



To

The Addl. Chief Secretary,  
Forest, Environment & Climate Change Deptt.,  
Government of Odisha,  
Bhubaneswar – 751 001.

Sub: Diversion of 48.782 ha of forest land for construction of 220 KV LILO Transmission line from existing LoC No.70 of 220 KV Malkangiri – Balimela Transmission line to existing 220/33 KV Grid S/S Khairput, Gobindapalli under Malkangiri Forest Division in Malkangiri District by OPTCL, EHT Construction Division, Jeypore, Odisha.

Ref: PCCF&HoFF, Odisha's letter No.3750/9F (Trans.)367/2021 dated 27.02.2023.

Sir,

With subject and reference cited above, I am directed to inform that the REC deliberated upon the proposal along with the reply submitted by the State Govt. in its meeting held on 18.04.2023. The DFO, Malkangiri and RCCF, Koraput have reported that the user agency has constructed 4 (four) nos. of Web Towers in Tarlakota PRF proposed to be diverted during 2018-19 and 1 (one) no. of Web Tower in Revenue forest area. But, while examining the proposal on DSS, the Committee observed that more than 20 towers have been erected over the proposed forest land. So, the exact number of towers constructed on the proposed forest land and forest area brought under non-forestry use could not be ascertained. The Committee decided to defer the proposal and desired to seek the following information from the State Govt.

- 1) The State Govt. shall carry out a joint inspection to ascertain actual number of towers erected along with GPS Coordinates and extent of forest area used thereon, in violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 involving officials from State Forest Department, Revenue Department and OPTCL.
- 2) Action taken against the erring officials responsible for violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and legal action taken by the forest and revenue department for the illegal act.
- 3) When the construction of towers started? Whether the construction work is going on or has been stopped.

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

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 for information and necessary action.
2. The Deputy General Manager (Elect), EHT (Construction), OPTCL, Jeypore – 764001, Odisha for information and necessary action.

Dy. Inspector General of Forests (C)