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GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (Section-II) DEPARTMENT

Letter No.839/Section-II/2018

Dated:16.11.2020

From
The Special Chief Secretary to Government, (FAC)
EFS&T Department,
A.P. Secretariat, Velagapudi,
Amaravati-522503.

To
The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Central)
Government of India,
Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change.
Regional Office, 1st and 2nd Floors,
Handloom Export promotion Council Building
34, Cathedral Garden Road,
Nungambakkam, Chennai – 600034 (w.e)

Sir,

Sub: Diversion of 4.88 Ha of Forest Land in Compt. No.425,426 & 427 of Nanda RF, Vizianagaram Division for construction of Mini Hydel Project (3x4000 KW) 12.00 MW on Gomukhi River near Thonam Village of Salur Mandal, in favour of M/s Mohanarupa Power Project (Pvt.) Ltd - Proposal under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 – Additional information submitted - Reg.

Ref: 1).From PCCF (HoFF), A.P., Lr.Rc.No.10405/2014/FCA-3, dt.02-02-2018
2).State Govt.Lr.No.839/Sec.II/2018, EFS&T(Sec.II) Dept., dt.09.01.2019.
3).From GoI, MoEF& CC, RO, Chennai, Lr. No.4-APA094/2019-CHN/0202, dt.07.02.2019.
4).From GoI, MoEF& CC, RO, Chennai, Lr.No.4-APB094/2019-CHN/0331, dt.28.02.2019 along with MoEF&CC, GoI, New Delhi, Lr.F.No.4-APB094/2019-CHN, dt.27.02.2019.
5).From the PCCF (HoFF), A.P., Guntur, Lr.Rc.No.10405/2014/FCA-3, dt.12.06.2019 and even no.dt.15.06.2020.

I invite your attention to the reference 2nd cited, with which the State Government have forwarded a proposal to Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Regional Office, Chennai for according necessary approval under Section-2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, for diversion of 4.88 Ha of Forest Land in Compt. No.425,426 & 427 of Nanda RF, Vizianagaram Division for construction of Mini Hydel Project (3x4000 KW) 12.00 MW on Gomukhi River near Thonam Village of Salur Mandal, in favour of M/s Mohanarupa Power Project (Pvt.) Ltd.

2. The Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Regional Office, Chennai in the reference 5th cited, while enclosing the Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, New Delhi letter dated.27.02.2019, have requested the State Government to furnish information / clarification on five points sought by the Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, New Delhi at the earliest for further processing of the proposal.

3. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force), Andhra Pradesh, in his letter 5th cited, has stated that the user agency vide letter dt.06.03.2019 & 04.06.2020, has furnished the information as desired by the Government of India. The information is as follows:-

Sl. No	Information sought by the GoI, MoEF&CC, New Delhi	Information furnished by the PCCF(HoFF)
(i).	The Proposal was originally submitted by the user agency in the year 2014 (FP /AP /HYD /8384 /2014) while	The user agency has stated that, the proposal was submitted through online on 19.12.2014. The proposal was scrutinized

	the State Government forwarded the proposal to the Central Government on 9th January, 2019, after a period of almost 5 years without any justification for inordinate delay in submission of the proposal.	and query was raised by the Nodal Officer and the same have been attend and submitted hard copy after ensuring RoFR Certificate and other documents on date 01.04.2016. The same have been forwarded to Divisional Forest Officer, Vizianagaram on 11.05.2016 by Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force), A.P., Guntur for further processing of the proposal in full shape. Hence, inordinate delay in submission of the proposal by the State Government to the Central Government was occurred. Hence, delay may be condoned and requested to consider the proposal under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
(ii)	The proposal involves total area of 8.00 Ha (Pg 22/c), comprising of 4.88 Ha of forest land and 3.12 Ha of Non-forest land. Part -I submitted online mentions non-forest land as nil. To have an holistic view of the project, details of project components, if any, proposed in 3.12 Ha of non-forest land needs to be submitted by the State Government	The user agency has stated that, by oversight / lack of knowledge they are not mentioning of non-forest land in online application but it has been reported in hard copy of the proposal they have reported the details of forest area of 4.88 Ha and an extend of 3.12 Ha of non-forest land is required for the project. They have also informed that the necessary rectification in online proposal will be made in due course. In additions to the above they would like to inform that, the non forest area of 3.12 Ha will use to construct Power house, Switch Yard, Tail race channel and for dumping of Muck generated during construction in the forest area.
(iii)	As per the recommendation of the REC, certain forest areas have been proposed for temporary use. However, extent of area and nature of temporary use, however, has not been detailed in the proposal. The same needs to be submitted.	The user agency has stated that regarding the activities to be carried out in the proposed forest area for diversion of the forest land and they have informed that the working area over an extent of 2.06 Ha proposed in the proposal will mainly be used for non-forest activities like temporary parking of machinery using for boring of Tunnel and excavators and concrete equipment etc. and to keep Materials/ inputs required for the construction and for feature inspections and maintenance works. Hence Regional empowered committee might have termed the same as temporary usage area. Even the activities are in temporary in nature, the said working area is required till the project is alive. Hence the same has been included in the proposal.
(iv)	Proposed project involves earth cutting for construction of road and tunnels, the Plan, for disposal of muck to be generated from the bid activities, containing the quantitative details of muck to be generated and designated sites for its disposal needs to provided by the project proponent.	The user agency regarding, the disposal of Muck, have assured that approximately 28000 Cum of Muck may be generated and the muck will not be disposed in the forest area and it will be shifted to the non-forest area available at their power house location. Only 2820 Sq mts. of area is required for structures in non-forest area leaving 600 Sq mts for approach road and 1000 Sq mts for working area rest of the area can be used for Muck disposal. The generated Muck will shifted to non-forest land available at Power House area.

(v)	MoU for the project was entered on 21st October, 2014 inter-alia stipulating that the company shall execute the project within the 24 months and thereafter, in the event of non-completion of project, extension of MoU will be sought by the user agency from New and Renewable Energy Development Corporation of Andhra Pradesh (NREDCAP). In the event of failure, the project is liable to be cancelled by the NREDCAP. Given the fact that the project construction work has not been commenced so far, the validity of MoU dated 21st October, 2014 needs to be confirmed by the State Government.	The user agency has stated regarding the time extension they have submitted their letter on 29th May 2015 requesting to extend the time till we get the forest permission. Subsequently in December 2017, NREDCAP has requested them to extend the Bank Guarantee for Two more years, as per the request they have extended the Bank Guarantee upto 17.10.2019 and submitted to them on 29.12.2017. Further, in their letter dated 05.03.2020 the VC&MD, New & Renewable Energy Development Corporation of Andhra Pradesh Limited., has stated that the request of M/s Mohanarupa Power Project Pvt. Ltd. for extension of time upto 30.10.2022 for establishment 12MW Mini Hydel Power Project to setup on Gomukhi River, Near Thonam Village, Salur Mandal, is granted basing on NOC issued by Govt. vide G.O. Ms.No.12, dated 14.02.2020 form Water Resources (Reforms)Dept.
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4. I am to enclose herewith the letters dt.12.06.2019 and 15.06.2020 of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force), Andhra Pradesh together with the enclosures for onward transmission to the Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, New Delhi for their consideration of the subject proposal, under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Yours faithfully,

Y. Laxmi Bala
for Special Chief Secretary to Government (FAC)

Copy to:

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force),
Andhra Pradesh, Guntur.

M/s. Mohanarupa Power Project (Pvt.) Ltd,
Thonam village, Salur Mandal, Vizianagaram District.

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