

8-05/2023-FC

I/38636/2023

Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bag Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi – 110003

Dated: 15th February, 2023

To,

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Government of Madhya Pradesh,
Bhopal.

Subject: Diversion of 272.00 ha forest land for the construction of Kopra Medium Irrigation Project in favour of Water Resource Department under Sagar District of Madhya Pradesh State (Online No. FP/MP/IRRIG/143864/2021) – regarding.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer the PCCF (LM) and Nodal Officer, FCA, 1980, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh letter No. F-3/100/2021/10-11/12/222 dated 16.01.2023 forwarding a fresh proposal on the above subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. After examining the proposal, the following shortcomings have been observed:

- i. The basic details of proposed dam like its height, length, command area, technical approval, hydrological assessment etc. along with alternatives examined with relevant maps shall be submitted.
- ii. The site specificity of the proposal shall be re-examined and a detailed report along with justification as to why the project cannot be executed in non-forest area shall be submitted.
- iii. The presence important floral species like *Tectona grandis*, *Lagerstromia*, *Parviflora*, *Lanea grandis*, *Anogeissus latifolia*, *Agele marmelos*, *Terminalia tomentosa* etc has been reported in proposed diversion area. In this regard, a detailed report shall be submitted along with mitigation measure to protect these species.
- iv. The CCF, Sagar in his Site Inspection report has mentioned the presence of Tiger, Wolf, Sloth Bear, Leopard along with reptile's butterflies and other schedule animals in the forest land proposed for diversion. Further, it has been mentioned that the Indian wolf is the keystone species of Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary. Therefore, the comment of Chief Wildlife Warden in this regard needs submission.
- v. Out of total, 268.39 ha proposed forest land is located within Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary. Further, as per online Part-II, a part of the forest land proposed for diversion is located within Eco-sensitive zone (ESZ) of Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary. In this regard the comments of the Chief Wildlife Warden along with the status of the approval of the proposal by the SCNBWL shall be submitted.
- vi. As per DSS analysis, the proposed forest land is having presence of Agricultural land, Road and Plantations carried out in the past. The same needs clarification.
- vii. The DGPS map indicating the purpose wise breakup of the forest land proposed for diversion shall be uploaded on PARIVESH.
- viii. The KML file of submergence area i.e. 772.521 ha non forest land shall be

uploaded on the PARIVESH portal.

- ix. The copy of CAT plan as submitted does not mention that the same is approved by the Principal CCF & HoFF or any other officer authorized by him for the purpose as prescribed under the Chapter-9 at para 9.2 (vi) of Comprehensive guideline Handbook, 2019. The same need submission.
- x. The proposal involves the rehabilitation of people, therefore the copy of approved R&R plan needs submission.
- xi. The Cost Benefit analysis has been calculated on the old NPV rates, Moreover the complete analysis as per the prescribed format has not been submitted. Therefore, revised cost-benefit analysis is required to be submitted.
- xii. The number of trees at FRL-2 & FRL-4 meters has been mentioned as Nil. The correct enumeration detail of the trees may therefore be submitted for each level of the proposed Dam.
- xiii. Examination of proposed CA patches through satellite data revealed that the villagers/ inhabitants from the proposed CA land have been relocated/ shifted to some other place and now this vacated land has been proposed for CA. Therefore, the State Govt. shall clarify that the land proposed to be given for CA was not part of any village relocation project for which forest land was diverted under Forest(Conservation) Act,1980.
- xiv. Satellite data shows the presence of Agriculture land, Road, River, Built-up area etc. within the proposed CA land. The same needs clarification.
- xv. The State Govt. shall examine the proposed CA land and ensure that no part of proposed CA land is falling within the River.
- xvi. The KML file of degraded forest land identified for plantation work along with CA scheme shall be uploaded on PARIVESH.
- xvii. Some Non-forestry activity is visible within the proposed CA site at Village Nauradehi. This needs justification.
- xviii. It is observed that the Collector, Sagar District vide earlier order dated 10.07.2017 handed over 437.575 ha Private land and Revenue land in four (4) villages namely Noradehi, Kushyari, Rampura madaj & Peepla to the State Forest Department owing to the relocation of these villages and their habitants from the Nauradehi Wildlife sanctuary. Afterwards, the Collector, Sagar District vide revised order dated 22.07.2017 has reserved the entire 437.575 ha land for CA in lieu of diversion of forest land for Kopra Medium Irrigation project. Now only a part of the said 437.575 ha area is proposed to be used for CA against the instant proposal, which needs justification. The State Govt shall also ensure that land proposed to be given for CA was not part of any village relocation project for which forest land was diverted under Forest(Conservation) Act,1980.

Accordingly, it is requested to furnish the above mentioned information to this Ministry for further consideration of the proposal.

Signed by Suneet Bhardwaj

Date: 17-02-2023 18:17:05

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-

(Suneet Bhardwaj)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. The PCCF (HoFF), Department of Forest, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal;

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2. The Regional Officer, Integrated Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Bhopal;
3. The Nodal Officer (FCA), Department of Forest, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal;
4. User Agency;
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF & CC, New Delhi for uploading on PARIVESH portal.