

Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Aliganj, Jor Bag Road,
New Delhi - 110003.

Dated:10-08-2025

To
The Addl. Chief Secretary (Forests),
Government of Odisha,
Bhubaneswar

Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 153.938 ha of forest land (129.620 ha Reserved Forest and 24.318 ha Revenue Forest) for construction of Kutulisingha Irrigation Project in Athmallik Forest Division under Angul District by Executive Engineer, Cuttack Investigation Division, Jobra, Cuttack of Water Resource Department, Govt. of Odisha –reg.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Odisha's online Proposal No. FP/OR/IRRIG/77864/2020 uploaded on parivesh portal dated 22.07.2025 on the above subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government in accordance with Section 2 (i) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and to say that after examination of the proposal the following has been observed:

- i. As per the guidelines issued by the Ministry vide letter No. FC-11/118/2021-FC dated 25.01.2024 the State Govt. shall complete the procedures laid down in the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, the minutes of the meeting of Project Steering Committee (PSC), shall be attached with part-IV of application form and proposal be processed through the Conservator of Forests. The compliance in this regards is required.
- ii. As reported by the Divisional Forest Officer, Himalayan Griffon vulture was reported in within the project area. Further, the Divisional Forest Officer has reported that the patches 45,46,47,48,49,20,51,53 of left canal are falling under frequent Elephant movement areas and path of the Elephant movement will be changed due to this project. In this regard the justification for diversion of forest land and specific Comments/recommendations of CWLW shall be submitted.
- iii. The State Govt. / user agency shall furnish a report from the State Dam

Safety Organisation (SDSO) regarding all technical aspects wrt the of the dam. The recommendations shall be implemented by the user agency to avoid any possible unforeseen conditions. In this regard an undertaking shall be provided by the user Agency.

- iv. Further, the State Government shall provide a copy of approval of the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) on the recommendations made by the State Dam Safety Organisation (SDSO) and submit the same.
- v. State Government has reported that entire area proposed for diversion is falling inside the 10 km Eco-sensitive zone of Satkosia Gorge Wildlife Sanctuary, while as per DSS analysis of the area, the arial distance of Satkosia Gorge WLS is 4.12 km and Satkosia Tiger Reserve is 5.45 km. The State Government shall furnish the comments/justification/take action as per the provisions of the Para 12.6 of the Consolidated Guidelines and Clarifications Issued under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and VSES Rules 2023.
- vi. The Cost Benefit Analysis has not been submitted on the prescribed format. The state shall do the needful in this regard.
- vii. The copy of ownership proof or the allotment letter for the compensatory afforestation areas has not been submitted by the state, which is required to be done. Moreover, the join verification reports submitted pertain to the year 2020. Keeping same in view the fresh joint verification reports indicating the suitability of the CA land and certificate of CA land being free from all encumbrance shall be submitted.
- viii. The User agency has uploaded KML file of 152.015 ha of forest land instead of 153.938 ha of forest land. Therefore, there is a discrepancy of 1.923 ha. The correct KML file of proposed area shall be uploaded.
- ix. The component wise KML file of entire project area is not available on PARIVESH portal. This needs to be uploaded.
- x. Satellite imagery shows cultivation land and water body in area proposed for diversion. The State shall provide details regarding the violation of the Adhiniyam if any and the action taken report in this regard.
- xi. Cultivation land, kachha road, solid structure and plantation is visible in the proposed CA sites. State Government shall ensure that the area proposed for CA is free from all encumbrances. The details in this regard shall be submitted.
- xii. It has been mentioned that the Compensatory Afforestation has been proposed over non-forest land. However, as per the Forest Area (RF/PF) boundary available on DSS portal, all the proposed CA sites are within the boundary of the forest land. The State Govt, shall examine the matter and

provide Non-forest land for raising compensatory afforestation.

- xiii. The State shall submit the complete details of the alternatives examined along with the KML files and the reasons for their rejection.
- xiv. The Cost Benefit Analysis has not been submitted on the prescribed format. The state shall do the needful in this regard.

In view of above, the State Government is requested to furnish information, as indicated above, for further consideration of the proposal in the Ministry.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-

(Suneet Bhardwaj)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. PCCF (HoFF), Department of Forests, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
2. Dy. DGF (Central), Regional Office of the MoEF&CC at Bhubaneswar.
3. Nodal Officer (FCA), Department of Forests, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
4. User Agency
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi for uploading on PARIVESH portal.