



भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
 पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST
 & CLIMATE CHANGE**
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F.No. 4-KRA1510/2025-BAN
 Dated the May, 2025

To

The Additional Chief Secretary to Government of Karnataka,
 Forest, Ecology & Environment Department,
 M.S.Building, Dr.Ambedkar Veedhi,
 Bangalore – 560 001.

Sub:- Diversion of 61 ha forest land in various Survey Numbers of Udugere & Honnenahalli villages in Kadur Taluk, Chikkamagalur District and those of Bellara, Kaniverampura & Rudhiguddadakavalu villages in Sira Tatuk, Tumkuru District for construction of Upper Bhadra Lift Irrigation Scheme for Bhadra Reservoir to Tunnel near Ajjampura in Tungabhadra sub-basin of Krishna basin in favour of Executive Engineer, Visvesvaraya Jala Nigam Ltd, Upper Bhadra Project Division No.4, Chitradurga District (Online Proposal No. FP/KA/Canal/37818/2018)-reg

Sir

I am directed to refer to State Government's letter No. FEE 255 FLL 2023 (e) dated 02.04.2025 seeking prior approval of the Central Government in accordance with Section '2(1)' of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam 1980 with reference to the above mentioned proposal. For further processing of the proposal the following information may be provided:-

- i. The State Government is requested to submit the recommendation of Project Screening Committee (PSC) as per the Rule 9 (5) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rule 2023.
- ii. The proposed area falls within the Bukkapatna Chinkara Wildlife Sanctuary therefore recommendation of SC-NBWL clearance is required.
- iii. The proposal is for construction of a canal in the Bukkapatna Chinkara Wildlife Sanctuary which would result in fragmentation of the wild life habitat and restriction of wildlife movement. Therefore, the State Government is requested to submit the comments of the CWLW on the adverse impact of the proposal and the measures to be adopted to prevent injury/ death of animals if the proposal for construction of the canal is approved.
- iv. The State Government is requested to submit the DPR of the project.
- v. The State Government is requested to submit the approved muck disposal plan along with the calculation sheet.
- vi. The State Government is requested to submit the KML files of the alternatives examined and the reason for rejection of the alternatives examined.

- vii. More than 30000 trees need to cut for the execution of the project. Therefore, the Forest department shall offer its comments on the alternatives explored to reduce tree felling.
- viii. Further it may also be noted that the Ministry had earlier accorded final approval for the below mentioned three proposals related to Upper Bhadra Lift Irrigation Project. In this regard the complete compliance report with respect to these proposal as mentioned below may be submitted:-
 - a. Diversion of 96.95 ha. of forest land in Muthinakoppa Minor Forest & Aramballi Reserved Forest in Koppa Division for execution and construction of Upper Bhadra Lift Irrigation Project Package-I in favour of the Executive Engineer, Karnataka Neeravari Nigama Limited, Karnataka. This project accorded Stage-II approval on 17/06/2020.
 - b. Diversion of 110.10. (Revised from 186.42 ha) of forest land in Bhadravathi Division for execution /construction of Upper Bhadra Project, Package-II (Lifting of water from Bhadra Reservoir to Ajjiampura delivery chamber) in favour of Executive Engineer, Karnataka Neeravari Nigama Limited, Upper Bhadra Project, Division -2, B.R.Project, Bhadravathi. This project accorded Stage-II approval on 20/12/2017.
 - c. Diversion of 111.57 ha. (Revised from 171.546 ha.) of forest land in Jankal R.F., and Lakkihalli R.F. of Hosadurga Range, Chitradurga F.D. for Construction of Chitradurga Branch Canal under Upper Bhadra Project in F/o Executive Engineer, Karnataka Neeravari Nigama Limited, UBP Project, Division -4, Hosadurga, Karnataka. This project accorded Stage-II approval on 20/12/2017.
- ix. Apart from the above-mentioned proposals, if any other proposals/cases have been accorded approval linked with the Upper Badra project, the compliance report of the same may be submitted.
- x. The State Government is requested to certify whether the instant proposal is submitted in a piece meal manner or it is a consolidated proposal.
- xi. It has been observed that in an earlier proposal that has been accorded approval i.e. Diversion of 111.57 ha. (Revised from 171.546 ha.) of forest land in Jankal R.F., and Lakkihalli R.F. of Hosadurga Range, Chitradurga F.D. for Construction of Chitradurga Branch Canal under Upper Bhadra Project in F/o Executive Engineer, Karnataka Neeravari Nigama Limited, UBP Project, Division -4, Hosadurga, Karnataka, the User Agency has constructed an underground canal in the forest area. Therefore, the State Government may direct the User Agency to explore the possibility of construction of underground canals in the instant proposal also, so that the huge number of trees proposed for felling can be saved and also prevent habitat fragmentation in the Bukkapatna Chinkara Wildlife Sanctuary.
- xii. From the Google earth imagery, it has been observed that at Sy. No. 128 near Thimmana village, an underground canal/tunnel has already been constructed inside the proposed forest area. Therefore, the Forest Department is requested clarify if there is any violation of Van(Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam 1980 or not.
- xiii. The State Government shall offer its comments on whether the Non-forest CA land identified i.e. 61.02 ha falls under the category of the Rule 13 (3) of Van(Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules 2023. If so, then as per the existing rule the CA land needs to be provided double in extent. The State Government is also requested to submit documentary evidence of the legal status of the land identified for CA .
- xiv. The CA suitability certificate wrt 9.28 ha in Sy.No.289, Inam Dattathreya Peeta

village, Jagara Hobli, Chikkamagalur District is uploaded in PARIVESH portal. The CA Suitability certificate wrt 42.84 ha in Sy.No.4,5,7,8& 9, Nayakanahalli, Sy.No.36 & 43, Dasappanahalli & Sy.No.16 & 17, Rangapura villages, Hagalawadi Hobli, Gubbi Taluk, Ankasandra RF, Tumkur and 8.9 ha in Sy.No. 21, Janakallu, Sira, Bukkapatna, Tumkur is not uploaded. Therefore, State Government is requested to forward the same.

- xv. As per the Google earth imagery, encroachment is visible in the NFL identified for CA. Therefore State Government is requested to offer its comments and also submit the non-encumbrance certificate.
- xvi. The KML files of the 142 ha DFL identified in Sy.No.57, Maylukubbe, Chikkanayakanahalli, Kandikere and Sy.No. 72, Yemmedoddi village and Section 4 notified forest, Biruru Hobli, Chikkamagaluru Taluk for carrying out the planation has not been submitted. Therefore, the State Government is requested to submit the same.
- xvii. From the KML files uploaded in PARIVESH portal with respect to the area proposed for diversion and the NFL land identified for CA, it has been observed that the NFL identified and the area proposed for diversion are overlapping near Sy. No. 128 near Thimmana village. Therefore the State Government is requested to submit the correct/revised KML.
- xviii. As per the satellite imagery, work in the non forest area has already started, which lead to *fait accompli* situation. As per para 11.2 of Chapter 11 of comprehensive guideline issued under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan Adhiniyam), the user agency has to submit an undertaking to the effect that if the work in forest land is denied, project shall be executed along the alternatives alignment and work on non forest land shall not be cited as a reason for grant of approval forest land under VSESA 1980.
- xix. As per the satellite imagery the proposed canal is passing thorough a road. Therefore NoC from the concerned department/ agency needs to be submitted.
- xx. The State Government is requested to submit the updated status of EC.

In view of the above the State Government is requested to submit the above mentioned clarification/information/ documents for further processing of the proposal.

Yours faithfully,

(Praneetha Paul)

Deputy Inspector General of Forests (Central)

Copy to:-

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Forests Department, Govt. of Karnataka, Aranya Bhavan, 18th Cross, Malleswaram, Bengaluru – 560 003.
2. The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (VSESA) /Nodal Officer (VSESA), Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Forests Department, Govt. of Karnataka, Aranya Bhavan, 18th Cross, Malleswaram, Bengaluru – 560 003.
3. The Executive Engineer, Visvesvaraya Jala Nigam Ltd, Upper Bhadra Project Division No.4, Chitradurga District-577527.
4. Guard file.