

F. No. 8-62/2011-FC
 Government of India
 Ministry of Environment and Forests
 (F.C. Division)

Paryavaran Bhawan,
 CGO Complex, Lodhi Road,
 New Delhi - 110003.
 Dated: 26th October, 2012

To,

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
 Government of Madhya Pradesh,
 Bhopal.

Sub: Diversion of 114.724 ha. of forest land for route alignment of 765 KV S/c Sasan-Satna Ck-I in favour of Power Grid Corp. of India Ltd. in district Singrauli, Sindhi and Satna, Madhya Pradesh.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Madhya Pradesh's letter No. F-4/11/29/2010/10-11/1588 dated 28.05.2011 on the above mentioned subject, wherein prior approval of the Central Government for the diversion of 114.724 ha. of forest land for route alignment of 765 KV S/c Sasan-Satna Ck-I in favour of Power Grid Corp. of India Ltd. in district Singrauli, Sindhi and Satna, Madhya Pradesh, was sought, in accordance with Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. After careful consideration of the proposal by the Forest Advisory Committee constituted under Section-3 of the said Act, Stage-I approval for the said proposal was granted vide this Ministry's letter of even number dated 10th July 2012 read with corrigendum of even number dated 30th August 2012, subject to fulfillment of certain conditions. The State Government has furnished compliance report in respect of the conditions stipulated in the stage-I approval and has requested the Central Government to grant final approval.

2. In this connection, I am directed to say that on the basis of the compliance report furnished by the Government of Madhya Pradesh vide letter No. F-4/11/29/2010/10-11/3200 dated 29.09.2012, No. F-4/11/29/2010/10-11/3393 dated 16.10.2012 and No. F-4/11/29/2010/10-11/3724 dated 23.10.2012 and User agency's letter No. CS/ ESMD/2012/1928 dated 26.10.2012, approval of the Central Government is hereby granted under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 114.724 ha. of forest land for route alignment of 765 KV S/c Sasan-Satna Ck-I in favour of Power Grid Corp. of India Ltd. in district Singrauli, Sindhi and Satna, Madhya Pradesh, subject to the following conditions:

- (i) Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged;
- (ii) Compensatory afforestation over the degraded forest land double in extent to the area of diverted forest land shall be raised by the State Forest Department from funds realised from the user agency;

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- (iii) The State Government of Madhya Pradesh shall realize the additional amount of NPV, if so determined, as per the final decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and transfer the same to the ad-hoc CAMPA with intimation to this Ministry;
- (iv) The user agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if required;
To minimize the felling of for construction of transmission line, user agency shall comply with the following guidelines:
 - (a) Below each conductor, width clearance of 3 mts. would be permitted for taking the tension stringing equipment. The trees on such strips would have to be felled but after stringing work is completed, the natural regeneration will be allowed to come up.
 - (b) One outer strip shall be left clear to permit maintenance of the transmission line;
 - (c) In the remaining width the 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 clearance, as may be stipulated by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA), between conductors and trees. The sag and swing of the conductors are to be kept in view while working out the minimum clearance mentioned as above;
 - (d) 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; and
 - (e) In case a portion of the transmission lines to be constructed is located in hilly areas, where adequate clearance is already available, trees shall not be cut;
- (vi) No labour camp shall be established on the forest land;
- (vii) The User Agency shall identify the person(s) responsible for execution of project activities on non-forest land pending receipt of approval under the Act, and take credible action against them for violation of para 4.4 of the guidelines issued by this Ministry for implementation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. State Government shall also fix responsibility on concerned officials who failed to prevent the said violation;
- (viii) The State-Government shall within six months submit a report on action taken by the User agency and the State Government against the persons responsible for violation of para 4.4 of the guidelines. In case of failure of the State Government to submit the said report within a period of six months and acceptance of the same by this Ministry, within

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the next six months, the stage-II approval accorded for diversion of the said forest land shall automatically stand revoked

- (ix) 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;
- (x) The boundary of the forest land being 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;
- (xi) The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal;
- (xii) Any other condition that this Ministry and its Regional Office (Western Zone), Bhopal may stipulate, from time to time, in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife;
- (xiii) User agency shall submit annual self-monitoring report, indicating status of compliance to the conditions stipulated in the approval, to the State Government and the concerned Regional Office of this Ministry; and
- (xiv) The user agency and the State Government of Madhya Pradesh shall ensure compliance to provisions of the all relevant Acts, Rules, Regulations and Guidelines, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project.

Yours faithfully,

sd/-

(H.C. Chaudhary)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:-

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal.
2. The Nodal Officer, Forest Department, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal.
3. The CCF (Central), Regional Office, Bhopal.
4. User Agency.
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF, New Delhi.
6. Guard File.

H.C. Chaudhary

(H.C. Chaudhary)
Assistant Inspector General of Forests