX10.3Mtr=106.09Mtr & 9MtrX9Mtr=81Mtr Total 369.61 Sqmtr or 0.04 Ha.). It is observed that there is no tree felling and also no other violations under the FC Act, 1980. These lands are under cultivation since many years. The District Level Committee (DLC) of Malkangiri has been issued Individual Forest Rights (IFR) to the right holders during 2009.

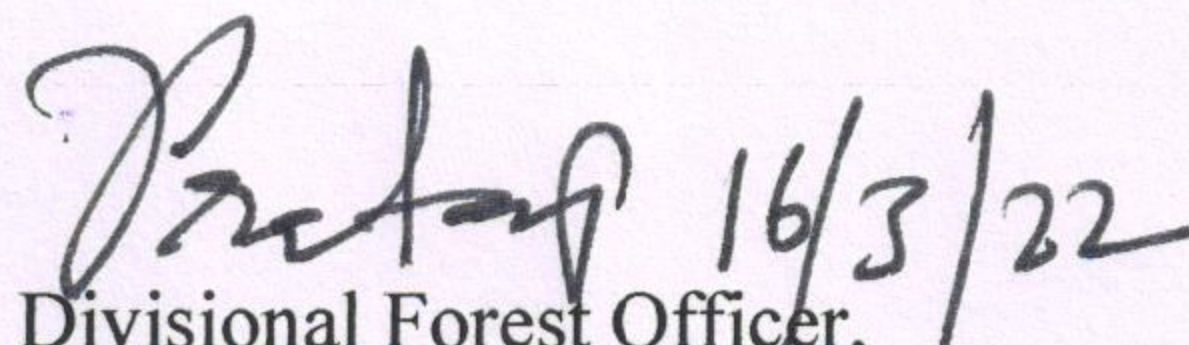
The User Agency started construction of the web towers in project area during 2019 without applying proposal for Diversion of forest land for non-forestry purpose and also without proper demarcation and pillar posting. The user Agency has applied the diversion proposal on dated 15.10.2020 after erection of the above Towers.

Therefore, the User Agency inadvertently erected 5 Nos. of towers in forest area presuming it as cultivated land (factually it is forest land and forest rights claims has been settled in 2009). After knowing the violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, the Divisional Forest Officer, Malkangiri has been asked the user agency to stop the above work.

The proposed area for the above work is under jurisdiction of the Dy. General Manager (Elect.), EHT (Construction) Division, OPTCL, Jeypore and the work was executed under direct supervision of the Sub-Divisional Officer, OPTCL, Malkangiri. The copy of the Letter No. 56 dated 27.01.2022 of the User Agency is enclosed herewith for your kind perusal.

This is for favour of kind information and necessary action.

Encl: As above.


Divisional Forest Officer,
Malkangiri Forest Division.

ଓଡ଼ିଶା ବିଦ୍ୟୁତ ଶକ୍ତି ସଂଚାରଣ ନିଗମ ଲିମିଟେଡ.
ODISHA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

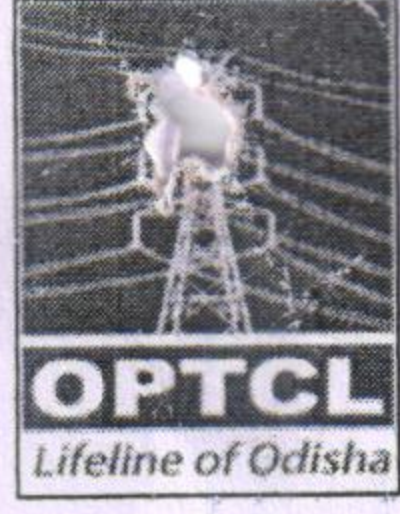
(A Govt. of Odisha Undertaking)

Regd. Office: Janpath, Bhubaneswar-751022.

**OFFICE OF THE Dy. GENERAL MANAGER (ELECTRICAL)
E.H.T. (CONSTRUCTION) DIVISION, JEYPORE.**

E mail: ehhc.div.jpr@optcl.co.in, Tel: 06854-232682

CIN: U40102OR2004SGC007553



Letter No. 56

Date: 27.01.2022

To

**Divisional Forest Officer,
Malkangiri Forest Division,
Malkangiri, Odisha.**

Sub:- Proposal for Diversion of 48.782 Ha. of Forest land for construction of 220KV LILO Transmission line from existing Malkangiri-Balimela 220 KV line to the existing 220/33 KV Grid Sub-station, Khairiput, Gobindpalli under Malakngiri District.

Ref:- i) Your Office Letter no. 381/4F(misc)-2022 Dtd. 21.01.2022.
ii) This office Letter no. 484(6) Dtd. 28.10.2020.

Sir,

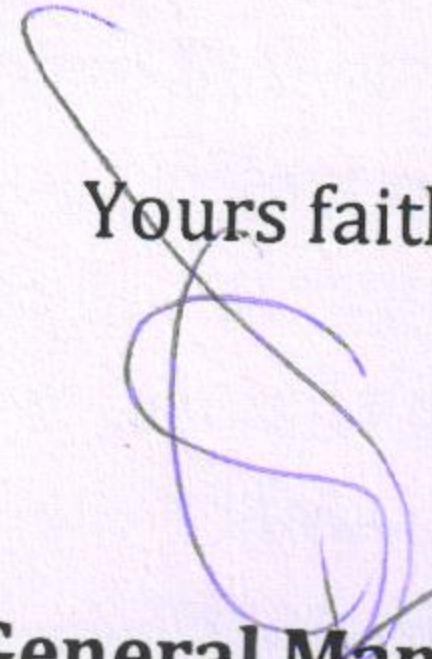
In inviting a kind reference to the the captioned subject the following facts are being placed for your kind consideration. It is to submit that OPTCL has (inadvertently) constructed 4 nos of web towers in Tarlakota PRF and 1 no of web tower on Revenue Forest land pending approval of forest diversion proposal submitted to your office vide this office letter no. 484(6) Dtd. 28.10.2020. The foundation and erection of the 5 nos of web towers have covered an area measuring 0.284 Ha. only. The Transmission Line details and work executed so far are mentioned here below for your kind appraisal;

1. The 220 kV Govindpalli LILO line is being routed through forest patches having area of 48.782 Ha. over line length of 37.6 KM. The proposal of forest diversion on the said land involves 4.449 ha. of PRF and 44.283 ha. of Revenue Land categorised as forest. The total no of line locations are 146, out of which 52 nos falls on land recorded as forest.
2. The said line is meant to provide a LILO connectivity to 220/33 kV Grid Sub-station, Gobindpally to Khairiput (BONDAS habitat - A most primitive tribe of Odisha). This project is being executed by OPTCL through JICA Funding for an uninterrupted power supply in the district of Malkangiri- the most backward region of the state. This line has greater importance towards energization of Sub-stations and in catering to nearby 33/11 kV sub-stations for continuous power supply and supporting life and livelihoods (health, education, business) as mentioned below.
 - a. Dedicated power supply to Blocks Kudumulugumma, Khairiput & Mathili and nearby area like Mudulipada, Salimi & Govindpalli etc. This line is going to provide power to LWE affected and drought prone area of Salimi as well as to the villages habited by primitive tribal groups, i.e., Bondas at Mudulipada and Didayi at Kudumullumma.
 - b. The proposed Line is crucial to energise the most important Mega Lift Irrigation project at Salimi and vital for improving crop productivity and livelihood of impoverished Malkangiri Tribals affected since long due to LWE activities.
 - c. There is a Small Hydro Electric Project under Renewable Energy programs of Government that would to connect to the sub-station at Govindpally. This line will act as a facilitator to transmit the power to all important installations of the districts. A SHEP be going to charged shortly and this sub-station and line will play a vital role in future in respect of power system stability.

3. It is pertinent in the above context to mention here that, there has been considerable confusion and ambiguity in determining the boundary of the lands at the time of initial survey and preparation of DPR due to non-availability of old land records and maps. The revenue lands found to be categorized as forests later (after DGPS survey) were found at the time of survey to be under cultivation and were also claimed as private land by residents.
4. Patches of land subsequently ascertained to be designated as PRF (near revenue village Saradaguda) had no forest growth or any marking/pillar on ground for ascertaining the forest boundary.
5. A number of such discrepancies regarding actual status of land required for erection of tower were reconciled by sustained and continuous effort of OPTCL. However due to the ground reality and lack of any features to recognise the purported land marked as forest on official record, the field officials had failed to determine it as forest land initially. At the same time, in view of the urgency and importance of the public utility, OPTCL decided to initiate advance work on revenue land, while making all effort to submit the proposal of forest diversion under FCA 1980.
6. In view of OPTCL commitment to complete the transmission line project, as mandated by Government of Odisha, the Jeypore EHT division had started working on non forest land during 2019-2020, and submitted diversion proposal in respect of forest land for approval of MoEFCC vide this office letter in your address under reference(ii). While working on the non forest land, inadvertently few towers got erected on forest land measuring only 0.284 Ha. during March 2019, on account of error in identifying boundary of non forest-forest zone, for the fact that people are on occupation and use of such land which misled the field staff. No further progress of work was done soon it was found that the line is entering forest patches.
7. It is therefore submitted that any violation caused by erection of towers on forest land is due to mistake of fact and not a deliberate, intentional act on the part of OPTCL to breach forest Act, rules which may please be condoned.
8. We would nevertheless undertake to abide by the decision of REC, MoEFCC, or State Government towards payment of penal fee if any for inadvertent use of forest land to the extent of 0.284 Ha.
9. Further to state that, no clearance of vegetation, felling of trees, damage to soil etc has been resulted on account of such action of OPTCL.


In the above context, it is therefore submitted that the diversion proposal may kindly be considered for approval, as this is very important for power supply to a very backward region of Odisha inhabited by vulnerable improvised PTG community- Bondas at Mudulipada and other LWE affected area of Mathili.

Yours faithfully,


 27/1/22
Dy.General Manager (Elect)

No./Dtd.

Copy Submitted to the Director(Project),OPTCL, Bhubaneswar/ CGM, Berhampur Zone, OPTCL, / GM, EHT(Const.), Circle, Rayagada/ Adviser Forest, OPTCL, Bhubaneswar for favour of kind information and necessary action.


Dy.General Manager (Elect)