

F. No. 8-40/2013-FC  
Government of India  
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change  
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,  
Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road,  
New Delhi - 110 003.  
Dated: 21<sup>st</sup> August, 2014.

To

The Principal Secretary (Forests),  
Government of Gujarat,  
Gandhi Nagar.

Sub: Diversion of 96.11 ha of Protected Forest land for road widening & strengthening of Mehsana-Vijapur-Himatnagar road Km. 97/740 to Km. 163/750 under Gujarat State Highway Project-2 funded by World Bank in favour of Executive Engineer, Road and Building Department, State Road Project Division, Rajkot, Gujarat - regarding.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the State Government's letter No. FCA-1013/7/24/(12)/S.F.-04/F dated 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2013 and No. FCA/1013/7-24/12/SF-04/F dated 06<sup>th</sup> April, 2013 on the subject mentioned above seeking prior approval of the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. After careful consideration of the proposal by the Forest Advisory Committee constituted under Section-3 of the said Act, in-principle approval for the said proposal was granted vide this Ministry's letter of even number dated 13<sup>th</sup> August, 2013, subject to fulfilment 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.

In this connection, I am directed to say that on the basis of the compliance report vide letter No. FCA-1013/(7-24)/S.F.-04/F dated 24<sup>th</sup> July, 2014, approval of the Central Government is hereby granted under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 96.11 ha of Protected Forest land for road widening & strengthening of Mehsana-Vijapur-Himatnagar road Km. 97/740 to Km. 163/750 under Gujarat State Highway Project-2 funded by World Bank in favour of Executive Engineer, Road and Building Department, State Road Project Division, Rajkot, Gujarat subject to fulfilment of the following conditions:-

- (i) Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged;
- (ii) Compensatory afforestation shall be raised and maintained by the State Forest 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 from the fund already received for it and deposited in Ad-hoc CAMPA;
- (iii) Penal Compensatory Afforestation shall be raised and maintained over area twice in extent to the forest area worked in violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 from the fund already received for it and deposited in Ad-hoc CAMPA.
  - (iv) The user agency shall raise and maintain the strip plantation on either side of the road and central verge at project cost, as per IRC specification, as per in-principle approval.
  - (v) Wherever possible and technically feasible, the User Agency shall undertake afforestation measures along the roads within the area diverted under this approval, in consultation with the State Forest Department at the project cost.
  - (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 firewood preferably 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 forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal;
  - (xii) The User Agency shall ensure that because of this project, no damage is caused to the flora and fauna available in the area;
  - (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) The User agency shall undertake comprehensive soil conservation measures at the project cost. The User Agency will assist the State Government in preservation of flora and fauna of the area in accordance with the plan prepared by the Chief Wildlife Warden of the State. Attention will be particularly given to providing safe crossing and corridors for wildlife species and protecting sensitive habitat like wetlands, grasslands and woodlands from degradation. Where canopy continuity is required for particular species, special measures shall be prescribed by the CWLW for providing crossing points. Where certain trees used for nesting/rookeries of

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species like birds of prey, herons, storks, hornbills, etc., are to be destroyed, alternative structure shall be provided and the trees transplanted.

- (xv) Any other condition that the Addl. PCCF (Central), Regional Office, Bhopal may stipulate, from time to time, in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife;
- (xvi) The user agency shall submit the annual compliance report in respect of the above conditions to the State Government and to the Regional Office, Bhopal regularly; and
- (xvii) The User Agency and the State Government shall ensure compliance to all other conditions stipulated in stage I approval, provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations and Guidelines, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project.

Yours faithfully,

  
(B.K. Singh)

Director (Forest Conservation)

Copy to:

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Gujarat, Gandhi Nagar.
2. The Addl. PCCF (Central), Regional Office, Bhopal, MoEF.
3. The Nodal Officer (FCA), O/o the PCCF, Government of Gujarat, 'Aranya Bhavan' Sector-10/A, Gandhi Nagar.
4. The User Agency i.e. The Executive Engineer, State Road Project Division, Kashi Vashvanath Road, Rajkot, Dist: Rajkot.
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF.
6. Guard File.



(B.K. Singh)

Director (Forest Conservation)