



OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS, ODISHA,  
BHUBANESWAR

Letter No. 15039 /9F (Irrg)-309/2016  
Dated, Bhubaneswar, the 28th June, 2017

From:

Dr. Anup Kumar Nayak, IFS,  
Addl. Principal CCF (FD & NO, FC Act)

To

The Additional Chief Secretary to Government,  
Forest & Environment Department,  
Govt. of Odisha, Bhubaneswar

Sub: Proposal for diversion of 14.530 ha of forest land for construction of Aherajore Barrage Project at village Debadarah of Lakhanpur Block in Jharsuguda District under Jharsuguda Forest Division, Jharsuguda

Sir,

In inviting reference to Letter No.5-ORC303/2016-BHU dt.23.02.2017 of Govt. of India, MoEF&CC, ERO, Bhubaneswar on the above subject, the following point wise compliance is furnished below.

**1. During Power Point Presentation, it was observed that if the barrage is constructed at about 90 meter below the proposed site on the river, important forest can be saved. This possibility may be technically explored.**

In compliance to the above, the DFO, Jharsuguda has reported that the feasibility of constructing the Aherajore barrage at about 90mtr below the proposed area has been explored by the User Agency. The User Agency has submitted that shifting of the existing barrage to other site may not be feasible as per the following findings.

- a) The submergence area in the Barrage Pond shall increase to 20.20 ha from current submergence of area 18.15 ha.
- b) The submergence of forest area is increasing from the current extent of 3.21 ha. to 4.32 ha.
- c) The river is getting flatter in downstream side and therefore the barrage length needed shall become 265 mtr. from the current requirement of 174 mtr. (52.3% increase), leading to very high project cost.
- d) Since the river bank at 90 mtr. down stream of the current site is not confined and no rocky outcrop is visible at river bed, the geology is not suitable for construction of Barrage from geological point.
- e) In case of lowering of the principal levels, the ayacut area shall decrease and the intended benefits shall be lost.

o/c

Contd.....P/2

2. ***During Power Point Presentation, it was observed that the coordinates of the barrage & canal system have not been properly aligned. The alignment of the canal may be changed which is wrongly going across the contour. The correct shape file clearly showing the barrage & canal system need to be submitted.***

In compliance to above, the DFO, Jharsuguda has reported that as per submission of User Agency, the co-ordinates of the barrage and canal system have been properly aligned. The canal alignment is taken as per contour and any alteration of the canal alignment if considered; either requires an increase in the forest area or decrease in the ayacut area. Further, the canal might get affected by the back-water drainage from the Hirakud Reservoir. Hence, the alignment of canal may not be changed. The correct shape file clearly showing the barrage & canal system is submitted herewith.

3. ***The FRA certificate has been issued in two types of forms i.e. Form-I for linear projects and Form-II for non-linear projects. However, the proposal is for construction of barrage including canal system. Hence, this project is to be considered as non-linear project and accordingly, a single FRA Certificate may be furnished.***

In compliance to the above, the DFO has clarified that Aherajore Irrigation project has both a Barrage pond (non-linear) and Canal system (linear); hence, as per the provisions in e-filing portal of MoEF&CC, it has been mentioned as a HYBRID project. It can neither be considered specifically as a 'Non-linear' nor a 'Linear' project. Accordingly, as per the MoEF&CC's guideline No.F.No.11-9/98-FC (pt.) dated 5<sup>th</sup> July 2013, FRA certificates, as applicable for both Non-linear portion (Barrage pond/reservoir) in Form II and Linear portion (Canal) in Form I has been obtained from the District Collector. Besides, the submergence portion (Barrage pond) affects limited no. of villages/population and as per the stipulations of the MoEF&CC, Project Purpose Grama Sabhas have been carried out in these areas for issuing FRA Certificate (Form II). However, the canals are aligned through many villages and are considered a boon by the local population as they are directly benefited from the irrigation. It may please be appreciated that conducting Gram Sabhas in such large no. of villages would consume enormous time and may be superfluous. Recognizing the nature of such linear projects (such as Canals), MoEF has already stipulated issue of FRA certificate in Form I, and the project has obtained the FRA certificate as per the stipulation. In view of above submission, and due to the sheer nature of public welfare intended by the project, the FRA Certificate furnished in the present form may kindly be accepted.

4. ***As per the norm of CAT plan, 2% to 3% of the project cost is to be earmarked for CAT plan. However, in this project the cost of CAT plan is less than 2%. Hence, the CAT plan may be modified earmarking 3% of the project cost towards implementation of CAT plan. The increase in allocation of CAT plan to be used for treatment of water harvesting structures.***

In compliance to the above, a revised Catchment Area Treatment Plan has been prepared by the DFO, Jharsuguda which has been technically approved by Addl. PCCF (FD&NO.FC, Act) with a financial outlay of Rs.1,30,57,800/- (Rupees one crore thirty lakh fifty seven thousand eight hundred only) including cost of maintenance of plantation for 10 years. The approved CAT Plan alongwith the financial outlay is enclosed as Annexure-I.

//3//

In view of the above, point wise compliance on the observations are submitted to Government in F&E Department for onward transmission to Government of India, MoEF & CC, ERO, Bhubaneswar for according necessary approval under Section-2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Encl: As above

Yours faithfully,

*ahnayak*  
27/6/17  
Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer, F.C. Act