



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & CLIMATE CHANGE
REGIONAL OFFICE (RANCHI)

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जहाँ है हरियाली ।
वहाँ है खुशहाली ॥

No. FP/BR/TRANS/27209/2017/2218

Dated 18th May, 2018

To

The Principal Secretary,
Department of Environment and Forests,
Government of Bihar, Sinchai Bhawan,
Secretariat, Patna.

Sub: Diversion of 1.8446 ha of forest land for construction of 400 KV D/C Nabinagar - Patna Transmission Line in favour of Power grid Corporation of India Limited in Patna & Aurangabad district of Bihar.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to letter No.Van Bhumi-09/2018-327(E)/Pa.Va. dated 16.3.2018 of the State Government & letter No.FC-413 dated 4.5.2018 of Nodal Officer on the above mentioned subject seeking prior approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change under section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

After due consideration of the proposal of the State Government and on the basis of decision of Regional Empowered Committee held on 20.3.2018, the Central Government, hereby, conveys "in-principle" approval for diversion of 1.8446 ha of forest land for construction of 400 KV D/C Nabinagar -Patna Transmission Line in favour of Power grid Corporation of India Limited in Patna & Aurangabad district of Bihar, subject to the fulfillment of the following conditions.

1. Legal status of forest land proposed for diversion shall remain unchanged.
2. The State Govt. shall charge the Net Present Value (NPV) of forest area proposed to be diverted under this proposal from the user agency as per the Orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India dated 28.03.2008, 24.04.2008 and 09.05.2008 in Writ Petition (Civil) No.202/1995 and the guidelines issued by this Ministry vide its letter No. 5-3/2007-FC dated 05.02.2009 in this regard.
3. Additional amount of NPV of the diverted forest land, if any, becoming due after finalization of the same by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, shall be charged by the State Government from the user agency.
4. Compensatory Afforestation over the degraded forest land twice in extent to the forest land being diverted shall be raised and maintained by the State

Forest Department at the cost of the user agency. The user agency shall transfer the cost of plantation and its maintenance for 10 years (revised as on the date to incorporate the existing wage structure) to State Forest Department.

5. User Agency should ensure that the compensatory levies (CA cost, NPV, cost of dwarf species plantation etc.) are deposited through challan generated online on web portal and deposited in appropriate bank online only. Amount deposited through other mode will not be accepted as compliance of the Stage-I clearance.
6. The boundary of the forest land proposed for diversion, shall be demarcated on ground at the project cost, by erecting four feet high reinforced cement concrete pillars, each inscribed with its serial number, DGPS coordinates, forward and back bearing and distance from adjoining pillars etc.
7. Transmission lines should be aligned in such a way that it involves the least amount of tree cutting. Felling of trees on the forest land being diverted shall be restricted to the bare minimum and the trees should be felled under strict supervision of the State Forest Department.
8. No labour camp shall be established on the forest land.
9. The User Agency shall provide alternate fuels preferably LPG to the labourers and the staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the nearby forest areas for collection of firewood for their use.
10. It will be the responsibility of the User Agency to ensure that the labourers, staff engaged in construction activity do not damage the nearby forest flora and fauna.
11. The User Agency shall ensure that because of this project, no damage is caused to the wildlife available in the area.
12. Width of Right of Way for the Transmission Line shall be limited to 46 m.
13. The User Agency shall install circuit breakers at suitable places besides maintaining necessary ground clearance to prevent electrocution of wild animals like elephant.
14. To minimize the felling of trees for construction of Transmission Line, User Agency shall comply with the following guidelines:
 - a) The normal width clearance below each conductor or conductor bundle in case of 400 KV D/C line will be 7 m only. The trees on such strips may be

- felled but after stringing work is completed, the natural regeneration will be allowed to come up.
- b) Outer strip may be left clear to permit maintenance of the Transmission Line.
 - c) In the remaining width of Right of Way felling/ pollarding/ pruning of trees will be done with the permission of the local Forest Officer whenever necessary to maintain the electrical clearance. Trees shall be allowed to be felled or lopped to the extent required, for preventing electrical hazards by maintaining the minimum 5.5 meter clearance between conductors and trees. The maximum sag and swing of the conductors are to be kept in view while working out the minimum clearance mentioned as above.
 - d) The Scheme for creation and maintenance of plantation of dwarf species (preferably Ber, sharifa) in Right of Way under the Transmission Line, as prepared by the State Forest Department shall be implemented from the funds provided by the User Agency and a scheme for this shall be submitted.
 - e) In case a portion of the Transmission Line to be constructed is located in hilly areas, where adequate clearance is already available, trees shall not be felled.
15. The user agency in consultation with the State Forest Department shall create and maintain alternate habitat/ home for the avifauna, whose nesting trees are to be cleared in the project. Bird nests artificially made out of eco-friendly materials shall be used in the area, including forest area and human settlements adjoining the forest area being diverted for the project
 16. The lay out plan of the proposed forest land shall not be changed without prior approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change.
 17. The forest land proposed for diversion shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agency, department or person without prior approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
 18. The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal
 19. The user agency and the State Government shall ensure compliance to provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations and Guidelines, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project.
 20. Any other conditions that the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change may impose from time to time in the interest of afforestation, conservation and management of flora and fauna in the area, shall be complied by the user agency.

After receipt of the compliance report on fulfillment of the conditions as stipulated above, from the State Government, formal approval will be issued in this regard under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Transfer of forest land to user agency should not be effected by the State Government till formal order approving diversion of forest land is issued by the Central Government. To facilitate speedy execution of projects involving linear diversion, the in-principle approval may be deemed as the working permission for tree felling and commencement of work, if the required funds for CA, NPV and all other compensatory levies specified in the in-principle approval are realised from the user agency and accordingly the State Government, by passing an order, may allow the commencement of work of the linear project in forest land for a period of one year (The detail guideline issued vide Ministry letter No. 11-306/2014-FC, dated 20.08.2015 may be referred).

Yours faithfully,

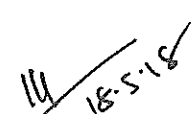

(Vasanta Kiran Babu)

Dy. Conservator of Forests (Central)

O/C

Copy to:-

1. The Director, RO(HQ), Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi – 110 003.
2. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Bihar, Aranya Bhawan, Shahid Pir Ali Khan Path, Patna - 800 014.
3. The APCCF-cum-Nodal Officer, Forest Department, Government of Bihar, Aranya Bhawan, Shahid Pir Ali Khan Path, Patna - 800 014.
4. The Divisional Forest Officer, Patna & Aurangabad Forest Division, Bihar.
5. The Chief Manager (TLC), PGCIL, 2nd Floor., Alankar Palace, Boring Road, Patna - 800001.
6. Guard File.


Dy. Conservator of Forests (Central)

O/C