No. B.12017/1/2021-WL/43 GOVERNMENT OF MIZORAM OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY CONSERVATOR OF FOREST AIZAWL WILDLIFE DIVISION

Dated Aizawl, the 28th March, 2022

To

The Chief Wildlife Warden Mizoram, Aizawl.

Sub: Reply to the EDS raised by Integrated Regional Office Ref: F.No. 3-MZ B 003/2022-SHI/3084-85 Dt. 28/02/2022

Sir,

In referring to the EDS raised by Integrated Regional Office, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, on the Forest Clearance application for Alternate Gravity Water Supply Scheme in Tawi Wildlife Sanctuary, the following corresponding replies have been made and necessary corrections and uploading in the PARIVESH portal has been completed.

(i) Kml / Shape file for proposed diversion site with GPS Coordinates.

The User Agency has uploaded Kml / shape file for the proposed diversion sites namely the Dam site and Treatment Plant, which already contain GPS Coordinates in itself. However, the Coordinates taken at central part of the project is as follows-

Dam site : 23°32'5.33"N / 92°56'38.63"E Treatment plant : 23°32'2.74"N / 92°56'6.69"E

(ii) The detail report on the violation of Forest (C) Act, 1980 committed by the user agency.

The site inspection of the area in question was taken by the DCF on two occasions. The detailed site inspection report uploaded in the PARIVESH portal for reference. The area in question is inside Tawi WLS by existing map, but outside of the sanctuary by boundary description in the Gazette Notification 2001.

(iii) Action taken as per Ministry's letter No. 11-42/2017-FC dated 29.01.2018 may be submitted.

Whether action needs to be taken as per Ministry's letter under reference is a controversial issue. Confirmation on whether violation has really taken place may first be considered from the following discussion.

First of all, there is a condition of faulty management map in Tawi WLS. This was discovered and taken up much earlier by DFO / DCF by proposing to reconcile the management map vide his letter No.12017/1/2015-WL/285 Dt.11/11/2020 (copy uploaded in the additional sections). The proposal however did not materialize

In such a situation where the making of correct management map was not possible, the two components of project area in question, falls inside the existing Map of Tawi WLS. However, both the project areas would have been outside of the PA as per the boundary description in the original Gazette Notification No. B.12012/1/91-FST Dt. 16/11/2001.

Therefore, the present situation whether the Project is in violation of FCA 1980 or not may first be decided and finalized before giving any bearing towards the conditions stipulated in the Ministry's letter cited above.

In the practical ground, the project area has never been managed as a sanctuary by the State Forest Department even though depicted as inside WLS by Map.

A separate map depicting the area in conflict is uploaded in additional information sections.

- (iv) NPV is to be calculated as per revised rate dated 06.01.2022. Fresh calculation of NPV as per revised rate uploaded in the portal.
- (v) Sol toposheet map to be resubmitted after duly signed by DFO concerned.

Sol toposheet and Georeference Maps have been countersigned and uploaded by the User Agency in Form-A Part-I.

(vi) Distance from nearest Protected Area.

The project area is already inside Protected Area as per existing map, or just on the boundary as per Notification. Therefore, the only option for filling up the relevant section in PARIVESH portal is Zero (0) kms.

(vii) Status of FRA

FRA is not adopted in the state of Mizoram as decided in the State Legislative Assembly.

(viii) GPS Coordinates of proposed forest land diversion.

As already given in para (i) above.

(ix) Length & Width of railway line.

The project is not related to any railway line. This may be observation mistake.

(x) Brief note on the vulnerability of forest land to erosion.

The information has already been uploaded in para (6) of Form-A Part-II in the PARIVESH portal.

Yours faithfully

(LALNUNZIRA)

Deputy Conservator of Forest Aizawl Wildlife Division