

To

भारत सरकार GOVERNMENT OF INDIA पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवाय ुपरिवर्तन मंत्रालय MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS & CLIMATE CHANGE Regional Office (WCZ) Ground Floor, East Wing New Secretariat Building Civil Lines, Nagpur - 440001 apccfcentral-ngp-mef@gov.in

Dated: 14 June, 2017

925 FC-II/CH-64/2017-NGP/ 1

Principal Secretary (Forests), Government of Chhattisgarh, Forest Department, Mantralaya, Mahanadi Bhavan, New Raipur (CG)

Sub: Diversion `of 19.385 ha of forest land in favour of M/s Chhattisgarh State Power Transmission Company Limited (CSPTCL) for construction of 132 KV S/S Bishrampur-Parsa Transmission Line in Surajpur and Surguja Districts in the State of Maharashtra – regarding.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the State Government of Chhattisgarh's letter no. 5-28/2017/10-2 dated 17.05.2017 on the above subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section – 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and to say that scrutiny of the proposal in the Regional Office (WCZ) of the MoEF&CC at Nagpur revealed following:

- i. Original copy of Part-II of Form-A have not been submitted along with the proposal. The same needs to be submitted in accordance with the MoEF&CC's guidelines dated 17.11.2016.
- ii. The DCFs concerned have not certified that non-forest land involved in the proposal does not fall under the category of deemed forest land on which provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 are applicable.
- iii. Forest patch wise area calculation statement, indicating the length and breadth, forest density has not been submitted. The same needs to be submitted along with detail of patches which are being bifurcated from the transmission line.
- iv. The State Government in its forwarding letter has mentioned total project affected trees as 829 while Part-II submitted online mentions total project affected trees as 743. Consistent detail of the exact number of project affected trees both in online proposal as well as in the hard copy may be provided by the State Government. Further, as per existing Guidelines dated 5.05.2014 of the MoEF&CC the admissible width for 132 KV transmission line for stringing work is 3 meters and not 4 meters as considered by the User Agency/Forest Department. Exact number of trees to be felled in both the Division in accordance with the said guidelines dated 5.05.2014 needs to be submitted by the State Government.
- v. Extant proposal is for 132 KV Single Circuit Transmission line. In case the configuration of tower proposed for transmission line is of Double circuit, the tree felling below second circuit may not be required at this stage i.e. it may be required in future, if the User Agency desires to string second circuit also. Therefore, given the fact that at present only single circuit line has been proposed by the User Agency number of trees falling under the proposed single circuit needs to be intimated separately by the State Government;

- vi. The alternatives examined by the User Agency may be conspicuously depicted on the forest stock maps of appropriate scale and may be submitted by the State Government along with the details of the corresponding attributes of alternatives examined viz. no of trees involved, feasibility of project. Soft copies of kml/shape files needs to be submitted by the State Government along with documentary evidences establishing that concerned authorities in the State Forest Department from DFO to PCCF have critically evaluated the alternate alignments explored by the User Agency.
- vii. Detail of area available for plantation of dwarf species, preferably medicinal in the clearance available under the conductor and scheme of plantation has not been provided in the proposal
- viii. Examination of the compliance of Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 revealed that 646 persons have been allotted rights in the land proposed for diversion in Surajpur Forest Division. The status of settlement of rights in respect of 646 rights holders may be informed by the State Government; and
- ix. Details of employment potential in terms of maydays for skilled, semiskilled and unskilled persons to be generated both on permanent basis (direct and indirect) as well as temporary (direct and indirect), also needs to be provided by the State Government.

In view of the above, I am directed to request the State Government to submit the information on the shortcomings, as indicated above, to this office for further necessary action in the matter.

Yours faithfully,

N K Dimri Technical Officer

Copy to:

- 1. The PCCF, Government of Chhattisgarh, Raipur
- 2. The Nodal Officer FCA), O/o of the PCCF, Government of Chhattisgarh, Raipur.
- 3. User Agency.
- 4. Guard File.

N K Dimri Technical Officer