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No.5-ORC561/2023-BHU

18th April, 2023

To

The Addl. Chief Secretary,
Forest & Environment Department,
Government of Odisha,
Bhubaneswar - 751 001

Sub: Diversion of 23.714 ha of forest land for construction of Pandit Raghunath Murmu Medical College and Hospital in the District of Mayurbhanj under Baripada Forest Division.

Ref: State Govt. letter No.FE-DIV-FLD-0008-5917/FE&CC dated 03.04.2023

Sir,

With subject and reference cited above, I am directed to inform that the State Govt. vide letter under reference has submitted the above mentioned proposal to this office seeking prior approval of Central Government under Section-2 of Forests (Conservation) Act, 1980. On scrutiny of the proposal following has been observed.

- 1) The instant project is a non-site specific project. State Govt. has not furnished the details of alternatives site examined, reasons for their rejection and complete justification establishing its inescapability for locating the project in forest area where 535 trees are enumerated.
- 2) The DFO, Baripada in its inspection report has reported that the user agency has used the forest land for non-forestry purpose since 20.03.2015 without prior approval of the Central Govt. under Section 2 (ii) of FC Act, 1980. Nature of activities undertaken and extent of forest area used thereon for non-forestry purpose and action taken against the officials responsible for violation may be furnished.
- 3) The Cost Benefit analysis for the project has not been furnished though the project involves forest land more than 20 ha.
- 4) The CA land identified for this project appears to have human settlement within the boundary as evident from DSS analysis. In the Patch-2 of the CA land there is metal road passing through the CA land. The State Govt. may identify alternate suitable land for C.A.

Yours faithfully,

Padma Mahanti

(Padma Mahanti)

Dy. Inspector General of Forests (C)

Copy to:

1. The PCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Forest Department, Govt. of Odisha, Aranya Bhawan, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar-751023 for kind information and necessary action.
2. The Dean & Principal, Pandit Raghunath Murmu Medical College & Hospital, At: Rangamatia, PO: Sankhabhanga, Dist :Mayurbhanj-757107 for information and necessary action.

Dy. Inspector General of Forests (C)