



भारत सरकार / Government of India
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय / Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
एकीकृत क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय / Integrated Regional Office
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No.5-ORA528/2022-BHU

20th September, 2022

To

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

Sub: Diversion of 594.618 ha (292.289 ha in Nayagarh Forest Division and 302.329 ha in Boudh Forest Division) of forest land in connection with Khurda-Bolangir New BG Rail Link Project 112 Km to 180 Km under Nayagarh and Boudh Forest Division by East Coast Railway.

Ref: State Govt. letter No.10F(Cons)35/2022-15657/FE&CC dated 05.09.2022

Madam,

With subject and reference cited above, I am directed to inform that the above proposal was discussed in the REC meeting held on 15.09.2022. The REC deferred the proposal with the following observations:

1. As the proposed railway line is in the elephant impact zone and elephant corridor, so elephant overpasses, underpasses and viaducts at appropriate positions as identified by the local Divisional Forest Officer should be constructed, fencing of the railway line towards the sanctuary side should be done so that elephant will not enter the track and will use the under passes and overpasses.
2. Speed of the train should be less than 20 Km per hour in the stretch and Forest Department/ Railway Authority should regularly inform each other regarding the movement of elephant so that the train can be stopped without harm to elephants as and when required.
3. A Comprehensive Wildlife Management Plan should be prepared addressing all the issues raised during the site inspection/REC meeting, not only for safety of elephant but also for all the wildlife found in the locality duly approved by CWLW.
4. From the DSS as well as the site inspection report, it appears that the proposed railway line is very close to the boundary of Baisipalli Wildlife Sanctuary (From Buguda Colony to Baniguchha, approximately 15 KM).As per the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India order in IA No. 1000 of 2003 dated 03.06.2022, the Railway Authority should realign the above stretch keeping in view the minimum distance 1 KM from the boundary of Baisipalli Wildlife Sanctuary.

It is therefore requested to kindly submit information on the above observations of the REC for further necessary action.

Yours faithfully,

Padma Mahanti

(Padma Mahanti)

Dy. Inspector General of Forests (C)

Copy to:

1. The CCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Forest Department, Govt. of Odisha, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar -751023 for kind information and necessary action.
2. The Dy. Chief Engineer (Construction-II), East Coast Railway, West Annex Building, Rail Vihar, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar-751023 for information and necessary action.

Padma Mahanti

Dy. Inspector General of Forests (C)

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