



No.5-ORA641/2024-BHU

24th April, 2024

To

The Addl. Chief Secretary,
Forest & Environment Department,
Government of Odisha,
Bhubanewar – 751 001

Sub: Diversion of 136.966 ha (94.013 ha in Balliguda Division + 42.953 ha in Kalahandi North Division) of forest land for construction of 220/132/33 KV/DC Transmission line from existing 220/132/33 KV Grid Sub-Station at Kesinga of Kalahandi District to proposed 220/132/33 KV Grid Sub-Station at Sirtiguda of Kandhamal District by Deputy General Manager (EI), EHT Construction Division, OPTCL, Berhampur in Odisha.

Ref: State Govt. letter No.FE-DIV-FLD-0019-2024-6196/FE&CC dated 28.03.2024

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 Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. On scrutiny of the proposal, the following has been observed.

- The DFO, Balliguda has reported that violation has been committed by the user agency as per Para 1.21 (ii) of Handbook of FC Act, 1980 issued by Ministry dated 28.03.2019. However, number of towers and extent of the forest area used illegally has not been reported. As per DSS analysis, total 66 towers in Balliguda Division have been constructed illegally over forest land. Details joint verification involving forest and revenue officials and total extent of forest land used illegally in Balliguda Division may be submitted.
- Detail action taken report by Forest/Revenue authority under local forest act/revenue act against the erring Forest/Revenue officials and the user agency responsible for causing diversion of RF/DPF/Revenue forest land may be furnished.
- As per DSS, a metallic road is passing along the CA Patches at Brahamani RF, Hatimunda RF and Sinang RF. Plantation activity is present in some portion of CA patch at Brahamani RF. Agricultural encroachment are observed in CA patches at Thuapadar Gundi DPF and Sinang RF. The State Govt. may clarify the suitability of the CA land and encroachment free land.

It is therefore requested to furnish the above information to this office for further processing of the proposal.

Yours faithfully,
Padma Mahanti

(Dr. Padma Mahanti)
Dy. Inspector General of Forests (C)

Copy to:

- The PCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Forest Department, Govt. of Odisha, Aranya Bhawan, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar-751023 for kind information and necessary action.
- The Deputy General Manager (Elect), EHT Construction Division, OPTCL, Berhampur, AT: Sanakusasthali, PO: Badakusasthali, Berhampur-760007, Odisha for information and necessary action.

Dy. Inspector General of Forests (C)