

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

ಪ್ರಧಾನಮುಖ್ಯ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ
(ಅರಣ್ಯ ಪಡೆ ಮುಖ್ಯಸ್ಥರು) ರವರ ಕಚೇರಿOffice of the
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Head of Forest Force)ಅರಣ್ಯ ಭವನ, 18 ನೇ ಅಡ್ಡರಸ್ತೆ
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Old File No. A5(2).GFL.CR-23/2015-16

E 66885

E-office File No. KFD/HOFF/A5-2(GFL)/51/2018-FC

Date 20-07-2023

To

The Additional Chief Secretary to Government
Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment
M.S. Building, Bengaluru - 560 001

Sir

Sub: Diversion of 18.458 ha of forest land in SyNo.6, 7, 8, 205, 210 & 219 of Kallahalli, Sy No.152 of Siddapur, Sy No.13 of Ramtheertha and Sy No. 9, 25, 36 & 42 of Jamkhandi Village, Jamkhandi Taluk, Bagalkot District for construction of new 110 KV D/C line in the existing 110 KV Mahalingapura to Jamkhandi S/C line corridor for a distance of 23.897 km in favour of Executive Engineer (Electrical), Major Works Division, Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited (KPTCL), Bagalkot.

Proposal No.FP/KA/TRANS/16981/2015[FORM A]

- Ref:**
1. This office letter of even number dated 30-03-2022[*submission of additional information to GOI*]and 16-06-2022[*communication of GOI letter to field officers*]and 25-10-2022 [*reminder*]
 2. Government of Karnataka letter No FEE 13 FLL 2019 dated 20-04-2022[*communication of additional information to GOI*],20-04-2022[*communication of GOI letter*]
 3. Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Integrated Regional Office, Bengaluru letter F.No.4-KRC1198/2019-BAN/179 dated 05-05-2022[*seeking information*]
 4. Executive Engineer (Ele), Major Works Division, KPTCL, Bagalkote, letter No. 614/Bagalkote/EE(Ele)/MWD/AEE/AE/22-23/26-29 dated 03-04-2023[*information submitted to DCF Bagalkot division*]
 5. Deputy Conservator of Forests, Bagalkote Division letter No B2/GFL/MLP/18.458/CR-111/2013-14/222 dated 12-05-2023[*information submitted to CCF Belagavi Circle*]
 6. Chief Conservator of Forests, Belagavi Circle letter No. A7/LND/PCP/TL/BGK/CR-14/2014-15 dated 24-05-2023[*information submitted to this office*]

I/457619/2023

With reference to the above subject, this office vide Ref (1) has submitted the additional information to Government of Karnataka seeking 'in-principle' (Stage-I) approval under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Accordingly, Government of Karnataka vide Ref (2) letter dated 20-04-2022 has forwarded the proposal to Government of India.

In response, the Government of India vide Ref (3) has raised EDS query seeking clarification and information. The Government of Karnataka vide Ref (2) letter dated 20-04-2022 was communicated the same. Accordingly, this office vide Ref (1) letter dated 16-06-2022 has communicated the Government of India EDS query to User Agency and Field officers.

In response, User Agency vide Ref (3) has submitted the information to Deputy Conservator of Forests, Bagalkot Division and stated that Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited (KPTCL) is a government undertaking company which is engaged in Construction of Substation and Transmission lines in Karnataka State and ensures that quality and reliable power supply to all the consumers in Karnataka.

Power supply to Jamakhandi urban area, Banahatti urban area, Madarkandi, Kallahalli, Hipparagi, Kulahalli, Siddapura, Kumbarahalli, Sanala, Alaguru, Kunchanur, Jakanur, Hunnur, Kadapatti, Naavalagi, Jagadala, Bandigani, Yellatti, aski-Asangi, Bisuguppa, Banahatti Keeri and surrounding area in Jamakhandi Taluk Bagalkote District was fed from single circuit 110kV transmission line which was commissioned in the year 1987.

As the loads in the area was increasing day by day, hence to meet the increasing loads, the conversion of single circuit transmission line to double circuit transmission line was proposed and awarded during Feb-2017.

The transmission line was constructed from existing 220 kV Mahalingapur receiving station to 110kV substation Jamakhandi during 1987. KPTCL officials have constructed transmission line for a distance of 8.932kms unknowingly in the forest land as there was no demarcation of forest boundary.

During 2015 when KPTCL proposed to convert the said transmission line from Single Circuit to Double Circuit it was found that forest approval had not been obtained during construction of transmission line in the year 1987. Hence, proposal is submitted to forest department for obtaining approval.

At present forest officials are requesting KPTCL officers to furnish the name and action taken details on the officers who have constructed the transmission line in the forest area. The transmission line was constructed unknowingly in the forest area and in good faith for providing power to the consumers of Banahatti and Jamakhandi area. The violation of Forest Conservation Act was not intentional hence no action was taken on officers who were involved in construction activities.

2023

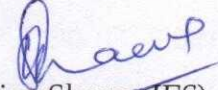
During 1987, there was only one major works division namely Belagavi which was operating all the works in Bagalakote, Belagavi and Vijayapura districts. During the year 2000 due to more works in Bagalkote district, additional major works division was formed and offices were also shifted from old buildings to new buildings on many occasions. Due to this certain records also got misplaced and are presently not available.

Under the circumstances explained above it is clear that subject Transmission line was constructed unknowingly in the Forest land as there was no demarcation of forest boundary and the subject substation with Transmission line was constructed in the interest of public service as explained above. However, User Agency is ready to pay penal charges to Forest Department as per norms.

Accordingly, the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Bagalkot Division and Chief Conservator of Forests, Belagavi Circle vide ref (5) and (6) respectively have agreed with the report of user agency and submitted the same to this office.

In view of the above circumstances, **it is requested to move the matter with the Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Integrated Regional Office, Bengaluru for seeking the (Stage-I) approval with a recommendation to impose suitable penalty under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 as the user agency has violated Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 by using the forest area without prior permission from Government of India.**

Yours faithfully



(Vijay Sharma/IFS)

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Forest Conservation) and Nodal Officer (FCA)

Copy to the Chief Conservator of Forests, Belagavi Circle, Belagavi for information and necessary action.

Copy to the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Bagalkot Division, Bagalkot for information and necessary action.

Copy to the Executive Engineer (Electrical), Major Works Division, Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited (KPTCL), 1st Floor, Zonal Complex sector No. 45, Navanagar, Bagalkot-587 193 for information.