



भारत सरकार / Government of India
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय / Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
एकीकृत क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय / Integrated Regional Office
ए/3, चंद्रसेखरपुर / A/3, Chandrasekharpur
भुवनेश्वर - 751 023, ओडिशा / Bhubaneswar - 751 023, Odisha



Telephone: 0674 - 2301213, 2302432, 2301248, 2302452, 2302453. E-mail: roez.bst-mef@nic.in

No.5-ORA472/2021-BHU

31st August, 2022
20th Sept,

To

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

Sub: Diversion of 310.110 ha of forest land for construction of Right Main Canal and distributary etc in Kanupur Irrigation Canal System under Keonjhar Forest Division in Keonjhar District by Executive Engineer, Kanupur Canal Division, Jhumpura of Water Resource Department, Government of Odisha.

Ref: 1. State Govt. letter No.10F(Cons)62/2021-15887/FE&CC dated 06.09.2021.
2. This office letter of even number dated 12.08.2022.

Madam,

With subject and reference cited above, I am directed to inform that the above proposal was discussed in the REC meeting held on 26.05.2022. The Committee has recommended the proposal to Ministry for approval. Since, the present proposal involves violation of FC Act, 1980 and as per Ministry's letter No.FC-7/43/2020-FC dated 22.03.2022, the proposal file was submitted to the Ministry on 08.06.2022 along with the recommendation of REC for consideration. The Ministry has returned the file with the following observation:

- i. Detailed report on violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 reported to be committed during the period of 2016 to 2018.
- ii. Detail action taken by the State Govt. after taking cognizance of violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
- iii. Authorities in the State Govt. as well DCF and CF/CCF in their inspection reports dated 22.10.2020 and 30.12.2020 respectively have reported no violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Given the fact that the violations have been committed during the year 2016 to 2018, non-reporting the same by DCF and CF/CCF concerned amount to concealing the information on violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Justification in this regards needs to be provided by the State Govt.
- iv. IRO in its inspection report indicate that most of work has been already executed during the period 2016 to 2018. Considering the fact that most of the project work has already been executed, justification for proposing 59,931 project affected trees to be felled in the forest land.
- v. Present status of violation of FC Act, 1980 i.e. whether the work in violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been stopped or still continuing.
- vi. As per DSS analysis of the area proposed for CA in degraded forest land (to afforeste

balance trees) an area of 28 ha in Barbanka and 1 ha in Raghunathpur is observed under MDF category, therefore suitability of the same needs to be reconfirmed by the IRO in consultation with the State authorities.

vii. Monitoring report on the status of compliance of conditions stipulated in the approval granted vide letter No.8-261/1988-FC dated 04.07.1989 for diversion of 235.269 ha of forest land for construction of Kanupur Irrigation Project.

It is therefore requested kindly furnish the above information to this office 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, Aranya Bhawan, Chandrasekharapur, Bhubaneswar – 751 023 for kind information and necessary action.


Dy. Inspector General of Forests (C)