

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bag Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi – 110003
Dated: As per E-sign

To,

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Government of Maharashtra,
Mumbai.

Subject: Diversion of 6.0760 ha of forest land (Zudpi jungle) for laying of 220 KV Kalmeshwar substation to 220 KV Warud substation transmission line in favour of MSETCL, EHV Project Division, Amravati in Taluka - Katol, District- Nagpur in the State of Maharashtra (Online No. FP/MH/TRANS/38296/2019) - regarding.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Maharashtra's letter No. FLD-2022/CR-309/F-10 dated 17.04.2023 received in the Ministry on 22.07.2024 forwarding a fresh proposal on the above subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. After examining the proposal, the following shortcomings have been observed:

- i. The CF, Nagpur in his comments on violation reported that the forest area where violation happened was originally recorded as Zudpi Jungle land which is proposed reserved forest (notified u/s 4 of IFA 1927). The details in this regard including the date when the notification u/s 4 has been issued shall be submitted.
- ii. The State Govt. has informed that 265 number of trees exist within the proposed forest land. However as the proposal is for laying of transmission line. Therefore it needs clarification whether 265 number of trees has been earmarked for felling or pruning or otherwise.
- iii. Keeping in view the Chapter 10, Para 10.5 of the consolidated handbook of guidelines, it is not clarified by the State Govt. whether the user agency in consultation with State Forest Department has identified degraded forest areas of not less than one ha for carrying out plantation of dwarf species (preferably medicinal plants) or not?
- iv. Detail of violation/report has not been updated/uploaded in Part-II of the application form. The same needs to be updated.
- v. The State Govt. has recommended the proposal subject to the condition that as the proposed area falls in Tiger Corridor, therefore the user agency shall obtain Wildlife Clearance under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Also the DCF, Nagpur has recommended the proposal subject to mitigation measures

in corridor area. However in the online Part-II, it has been reported that the proposed area does not forms part of national park, wildlife sanctuary, biosphere reserve, tiger reserve, elephant corridor, wildlife migration corridor etc. Moreover, wildlife present in and around the forest land proposed for diversion has been reported as Nil. This needs clarification.

- vi. The State Govt. reported that the proposed forest land is prone to erosion. Therefore, mitigation measures required to check the soil erosion needs submission.
- vii. The complete KML file of 226.1805 ha Non-forest land involved in the project needs to be submitted.
- viii. As per the DSS analysis, some pre-plantation works are visible within the proposed CA land. This needs clarification.

Accordingly, it is requested to furnish the above mentioned information to this Ministry for further consideration of the proposal.

Signed by Suneet Bhardwaj
Date: 14-08-2024 21:09:44

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-
(Suneet Bhardwaj)
Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. The PCCF (HoFF), Department of Forest, Government of Maharashtra, Nagpur;
2. The Dy. DGF (Central), Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Nagpur;
3. The Nodal Officer, Department of Forest, Government of Maharashtra, Nagpur;
4. User Agency;
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi for uploading on PARIVESH portal.