

**OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS (HEAD OF FOREST FORCE),
MAHARASHTRA STATE, NAGPUR**

ADDITIONAL PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS AND NODAL OFFICER, MAHARASHTRA STATE, NAGPUR,
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No. Desk-17/Nodal/Thane/ID-12795(71)/2669/2021-22
Nagpur - 440 001, Date :- 10/03/2022

To,
The Deputy Director General (Central)
Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change,
Regional Office, Ground Floor, East Wing,
New Secretariat Building,
Civil Lines, Nagpur-440001

Sub:- Diversion of 18.3915 ha. Forest land for in favour of Laxmipati Balaji Supply Chain Management Ltd. For construction and laying 220 KV double Circuit Transmission Line by making LILO on 220 KV Urban Apta line No.4 at tower no.30 to substation at SEZ in Tal. Uran & Panvel in Raigad, District in the State of Maharashtra.

- Ref:- 1) MoEF & CC, Government of India, Integrated Regional Office, Nagpur vide letter No.F.No.FC-II/MH-154/2021-NGP/8610, dated 14/09/2021.
2) The Chief Conservator of Forests (T), Thane vide letter No.Desk-10/FCA/CR-03/20-21/OW/321, dated 25/10/2021 & No.579, dated 07/03/2022

Sir,
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, Regional Office, Nagpur vide letter under reference No.1 has sought compliance on 03 points. Accordingly, the Chief Conservator of Forests (T), Thane vide letter under reference No. 2 has submitted the compliance of shortcoming in this regard to this office. The compliance report as desired by Government of India vide letter dt.14/09/2021 is submitted as under:-


Sr. No.	Point	Compliance																																							
i	<p>In reply to query no. ii, it has been mentioned that 3439 trees are proposed for felling in the proposal, however, from google satellite imaginary it is found that major part of proposed alignment in forest area have hilly terrain. Further as per MoEF&CC advisory dated 05/05/2014; in places where adequate clearance is already available even under the maximum sag and swing of the conductors, trees shall not be cut except those minimum required to be cut for stringing of conductor. Accordingly, the exact numbers of trees out of 3439 required to be felled need to be submitted.</p>	<p>After revisiting and verifying by the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Alibag Forest Division, Alibag and Chief Conservator of Forests (T), Thane the route and considering technical parameters like minimum clearance under maximum sag and swing under the conductor. The minimum trees to be cut for stringing work are as under-</p> <table><tr><th>Sr. No.</th><th>Name of the Division</th><th>Name of Village</th><th>Total Number of trees in 35 meter belt</th><th>Trees to be pruning/ pollarding /lopping</th><th>To be kept intact</th><th>Actually trees to be felled.</th></tr><tr><td>1</td><td rowspan="4">Alibag</td><td>Ransai</td><td>1260</td><td>315</td><td>504</td><td>441</td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>Chirner</td><td>964</td><td>241</td><td>386</td><td>337</td></tr><tr><td>3</td><td>Dolghar</td><td>733</td><td>183</td><td>293</td><td>257</td></tr><tr><td>4</td><td>Sai</td><td>482</td><td>120</td><td>193</td><td>169</td></tr><tr><td colspan="3">Total</td><td>3439</td><td>859</td><td>1376</td><td>1204</td></tr></table>	Sr. No.	Name of the Division	Name of Village	Total Number of trees in 35 meter belt	Trees to be pruning/ pollarding /lopping	To be kept intact	Actually trees to be felled.	1	Alibag	Ransai	1260	315	504	441	2	Chirner	964	241	386	337	3	Dolghar	733	183	293	257	4	Sai	482	120	193	169	Total			3439	859	1376	1204
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		Further, the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Alibag Forest Division, Alibag and Chief Conservator of Forests (T), Thane assured that the minimum trees will be cut, pruned/pollarded/lopped.
ii	KML file of alternative alignments examined has been submitted and examination of same revealed that the selected alignments is proposed over the water body, however, Alternate Route R2 is proposed through agriculture land and is adjacent to proposed alignment. State Government may explore the possibility of realignment by proposing alignment AP-1 to AP-7 from Alternative Route R2 and then merge it in selected alignment from AP-6 to AP-12. A detail report may be submitted in this regard.	<p>Chief Conservator of Forests (T), Thane vide letter dated 25/10/2021 has mentioned that after exploring the possibility of realignment by the proposing alignment AP-1 to AP-7 from alignment Alternative Route 2 & then merging it in selected/proposed/Route 1 from AP-6 to AP-12 is not possible due to following reason.</p> <p>As AP-1 to AP-7 of Route 2 is passing over water body and it also consists of more area of dense forest compare to selected/proposed/Route 1 alignment moreover, selected/proposed/Route 1 alignment is passing through agriculture land. There is also less tree cutting involved in proposed/ selected/Route 1 compared to Route-2</p>
iii	Due to the close proximity of proposed alignment to Karnala Wildlife Sanctuary and its Eco-Sensitive Zone; comments from PCCF (Wildlife), Maharashtra were desired, however, the State Government has merely submitted that the DCF concerned has mentioned that approval of NBWL is not required. It is pertinent to mention here that for of detailed examination of proposal, comments of the PCCF (Wildlife) were desired as an expert opinion on any adverse impact of proposed transmission line on local wildlife in particular avifauna and mitigation thereof. Accordingly, the State Government shall provide comments of PCCF (Wildlife) on any possible adverse impact of proposed line on resident and migratory avifauna due to close proximity to Karnala Bird Sanctuary and Ransai Reservoir and suggested mitigation measures if required.	<p>The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) Maharashtra State vide office note no. D-23(2)/Survey/C.No.105/2547/2021-22, dated 05/01/2022 informed that since proposed forest area of the proposed Transmission Line passing through Karnala Bird Sanctuary therefore, the project proponent should prepare a Bird Conservation Plan suggesting mitigation measures in consultation with the institutes like BNHS & WII Dehradun and get it approved by CWLW. The copy of the same is enclosed herewith as (Annexure No. I)</p> <p>2.00 Subsequently, the User Agency has submitted an undertaking regarding preparation a Bird Conservation Plan and suggesting mitigation measures will provide early completion of the project. The copy of the same is enclosed herewith as (Annexure No.II)</p> <p>3.00 A Bird Conservation Plan suggesting mitigation measures in consultation with the institutes like BNHS & WII Dehradun and get it approved by CWLW is awaited, immediately after receipt of comments it will be submitted to your office.</p>

In view of the above, it is requested that the Government of India may kindly be moved for approval under section-2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act-1980, at the earliest.

Encl:- As above

Yours sincerely,

 10/3/22

(Naresh Zurmure)

Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
& Nodal Officer

Copy submitted to the Principal Secretary (Forests), Revenue & Forest Department., Mantralaya, Mumbai -32 for information.

Copy to the Chief Conservator of Forests (T), Thane for information

Copy to the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Alibag Forest Division, Alibag for information.

Copy to the Vice President (Operation), Laxmipati Balaji Supply Chain Management Ltd., Dist. Raigad for information.