

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

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/9F (Others) - 397/2023

The Deputy Director General of Forests (Central)
Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change

Proposal for diversion of 2.832 ha of forest land in favour of M/s Mayfair Hotels & Resorts Ltd. under Bhubaneswar Tahasil of Khordha District under Chandaka (WL) Division. (Proposal No.FP/OR/Others/145394/2021)

Ref: Letter No.5-ORB610/2023-BHU dated 21.11.2023 of the MoEF& CC, Regional Office, Bhubaneswar.

Sir,

In inviting a reference to the above mentioned subject, this is to inform that Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Regional Office, Bhubaneswar had raised 2 nos objections during scrutiny of the above proposal. The point wise compliances basing on the reports of the Divisional Forest Officer, Chandaka (WL) Division and the Divisional Forest Officer, Nayagarh Forest Division are furnished as follows:-

Condition (a):- The Jungle-II kissam land was allotted by the GA Department in three patches during the year 1998 and 1999 to M/s Mayfair Hotels & Resorts Ltd and the lease was executed on 30.03.1998 (4.500 Ac.), 28.07.1998 (1.985 Ac.) and 12.03.1999 (0.515 Ac.) without prior approval of Central Govt. Further, the DFO, Chandaka (WL) Division has reported that the user agency has constructed building for hotel over revenue Kisam land without prior approval from Govt. of India, MoEF&CC in contravention of FC Act, 1980. Hence, detail action taken report along with name and designation of erring officials responsible for violation causing diversion of forest land for non-forestry purpose may be furnished.

Compliance: - In compliance to the above, the Divisional Forest Officer, Chandaka (WL) Division has furnished the copy of letter No.13788/CA dt.06.05.2024 of Govt. of Odisha, GA&PG Department addressed to him which is self explanatory is enclosed herewith as Annexure-I.

Govt. of Odisha constituted a site selection committee/ land allotment committee to assess the requirement and recommend to the Govt. for supply of the required land, following the provisions of the Govt. Grant Act. 1985. After repeal of Govt. Grant Act, GA Deptt., the provisions of the Odisha Govt. land settlement (second amendment) Rules 2020 is being followed.

Regarding reporting the names of the erring officials responsible for violation of FC Act. 1980 the GA & PG Department has clarified that despite repeated search the relevant site selection proceedings has not been traced out. Hence no individual member can be named from the above committee who took the decision for allotment of land as per the then available records where the status of the land was non-forest. After the land settlement process it was revealed that the status of the land was "Buda jungle". Hence, the user agency was intimated to go for this diversion proposal and not to take up any further construction work over such detected forest land for non-forest use without forest diversion order.

Further, the National Green Tribunal, Eastern Zone Bench, Kolkata in OA case No.29/2019/EZ & MA No.29/2022/EZ have directed to regularize the matter by realization of NPV/Penal NPV from the UA while granting Forest Clearance under FC Act, 1980.

In view of the above and in light of this situation, the GA & PG Department has requested to condone the action to be taken against the erring officials responsible for violation of FC Act., 1980.

<u>Condition (b):-</u> As per DSS, Mining or Quarry activities and a metalled road is passing through the non-forest land identified for CA are observed in CA patch. This may clarified by the State Govt. in view of the suitability of CA land and encroachment free land.

Compliance:- In compliance to the above, the DFO, Nayagarh Forest Division vide his Memo No.6764 dt.30.08.2024 has submitted his report which is self explanatory, enclosed herewith as Annexure-II Series.

- (i) For raising of CA the Collector, Nayagarh Dist, has alienated and mutated a piece of land in mouza Mahulpada under Khandapara Tahasil of Nayagarh District, over two nos of plots 1504 & 1812/1999 measuring an area of 3.2618 ha and 0.8053 ha totaling to 4.0671 ha of non-forest Govt. land against diversion of 2.832 of forest land for this project and 1.216 ha of forest land for other project of the same user agency, (the copy of RoR is enclosed as Annexure-II Series.
- (ii) The above non-forest Govt. land transferred and mutated in favour of the FE&CC Deptt. for raising of CA, excluding the water body and the metalled road, comes to only 0.998 ha. The land is having rocky outcrop and bouldery soil and not suitable for plantation. Hence, the above area shall only be fenced and allowed to be rejuvenated by protection and seed ball showing. Regarding tree against tree fulfillment a new area has been selected in Jamubani-Patrabani degraded RF over 2.832 ha for raising of additional CA @ 1600 seedlings per ha = total 4532 nos. of seedlings shall be planted.
- (iii) The GPS map, suitability certificate of the additional CA land and DSS analysis report etc are enclosed to the additional CA scheme and KML file superimposed over topo sheet which are enclosed as Annexure-III Series.
- (iv) The revised financial outlay for CA scheme over an area of 2.832 ha of non-forest land identified in village Mohulpada under Khandapada Tahasil of Nayagarh District under Nayagarh Forest Division has been approved for Rs.16,16,100/- (Rupees Sixteen lakhs Sixteen thousands and one hundred) only by PCCF (FD & Nodal Officer, FC Act) as per matrix 2024-25 of approved one time cost norm which is enclosed as Annexure-IV.

The revised financial outlay for additional CA scheme over an area of 2.832 ha of degraded forest land identified in village Jumubani-Patrabani RF under Khandapada Forest Range of Nayagarh Forest Division has been approved for Rs.14,46,500/- (Rupees Fourteen lakhs Forty six thousand and five hundred) only by PCCF (FD & Nodal Officer, FC Act) as per matrix 2024-25 of approved one time cost norm which is enclosed as Annexure-V.

In view of the above, the compliance to the conditions (a & b) imposed by Government of India, MoEF& CC, Regional Office, Bhubaneswar is sent herewith for according approval for diversion of 2.832 ha of forest land in favour of M/s Mayfair Hotels & Resorts Ltd. under Bhubaneswar Tahasil of Khordha District under Chandaka (WL) Division in State of Odisha under Section 2(ii) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

Encl: Compliance in one set

Yours faithfully

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Forest Diversion and Nodal Officer, FC Act)

22635 Memo No.

12.11.2024 /Dt.

Copy forwarded to the Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department, Odisha, Kharvel Bhawan, Bhubaneswar for favour of kind information and necessary action with reference to Letter No. 5-ORB610/2023-BHU dated 21.11.2023 of the MoEF& CC, RO, Bhubaneswar-751023, Odisha.

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Chief Conservator of Forests(Nodal)

Memo No.

/Dt.

Copy forwarded to the Regional Chief Conservator of Forests, Bhubaneswar Circle for information and necessary action with reference to his Memo No.2477 dated 07.08.2024.

Chief Conservator of Forests(Nodal)

Memo No.

/Dt.

Copy forwarded to the Divisional Forest Officer, Chandaka (WL) Division for information and necessary action with reference to Memo No.2478 dt.07.08.2024 of RCCF, Bhubaneswar.

Chief Conservator of Forests(Nodal)

Memo No.

/Dt.

Copy forwarded to the Divisional Forest Officer, Divisional Forest Officer, Nayagarh Forest Division for information and necessary action with reference to his Memo No.6764 dated 30.08.2024.

Chief Conservator of Forests(Nodal)

Memo No.

/Dt.

Copy forwarded to the General Manager- L&E, M/s Mayfair Hotels & Resorts Ltd., Jayadev Vihar, Bhubaneswar for information with reference to memo No.2482 dt.07.08.2024 of the RCCF, Bhubaneswar Circle to his address.

Na 8/11/24

Chief Conservator of Forests(Nodal)