



भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु 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

FC-III/MH-29/2018-NGP/3796

Dated: 7th June, 2018

To

The Secretary (Forests),
Government of Maharashtra,
Revenue & Forest Department,
Mantralaya, Mumbai-400032

Sub: Diversion of 166.485 ha of forest land in favour of Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (M.S.R.D.C.) Limited, for Construction of Nagpur- Mumbai Super Express Way (Package-II) from Km (89.0 + 469.0 Km) in Wardha and Amravati District to Km (347.0 Km + 725 Km) in Buldana and Jalna Districts in the State of Maharashtra- regarding.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the State Government of Maharashtra's letter no. FLD-1518/C.R.23/F-10 dated 19.05.2018 on the above subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and to say that examination of the said proposal in the Regional Office revealed following:


- The State Government in its forwarding letter has mentioned that the CA will be undertaken over non-forest land while Nodal Officer (FCA), Maharashtra in his letter dated 10.01.2018 has mentioned that the CA will be raised over Zudupi Jungle land to be made available by the CCF, Nagpur. Exact detail of CA land may be re-confirmed by the State Government and the same may be uploaded in the online proposal.
- Area calculation statement, in tabular form, indicating the forest patchwise length and breadth along with the detail of area left on both left and side of the bifurcated forest patch may be submitted by the State Government. Further, details of area of forest patches being bifurcated from the proposed rehabilitation/upgradation work or re-alignment, if any, may also be submitted by the State Government.
- Inspection report of the CCF has been submitted only in respect of Akola Forest Division only. As the total area involved in the proposal is 166.485 ha, inspection report from the Nodal CCF for the entire area needs to be submitted corresponding to all three Divisions.
- Examination of detail of trees submitted in the online proposal, inspection report of CCF and State Government recommendation revealed substantial discrepancies indicating total project affected trees as 38,467, 47,610 and 49,345, respectively. Discrepancy needs to be rectified and exact number of trees.
- Examination of the alternative explored revealed that no detail pertaining to other attributes, other than forest area, examined while finalizing the alignment have been submitted in the proposal. Further, comments of the Nodal Officer (FCA) and the State Government on the alternatives examined and reasons for discarding the same have not been submitted along with the proposal.

P.T.O.

- vi. As the proposed project falls within the proposed Eco-sensitive Zones of Kete Purna WLS and Karanja Sohal WLS and in light of fact that extant project needs environment clearance which *ipso facto* mandates the approval of the Standing Committee of the NBWL. The State Government may therefore, submit the status of approval, if any, obtained by the User Agency from the Standing Committee of the NBWL.
- vii. As per the recent guidelines issued by the Wildlife Division of the MoEF&CC based on the recommendation made by the Standing Committee of the NBWL, a note on the proposed provisions provided for the passage of wildlife across the proposed expressway needs to be submitted by the State Government.
- viii. The Cost Benefit Ratio of 1:23.58 has been estimated by the State Government in the instant case while CB analysis submitted for the other 3 packages viz. I, III and IV indicated the CB ratio as 1:33.79, 1:21.30 and 1:44.41, respectively. Given the fact the entire project, corresponding to all its packages, is being implemented by assuming similar per units parameters of cost and benefits, the substantial variations in the CB analysis needs to be justified by the State Government.
- ix. Complete compliance of Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 has not been submitted as the proceedings of Sub Divisional Level in Washim District and resolution of Gram Sabha in Buldhana District have not been submitted along with the compliance. Complete compliance of Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 needs to be submitted by the State Government.
- x. An undertaking may be obtained from the User Agency by the State Government in accordance with the provisions of the MoEF&CC's Guidelines dated 7.01.2013.


In view of the above, the State Government is requested to submit the information on the shortcomings, as indicated above, to this Ministry for further necessary action in the matter.

Yours faithfully,


(Charan Jeet Singh)
Scientist 'C'

Copy to:

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


(Charan Jeet Singh)
Scientist 'C'