

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
 Aliganj, Jor Bag Road,
 New Delhi - 110003.

Dated: 15.03.2023

To
 The Additional Chief Secretary (Forests),
 Forest, Environment and Ecology Dept.,
 Government of Karnataka,
 Bangalore

Sub: Diversion of 575.0749 Ha of Forest land for the construction of dam across Markandeya River and ancillary infrastructure in forest lands of Gokak, Godachinamalki, Konnur and Mavanura villages in Gokak and Hukkeri Taluks, Belagavi District for storing 6 TMC of water under Ghatti-Basavanna Drinking Water Supply Project by KNNL, Govt of Karnataka. (Online Proposal No. FP/KA/WATER/65437/2020)

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government's letter no. FEE 23 FLL 2023 (e) dated 21.02.2023 on above mentioned subject, seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and to say that preliminary scrutiny of the proposal revealed following observations:

- i. The PCCF letter dt 06.03.2023 mentions about per para 2.4 (i) of comprehensive guidelines of this Ministry which states that the revenue land and all such category of land not under the management and/or administrative control of Forest Dept, on which the provision of FC Act 1980 is not applicable shall be considered for the purpose of CA. Therefore the State Govt. is requested clarify whether the CA land identified for the instant proposal i. e 689.1 ha is an Non-Forest land or its any land as per para 2.4 of this Ministry Comprehensive guidelines. If the land is as per para 2.4 of this Ministry Comprehensive guidelines then the state Govt. requires to provide double the extent of such kind of land for CA i.e. 1150.148 ha instead of 689.1 ha.
- ii. Detailed Compensatory Afforestation scheme has not been provided by the State Govt. The same may be submitted.
- iii. The copy of CAT plan as submitted is not 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 needs re-submission.
- iv. As per the landuse plan an area of 12.95 ha is proposed for Dam office & guest house (4.50 ha) and Dam view point (8.45 ha) which are non-site specific activity. In this regard appropriate justification and the details of alternative lands identified for the said purpose may be submitted.
- v. As per the landuse plan an component namely Utility is proposed for 1.054 ha. In this regard the State Govt. may clarify for what purpose the area is sought for.

- vi. Component wise area of the proposed forest land is submitted. However, Component-wise KML of 575.0749 Ha of proposed Forest land is not available on PARIVESH. The same requires submission.
- vii. It has been informed by PCCF(HoFF) that an area of 0.27 Ha of Nirvanappa Temple located in Sy No. 410 of Gokak village and Taluk will be submerged after the project is completed. In this regard the measures taken for shifting the temple to another location may be furnished and the comments in this regard may be furnished by State Govt..
- viii. As per the details provided in part-II certain schedule-I species have been reported in the area. In this regard comments and recommendation of CWLW Govt. of Karnataka on the likely impact of the project on the movement of wildlife and the applicability of NBWL Clearance is required.
- ix. It is observed from the DSS analysis that Ghataprabha Bird sanctuary is located at an approx. aerial distance of 5.10 km from the proposed forest land. In this regard comments and recommendation of CWLW Govt. of Karnataka on the applicability of NBWL Clearance is required. The State Govt. may also provide the details (notification and KML files) of ESZ wrt Ghataprabha Bird sanctuary.
- x. Based on the observation on Google Earth agriculture land, settlement and road are visible in the proposed area for diversion. In this regard the State Govt. is requested to offer its comments whether any violation of FC Act 1980 had taken place or there are any encroachments reported.
- xi. The State govt. may also specify whether the dam to be constructed will be an earthen dam or otherwise.
- xii. The plan with details for further distributing the water and involvement of forest land in the same may also be submitted.
- xiii. Out of 575.074 ha of forest land involved 519.68 ha is going to get submerged however rest of the land is being taken for other activities. The State Govt. may clarify that whether these facilities may be constructed on non-forest land?
- xiv. Details of 3 identified alternatives sites with their KML files along with no. of trees proposed for felling against each alternate forest land may be submitted with appropriate justification for identifying the forest land for division.
- xv. As per the details in Part-I (form A) User Agency has requested for total period for which the forest land proposed to be diverted as 50 years but the PCCF(HoFF) & Nodal Officer has recommended for only 20 years. The State govt. may provide its comments in this regard.
- xvi. Ministry vide its guideline dated 6.01.2022 read with 28.03.2022 has revised the rates to NPV. The new rates are applicable in the instant proposal. In this regard, State Government is requested to submit the revised C:B ratio as per the new NPV rates.
- xvii. The State govt. is requested to submit the approved DPR of the instant project.
- xviii. The Ministry on 28.06.2022 has notified the Forest (Conservation) Rules, 2022 and The FC Rules 2022 is applicable in the instant proposal. In this regard as per this Ministry's guideline dt 14.11.2022 the State Govt. is requested to submit the minutes of the meeting of Project Steering Committee wrt the instant proposal.

In view of above, the State Government is requested to furnish the above mentioned

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information/documents to this Ministry for further consideration of the proposal.

Yours faithfully

(Dr. Dheeraj Mittal)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. The PCCF (HoFF), Government of Karnataka, Bangalore
2. The Nodal Officer(FCA), Government of Karnataka, Bangalore
3. The Regional Officer, Integrated Regional Office, Kendriya Sadan, 4th Floor, E&F Wings, 17th Main Road, Koramangala II Block, Bangalore (Karnataka)
4. User Agency
5. Monitoring Cell of FC Division