



Govt. of Maharashtra
Forest Department



OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER,
CHANDRAPUR DIVISION, CHANDRAPUR

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No.:- Desk-14/Survey/Land/ 289

Dated :- 31.5.2024

To,

The Chief Conservator of Forests,
Chandrapur Circle,
Chandrapur.

Sub. :- Diversion of 315.74 ha. forest land under Section 2(1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for Renovation of Asolamendha Irrigation Project in Division Bramhapuri, Central Chanda and Chandrapur Forest Division of Saoli, Mul and Pombhurna Talukas of Chandrapur District in the State of Maharashtra (Online No. FP/MH/IRRIG/39591/2019)-regarding.

- Ref. :-**
1. Government of India letter No. 8-33/2022-FC, dated 17/05/2024.
 2. Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Nodal Officer, M.S., Nagpur letter No. Desk-17/FCA/S1/PID-39591/Chandrapur/408, dated 26/05/2024.
 3. Your office letter No. Desk-3(1)/Land/CR.570/2024-25/551, dated 28/05/2024.
 4. Executive Engineer, Asolamendha Project Renovation Division No. 1, Mul vide letter No. 745, dated 24/05/2024.


With reference to the above mentioned subject the Government of India has fulfillment of some issues in this proposal. The user agency has submitted the compliance report by their reference letter No. 4. According to the following compliance report are being submitted in 4 copies for necessary action.

Sr. No.	Condition	Compliance
i.	The Asolamendha Irrigation Project in the Chandrapur District was constructed in British Era and the dam construction completed in the year 1914. The State Government therefore has to ensure the safety and stability of the existing dam structure and its capacity to hold such a huge volume, in view of the fact that the dam has been constructed in the year 1914 and the irrigation potential of the instant project is proposed to increase from 9919 ha. to 54879 ha. due to increase in the height of the dam. A certificate in this regard shall be submitted by a competent authority of the State Government.	<p>The User Agency has submitted the compliance as follows.</p> <p>The height of Dam is raised by 2.70 m and the design for the same has been done by the Central Design Organisation, Nashik which is the Premier design organisation under Water Resources Department, Govt of Maharashtra. All the major structures like, Dam, Spillways and other Irrigation structures are designed by CDO, Nashik. Cross section of the Dam has been revised in order to hold the increased volume of water safely.</p> <p>Asolamendha Earthen Dam, with increased height is designed by CDO, Nashik and is approved by Competent Authority, Chief Engineer, Gosikhurd</p>

		<p>Project, Water Resources Department, Nagpur vide letter No. 485 dated 15.02.2010.</p> <p>Copy of the approved drawing is submitted herewith (Page No. 4). Letter of approval and Certificate by the Competent Authority in this regard is also attached herewith (Page No. 5).</p>
ii.	<p>The non-forest land identified for the compensatory afforestation (CA) is situated in the periphery of Bembla Reservoir in Yavatmal District and a part of the area has been found to be under water as per DSS analysis. The Regional Office has also raised concerns regarding the protection of the said area. Keeping this in view, the Regional Office, Nagpur shall revisit the area proposed for Compensatory Afforestation, examine its suitability and furnish its clear recommendations in this regard.</p>	<p>The User Agency has submitted the compliance as follows.</p> <p>The non-forest land for the Compensatory Afforestation (CA) is situated in the periphery of Bembla Reservoir under Water Resources Department, GOM. As per the survey and demarcation done at the site, there is no area under submergence as the area proposed is well above the present submergence area. The Kml file showing that no CA land proposed is under submergence is attached herewith along with the hard copy (Page No. 6 to 7). Final KML file is also uploaded on the Parivesh Portal. The map showing the Khasra details on DGPS map of the demarcated land and line of submergence is also attached herewith (Page No. 8). Toposheet showing the CA land is attached herewith (Page No. 9).</p> <p>In order to mitigate the concerns raised by Regional office, regarding protection of CA land, it is brought to your kind notice that fencing on all sides has been proposed in the 10 year CA Scheme prepared by DFO, Yavatmal. Out of total outlay of Rs 27.3 Cr for 10 year CA plan, about 7.99 Cr is allocated for Chain link fencing of CA area for length of about 33 Km on outer side and water side. This would provide heavy protection to the CA land. The copy of the CA Scheme is attached herewith (Page No. 10 to 17). User Agency has given undertaking to deposit the required amount with Forest Department.</p>
iii.	<p>The State shall submit the complete details, background, area already utilized for Compensatory Afforestation and legal status of 2635 ha. area under Bembla project which was approved for alternative afforestation.</p>	<p>The User Agency has submitted the compliance as follows.</p> <p>As per the order of Govt. of Maharashtra dated 12/09/2018 (Page No. 18 to 21), it can be seen that the storage of Bembla reservoir has been reduced from 302 Mm³ to 183.94 Mm³ and accordingly the water utilization has been reduced from 352.8 Mm³ to 256.76 Mm³. Due to this Irrigable command area is also reduced from 40170 ha. to 38850 ha. In the revised planning, this reduction in the storage capacity of reservoir has led to the surplus land of 2635 ha. Out of this surplus land, 316 ha. of land has been demarcated for Compensatory Afforestation for Asolamendha Project.</p>

		<p>As regards the legal status of land, revenue records show that entire land is in the name of Executive Engineer, Bembla Project Dam under Water Resources Department, GOM. The land acquisition procedure is already completed and 7/12 forms for land proposed for CA land are mutated in the name of Executive Engineer, Bembla Project Dam. The revenue documents (English translation) for the same are already submitted along with the proposal.</p> <p>As mentioned in the order dated 12/09/2018, the excess Bembla project land is proposed to be utilised for CA land for irrigation projects involving diversion of forest land. In future when entire land i.e 2615 ha, will be developed as CA land involving plantation/ bird sanctuary/ nesting grounds etc. Ideal Environmental ecosystem for Sustainable Development will be formed.</p>
iv.	Asolamendha Renovation Project involves proposal for diversion of 315.74 ha. forest area, out of which 267.33 ha. forest area has been moved for clearance from the NBWL for corridor of animals including tiger. The Committee observed that the details of the remaining area which has not been included in the proposal along with detailed reasons for not including the same in the proposal seeking clearance of SCNBWL needs to be provided.	<p>The User Agency has submitted the compliance as follows.</p> <p>As per the Forest Department records, land under diversion does not involve major WII Tiger Corridor like Eastern Vidarbha Corridor. The area involved in the proposed diverted land fall under WII grid (Corridor formed due to Telemetric record of Tiger Movements). The land details in the WII grid/report along with map showing the WII Tiger Corridor, WII grid along with Asolamendha project area is attached herewith (Page No. 22 to 24). It is clear from the Map that WII grid involves only submergence area and initial few Kms. of the Main Canal. Rest of the area to be diverted is not included in WII grid, This is verified from report by the office of DFO/Wild life Warden and CCF, Chandrapur.</p>
v.	Further it was decided that the issue of notification issued by the Wildlife Division of the Ministry dated 18.03.2024 with respect to issuance of FC before taking the matter before the SC-NBWL will be dealt as per policy decision taken in the matter.	<p>The User Agency has submitted the compliance as follows.</p> <p>It is requested to consider the project for Stage I clearance in the next meeting.</p>

Encl.:- As Above, 4 copy.


(Prashant Khade)
Divisional Forest Officer,
Chandrapur Forest Division,
Chandrapur

Copy forwarded to Executive Engineer, Asolamendha Project Renovation Division No. 1, Mul for information and necessary action.