

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

Letter No.4621/Section-II/2018/(657656)

Dated:26.05.2022

From

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

To

✓ The Inspector General of Forests (Central)
Government of India,
Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change
Integrated Regional Office, Vijayawada,
Green House Complex, Gopal Reddy Road,
Vijayawada-520010 (w.e)

Sir,

Sub: Diversion of 2.40 Ha of forest land in Pothukonda RF in Visakhapatnam Division for development of Sree Sree Sree Bhuvaneswari Devi Aaradhanapeetam in favour of Om Bhuvaneswari Sanstan Trust, Visakhapatnam - Proposal under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980- Additional information submitted – File closed – Request to reopen – Reg.

Ref: 1)From PCCF (HoFF), Lr.Rc.No.8005/2017/FCA-3, dt:05-10-2018.
2)State Govt.Lr.No.4621/Section-II/2018, EFS&T(Sec.II) Dept., dated.9-11-2018.
3)From GoI, MoEF& CC, Lr.No.4-APA089/2018-CHN/2007, dated 20.12.2018.
4)From GoI, MoEF& CC, Lr.F.No.4-APB089/2018-CHN/0748, dated 6.5.2019.
5)From PCCF (HoFF), A.P., Guntur, Lr.Rc.No.8005/2017/FCA-3, dt.4.6.2019 and even no.dt.08.01.2020.
6)From the District Collector, Visakhapatnam District, Lr.File No.REV-FSECOGNR/49/2020-DT(F), dt.nil.

I invite your attention to the reference 2nd cited, wherein 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 the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, for diversion of 2.40 Ha. of forest land in Pothukonda RF in Visakhapatnam Division for development of Sree Sree Sree Bhuvaneswari Devi Aaradhanapeetam in favour of Om Bhuvaneswari Sanstan Trust, Visakhapatnam.

2. In the reference 3rd cited, the Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Regional Office, Chennai, have requested to furnish certain additional information / documents for further consideration of the proposal. Subsequently, in the reference 4th cited, the Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, have informed that the subject proposal file is closed due to non-receipt of the information / documents. It has also indicated that in case the State Government / User Agency still interested in the project, then the State Government may seek reopening of the file by submitting information and justification in delay for submission of the same.

3. in the reference 5th cited The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, Andhra Pradesh, Guntur has furnished the additional information as desired by the Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Regional Office, Chennai, which is as follows:

| Sl. No. | Information sought by GoI, MoEF&CC, RO, Chennai | Information furnished by PCCF&HoFF |
|---------|--|------------------------------------|
| 1. | Certificate from the User Agency in support of the competency/ | Certificate enclosed |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|--|---|----|-------------------------|---------|----|--|---------|--|---------------|----------------|
| | authority of the person making the subject proposal application on behalf of the User Agency | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2. | Component wise break-up of the activities/structures to be built in the temple portion has not been reported. It appears that additional area than the area already utilized has been proposed for diversion. Hence the forest area proposed does not appear to be the barest minimum. | <p>Component wise break-up activities / structures to be built in the temple portion are as follows:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>1.</td><td>Road area falling in RF</td><td>0.65 Ha</td></tr> <tr> <td>2.</td><td>Temple area falling in RF including Core area and Temporary area of structure and open area for pilgrims</td><td>1.76 Ha</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td>Total:</td><td>2.41 Ha</td></tr> </table> | 1. | Road area falling in RF | 0.65 Ha | 2. | Temple area falling in RF including Core area and Temporary area of structure and open area for pilgrims | 1.76 Ha | | Total: | 2.41 Ha |
| 1. | Road area falling in RF | 0.65 Ha | | | | | | | | | |
| 2. | Temple area falling in RF including Core area and Temporary area of structure and open area for pilgrims | 1.76 Ha | | | | | | | | | |
| | Total: | 2.41 Ha | | | | | | | | | |
| 3. | Initial part of the road from the RF boundary has not been included in the proposal. Hence, the same may be clarified/rectified | The User Agency has stated that the initial part of the road passing through Sabbavaram to Chodavaram and it is laid in Sy.No.201 and 203 of Aripaka Village, Sabbavaram Mandal. The said land is Zeroyathi land pertaining to Sri E. Ramachandra Rao, Managing Trustee/Settler, OM Bhuvaneswari Sanstan Trust (Affiliated to Sree Sree Sree Bhuvaneswari Devi Aradhana Peetham), Visakhapatnam upto Forest Boundary (i.e. initial part of the road not in RF area). The Forest land starts from Lat: 17.80969869 Long: 83.04979239 and Lat: 17.81010930 Long: 83.05456645 as per DGPS survey in Compt. No. 602 of Pothukonda RF of Visakhapatnam Range of Visakhapatnam Division. Hence, the same may be included and detailed plan is appended. | | | | | | | | | |
| 4. | Annexure a to h related to RoFR certificate may be furnished | Annexure a to h related to RoFR certificate issued by the District Collector, Visakhapatnam is enclosed. | | | | | | | | | |

4. Further, I inform that earlier State Government proposed to get the matter enquired by a Joint Collector level officer about the genuineness of the proposal and also proposed to get a report from the Commissioner of Endowments on whether the Temple has been registered under Endowments Act. After getting the reports from the above authorities, now the proposal is being submitted for consideration. Due to this reason, the additional information has not been submitted in time.

5. I, therefore, request you to reopen the file duly considering the additional information for further processing and communicate the approval of Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, for diversion of 2.40 Ha of forest land in Pothukonda RF in Visakhapatnam Division for development of Sree Sree Sree Bhuvaneswari Devi Aaradhanapeetam in favour of Om Bhuvaneswari Sanstan Trust, Visakhapatnam, under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, at the earliest.

Yours faithfully,

N. Jagadeeswari
for Special Chief Secretary to Government

Copy to:

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force,
Andhra Pradesh, Guntur.
The Managing Trustee/Settler, Om Bhuvaneswari Sanstan Trust,
Visakhapatnam.