



Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change/ पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय

PCCF,

Government of India/ भारत सरकार
Eastern Regional Office/ पूर्वी क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय
A/3, Chandrasekharpur/ ए/३, चन्द्रशेखरपुर
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No.5-ORC238/2015-BHU

Noted
M
27/5/16

To

The Principal Secretary,
Forest & Environment Deptt.,
Govt. of Odisha,
Bhubaneswar.

13th May, 2016

REGIONAL OFFICE, MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & CLIMATE CHANGE
ODISHA, BHUBANESWAR

25 MAY 2016

Received No. 15272 G

Sub:-

Diversion of 23.908 ha of forest land for construction of Loop-In and Loop-Out (LILO) of both circuit of 400 KV Baripada-Mendhasal D/C Transmission line using Multi Circuit Tower under Eastern Regional Strengthening Scheme (ERSS-III) from existing Mendhasal Sub-Station of OPTCL to proposed 400 KV GIS Sub-Station at village Pandiabili in Khurda district, Odisha by Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd.

28/5/16

Sir,

I am directed to refer to State Govt. letter No.10F(Cons)32/2015-3388/F&E dated 25.02.2015 and No.4179/F&E dated 11.03.2015 on the above mentioned subject seeking prior approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change under section 2 of Forest(Conservation) Act, 1980 wherein prior approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change for diversion of 23.908 ha of forest land for construction of Loop-In and Loop-Out (LILO) of both circuit of 400 KV Baripada-Mendhasal D/C Transmission line using Multi Circuit Tower under Eastern Regional Strengthening Scheme (ERSS-III) from existing Mendhasal Sub-Station of OPTCL to proposed 400 KV GIS Sub-Station at village Pandiabili in Khurda district, Odisha by Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd., was sought in accordance with Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. After due consideration of the proposal by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change and on the basis of decision of Regional Empowered Committee held on 10.04.2015 the in-principle approval for diversion of the said forest land was accorded by Ministry vide this office letter of even number dated 15.04.2015, subject to fulfillment of certain conditions. The State Government has furnished compliance report in respect of the conditions stipulated in the in-principle approval and has requested to grant final approval of the proposal.

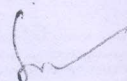
2. In this connection, I am directed to say that on the basis of the compliance report furnished by the State Government of Odisha vide their letter No.10F(Cons)32/2015-6990/F&E dated 19.04.2016, approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change is hereby granted under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 23.908 ha of forest land for construction of Loop-in and Loop-Out (LILO) of both circuit of 400 KV Baripada-Mendhasal D/C Transmission line using Multi Circuit Tower under Eastern Regional Strengthening Scheme (ERSS-III) from existing Mendhasal Sub-Station of OPTCL to proposed 400 KV GIS Sub-Station at village Pandiabili in Khurda district, Odisha by Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd., subject to the fulfillment of the following conditions:-

- i) Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged.
- ii) 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 State Govt. from the user agency. An undertaking from the user agency shall be obtained in this regard.

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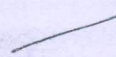
- iii) Compensatory afforestation over 47.816 ha of degraded forest land against the area of forest land diverted shall be raised and maintained by the State Forest Department at the cost of the user agency.
- iv) The user agency shall comply with the conditions stipulated by State Govt. vide letter No.10(Cons)32/2015-3388/F&E dated 25.02.2015.
- v) The user agency shall comply with the guidelines for laying transmission lines through forest areas issued by Ministry vide letter No.7-25/2012-FC dated 05.05.2014 and 19.11.2014.
- vi) The user agency in consultation with the State Forest Department shall prepare a detailed scheme for creation and maintenance of plantation of dwarf species (preferably medicinal plants) in right of way under the transmission line, and provide funds for execution of the said scheme by the State Forest Department.
- vii) Earth or any material shall neither be brought from nor the debris resulting during construction be disposed of in the adjoining forest area by the user agency.
- viii) No additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for any activity related to the project work.
- ix) No labour camp shall be established on the forest land.
- x) The user agency shall provide alternate fuel to the labourers and the staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the adjacent forest areas.
- xi) The boundary of the forest land diverted 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 pillar to pillar.
- xii) The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal and under no circumstances be transferred to any other user agency, department or person without prior approval of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change.
- xiii) The State Government shall complete settlement of rights, in term of the Scheduled Tribes and Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, if any, on the forest land to be diverted and submit the documentary evidence as prescribed by this Ministry in its letter No.11-9/1998-FC (pt.) dated 03.08.2009 read with letter No.11-9/1998-FC (pt.) dated 05.02.2013, in support thereof.
- xiv) Any other conditions that Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change may stipulate, from time to time, in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests and wildlife shall be complied by the user agency.
- xv) The user agency shall submit annual self monitoring report on compliance of stipulated conditions to the Nodal Officer (FCA) of the State and Eastern Regional Office of this Ministry.
- xvi) 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.



xvii) In case of non-compliance of any of the above conditions, the State Govt. shall report to this office as per procedure laid down in the clause 1.9 of guidelines issued under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

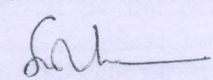
3. As has been mentioned at Para-2 of the Stage-II approval, this approval for diversion of forest land is subject to the fulfillment of stipulated conditions mentioned in this approval letter. Therefore, in the event of non-compliance of any of the conditions laid out in this approval letter, the Eastern Regional Office of MoEF&CC may withdraw the said approval for diversion of the forest land and stop the non-forest activity being carried out in the forest land besides initiating the legal action as per provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Yours faithfully,


(S. Mohapatra)
Conservator of Forests (Central)

Copy to:-

1. The Inspector General of Forests(FC), Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi – 110 003.
2. The Director, ROHQ, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Agni Block, Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi – 110 003.
- ✓ 3. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Govt. of Odisha, Aranya Bhawan, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar-751 023.
4. The Addl. PCCF & Nodal Officer (FC), Forest Deptt., Govt. of Odisha, Aranya Bhawan, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar-751 023.
5. The Divisional Forest Officer, City /Khurda Forest Division, Bhubaneswar/Khurda, Odisha.
6. The Chief Manager (Civil), Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd., POWER GRID, ER-II, 27, Sahid Nagar, Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
7. Guard file.


Conservator of Forests (Central)