

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Alignaj, Jorbagh Road,
New Delhi - 110003
Dated: 31st January, 2022

To

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Government of Jharkhand,
Ranchi.

Sub: Proposal involving non-forestry use of 10.24 ha of forest land in favour of M/s NTPC Ltd. for construction of Ash dyke and water reservoir in Tandwa Block, of District Chatra (Jharkhand) – reg.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the State Government of Jharkhand's letter No. Van-Bhumi-19/2021-3640 VP dated 22.12.2021 on the above subject addressed to IRO, Ranchi wherein prior approval of Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and to say that IRO, taking cognizance of the fact earlier approval to the project for non-forestry use of 97.2477 ha was granted by the MoEF&CC vide letter no. 8-76/2007-FC dated 3.11.2015, forwarded the proposal to Ministry on 11.01.2022 for its further examination. Scrutiny of the proposal in the Ministry revealed following:

- i. Extant proposal is an offshoot of the approval already conveyed by the Central Government in the past. Therefore, proposal should be processed as an additional area of already approved proposal while the State Government has processed the extant proposal as standalone project without linking it with the previous approval. Rationale for considering the extant project as standalone project may be furnished by the State.
- ii. Justification submitted by the user agency for proposing forest land for the non-site specific activity is not convincing as no detail of alternative sites explored for setting up the reservoir and ash dyke has been made available in the extant proposal.
- iii. Extant proposal is non site-specific which can be established on the non-forest land. Detail of efforts made by the State Government to identify the non-forest land for the establishment of ash dyke supported with documentary evidences may be made available.
- iv. Detail of non-forest land nearest to the thermal power plant may be intimated by the State along with its current land use.
- v. As per details of ash pond area approved along with original proposal of the user agency, an area of 333 ha was proposed for ash pond including 46.86 ha of forest land. Status of utilization of area approved in the past for the indicated purpose needs to be intimated by the State.
- vi. Status of compliance of conditions stipulated in the approval dated 3.11.2015 granted for 97.2477 ha of forest land may be intimated by the State.
- vii. Proposal pertaining to Garhi Jalashay Yojana involving an area of 689.835 ha of forest land is still active in the Ministry. The State Government may therefore, confirm the submission made by the user agency about the

termination of Garhi Jalashya Scheme and also inform the status 689.835 ha of forest land proposed for Garhi Jalashay Yojana. Further, in case the State Government is not interested in the said project a request for closure of the said proposal may be submitted to the Ministry.

In view of the above, I am directed to request the State Government to submit information on the shortcomings, as indicated above, to this Ministry for further necessary action in the matter.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-
(Charan Jeet Singh)
Scientist 'D'

Copy to:-

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Government of Jharkhand, Ranchi.
2. Regional Officer, IRO, MoEF&CC, Ranchi
3. Addl PCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), O/o PCCF, Govt. of Jharkhand, Ranchi
4. User Agency
5. Monitoring Cell, Forest Conservation Division
6. Guard file.