

F. No. 8-01/2013-FC
Government of India
Ministry of Environment and Forests
(F.C. Division)

Paryavaran Bhawan,
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road,
New Delhi -110003.
Dated: 4th September, 2013

✓o,

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Government of Odisha,
Bhubaneswar.

Sub: Diversion of 70.4221 ha. of forest land for laying of pipeline from Paradip to Odisha Boarder near Sohela on the way to Raipur (Chhattisgarh) via Sambalpur and from Sambalpur to Odisha Border near Biramitrapur on the way to Ranchi (Jharkhand) by M/s. Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. for transportation of petroleum products from their Refinery Complex at Paradip to Raipur and Ranchi through 10 districts such as Jagatsinghpur, Cuttack, Khurda, Puri, Dhenkanal, Angul, Sambalpur, Bargarh, Jharsuguda and Sundargarh of Odisha.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the State Government of Odisha's letter No 10F (Cons) 280/2012- 127 / F & E dated 2nd January 2013 on the above mentioned subject, wherein prior approval of the Central Government for the diversion 70.4221 ha. of forest land for laying of pipeline from Paradip to Odisha Boarder near Sohela on the way to Raipur (Chhattisgarh) via Sambalpur and from Sambalpur to Odisha Border near Biramitrapur on the way to Ranchi (Jharkhand) by M/s. Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. for transportation of petroleum products from their Refinery Complex at Paradip to Raipur and Ranchi through 10 districts such as Jagatsinghpur, Cuttack, Khurda, Puri, Dhenkanal, Angul, Sambalpur, Bargarh, Jharsuguda and Sundargarh of Odisha, 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 by the Central Government under section 3 of the said Act, in-principle approval for the said diversion was granted vide this Ministry's letter of even number dated 22nd February 2013, 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 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 State Government of Orissa vide their letter No. 10F (Cons)-85/2013-17604/ F & E dated 23rd August 2013, approval of the Central Government is hereby granted under section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 70.4221 ha. of forest land for laying of pipeline from Paradip to Odisha Boarder near Sohela on the way to Raipur (Chhattisgarh) via Sambalpur and from Sambalpur to Odisha Boarder near Biramitrapur on

22/9/2013

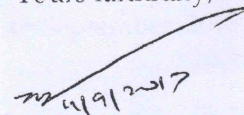
the way to Ranchi (Jharkhand) by M/s. Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. for transportation of petroleum products from their Refinery Complex at Paradip to Raipur and Ranchi through 10 districts such as Jagatsinghpur, Cuttack, Khurda, Puri, Dhenkanal, Angul, Sambalpur, Bargarh, Jharsuguda and Sundargarh of Odisha, subject to fulfillment of the following conditions

- (i) Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged;
- (ii) Compensatory afforestation over the degraded forest land twice in extent to the forest land being diverted (*i.e.* $2 \times 70.4221 = 140.8442$ hectares) shall be raised and maintained by the State Forest Department from funds realised from the user agency;
- (iii) The State Government shall realise the additional amount of NPV, if so determined, as per the final decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India;
- (iv) Wherever possible and technically feasible, the user agency shall undertake afforestation along the pipeline within the area diverted under this approval, in consultation with the State Forest Department at the project cost.
- (v) The user agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if required;
- (vi) The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government.
- (vii) No labour camp shall be established on the forest land;
- (viii) 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 agency, department or person.
- (ix) The user agency shall provide alternate fuels to the labourers and the staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the nearby forest areas;
- (x) The boundary of the diverted forest land, shall be demarcated on ground at the project cost, by erecting four feet high reinforced cement concrete pillars, each inscribed with its serial number, forward and back bearing and distance from pillar to pillar;
- (xi) The user agency shall ensure that because of this project, no damage is caused to the flora and fauna available in the area;
- (xii) In the portion of the pipeline passing through elephant corridor/ habitat the pipeline shall be laid at at-least 2 meter depth below the ground level and the user agency shall undertake appropriate measures to ensure that the landscape of the RoW in such stretches, to the extent possible, merge with the surrounding landscape;
- (xiii) Felling of trees on the forest land being diverted shall be reduced to the bare minimum and the trees should be felled under strict supervision of the State Forest Department;
- (xiv) Any other condition that the Regional Office (Eastern Zone), Bhubaneswar may stipulate, from time to time, in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife;

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- (xv) The user agency shall submit the annual report on compliance to conditions stipulated in the approval to the State Government and the concerned Regional Office of this Ministry; and
- (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.

Yours faithfully,



(H. C. Chaudhary)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
2. The Nodal Officer, Forest Department, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
3. The Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Central), Regional Office (Eastern Zone), Bhubaneswar.
4. User Agency.
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF, New Delhi.
6. Guard File.

sd/-

(H. C. Chaudhary)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests