

I/10591/2022

Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change
(FC Division)

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

Dated: 5th September, 2022

To

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Department of Environment & Forests,
Government of Rajasthan,
Jaipur

Subject: Proposal for diversion of 466.592 ha forest land in favour of Airport Authority of India Kota for Construction of New Green Field Airport Kota, District-Bundi in the State of Rajasthan.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Rajasthan's letter No. P.1 (33) VAN/2022 dated 12.07.2022 furnished their reply on Ministry's letter dated 17.06.2022. After examination of the response of State Govt., it is noticed that the certain queries have not yet been responded. Moreover, it is also observed that that the State Govt. has forwarded the reply given by the Nodal Officer (FCA) wherein the queries have been replied stating that the reply is given by the user agency or according to DFO, which does not indicate the views of the State Govt. Therefore, while submitting the reply, views of the State Govt. /Nodal Officer (FCA) on the observation made by Ministry must be given.

In the meantime, the Site Inspection Report (SIR) from Integrated Regional Office (IRO) for this proposal has been received and accordingly the following shortcomings have been observed:

- i. The State Govt. was requested to provide a NOC from Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL) for the forest land under diversion. Instead of submission of NOC, a copy of the letter written by PGCIL to the User Agency for depositing of estimate of Rs.54,78,15,921/- for shifting of transmission line is furnished. It is again requested that NOC from PGCIL be submitted.
- ii. Shifting plan for the proposed transmission line by Power Grid Corporation of India Limited does not give clear picture about 'To & Fro' passage of the transmission line to be shifted. Therefore, KML file/ Shape file with area details as per plan of shifting of the transmission line is required.
- iii. In response to the observation raised vide Sr no (iv) of Ministry's letter dated 17.06.2022, it is informed that 33.408 ha land is recorded in the name of Urban Improvement Trust, Kota and it is not any notified deemed forest whereas the digital forest boundary available on Rajasthan forest department website shows that some part of Non-forest land in the instant proposal is falling within the forest boundary. In this

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regard, a copy the extract portion of Google imagery is enclosed in **Annexure** for ready reference. Further the State Government in response to a specific query at sr no. (v) of letter dated 17.06.2022 has mentioned that the digital boundary of the forest land is correct. The above details are therefore contradictory to each other. This need clarification with supporting documents from Govt. of Rajasthan.

- iv. Integrated Regional Office(IRO), Jaipur in Site Inspection Report (SIR) has pointed out that the areas proposed for Compensatory Afforestation are infested with *Prosopis juliflora* and Lantana. There is no provision seen for removal of these invasive species in CA plan and without removal of these invasive weeds it will be difficult to plant 1000 seedling/hectare. In view of this, the State Govt. may examine the issue and take necessary action accordingly.
- v. The IRO, Jaipur in their SIR also reported that two fragmented patches of forest land at Northern side of the proposed airport are of about 33.5 ha. and 137.01 ha. are left and will be prone to encroachment. It has been proposed that the User Agency may construct boundary wall for these two patches The State Govt. may provide comments in this regard.
- vi. It is observed that the Ramgarh -Vishdhari the newly notified 52nd Tiger Reserve in the country came into existence vide Notification dated 16.05.2022. The CWLW, Govt. of Rajasthan vide letter dated 25.05.2022 had earlier reported that the proposed airport is out of Eco- sensitive zone of the Mukundara Hills Tiger Reserve and located at distance of 7.2 Km from National Chambal Sanctuary. Now as per comments/ observations made by the Integrated Regional Office(IRO), Jaipur the entire area proposed for diversion falls within buffer of Ramgarh-Vishdhari Tiger Reserve. Therefore, the comments of CWLW, Govt. of Rajasthan keeping in view the newly notified tiger reserve are required to be submitted.

In view of above, the State Govt. is requested to provide the information/documents/clarification on the points as indicated above to this Ministry for further consideration of the instant proposal.

Yours sincerely,

Digitally Signed by Suneet
Bhardwaj
Date: 05-09-2022 18:54:46
Reason: Approved

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

Copy to: -

1. The Principal CCF & (HoFF), Government of Rajasthan, Jaipur;
2. The Regional Officer, Integrated Regional Office of MoEF&CC, Jaipur, Rajasthan;
3. The Nodal Officer(FCA), O/o the PCCF, Government of Rajasthan, Jaipur;
4. User Agency;
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi Delhi for uploading on PARIVESH portal.

Annexure

Google Map showing the Non-forest land in the instant proposal is falling within the Forest land.

