

Government of India
Ministry of Environment and Forests
Northern Regional Office

Bays No. 24-25,
Dakshin Marg, Sector-31A,
Chandigarh-160030

Dated: Wednesday, November 13, 2013

F.No.: 9-PBC255/2013-CHA

To

FC-cum-Secretary (Forests),
Government of Punjab,
Department of Forests,
Mini Secrétariat, Sector-9,
Chandigarh.

Sub: Diversion of **15.48 hectares** (12.71 hectares Mansa Division + 2.77 hectares in Bathinda Forest Division) of forest land in favour of PWD B&R for widening of Mansa-Talwandi Sabo road, Kms 0/00 to 24/97, B/s under Mansa and Bathinda Forest Divisions and Districts of Punjab State.

Ref: (i) Government of Punjab's letter No.FCA/1980/101-102/2013/2146 dated 07.06. 2013
(ii) Nodal Officer's letter No. FCA/1980/101-102/2013/5614 dated 29.10. 2013

Sir,

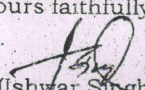
I am directed to refer to the above cited subject and letters seeking prior approval of the Central Government for diversion of forest land for non-forestry purpose in accordance with section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

2. After careful examination of the proposal of the State Government, **final approval is hereby conveyed** for diversion of **15.48 hectares** of forest land for the above mentioned project subject to following conditions:

- i. Legal status of the forest land will remain unchanged;
- ii. Minimum number of trees and in any case not more than 5809 trees (fifty eight hundred and nine only), 1411 poles (one thousand four hundred and eleven only) and 175 plants (one hundred and seventy five only) out of which 4498 trees and 1411 poles in Mansa Forest Division and 1311 trees and 175 plants in Bathinda Forest Division will be removed;
- iii. Compensatory afforestation will be carried out over 30.96 hectares of degraded forests (25.42 hectares in Mansa Forest Division along the KBC, RD 307-330, R/s and 5.54 hectares in Bathinda Forest Division along the KBC, RD 335-341, R/S) under Mansa and Bathinda Forest Divisions as per proposed scheme, at a cost of Rs. 91,40,940/- (rupees ninety one lakh forty thousand nine hundred and forty only) provided by the user agency. **Plantation will be done within one year from the date of issue of this letter.**
- iv. Avenue plantation will be done on both sides and central verge of the proposed road at the cost of the user agency;
- v. No damage will be done to the adjoining forest land;
- vi. The forest land will not be used for any other purpose than that mentioned in the proposal; and
- vii. It will be responsibility of the State Government/Usher Agency to obtain prior approval/clearance under all other relevant Acts/Rules/Court's Rulings/instructions, etc., as applicable to this proposal.
- viii. The user Agency and the State Government shall ensure compliance to the provisions of all Acts, Rules, Regulations and Guidelines including complete settlement of rights, in terms of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, if any, on the forest land to be diverted along with documentary evidence stipulated by this Ministry in its letter No. 11-09/1998-FC (pt) dated 3rd August, 2009, 5th February, 2013, and 5th July, 2013, as applicable to this project. **The forest area will be handed over to the User Agency after receipt of the above mentioned certificate.**

3. The Ministry may revoke/suspend the clearance, if implementation of any of the above conditions is not satisfactory. State Government will ensure compliance of these conditions through forest department.

Yours faithfully,


(Ishwar Singh)

Conservator of Forests (Central)

Copy to:-

1. The ADGF (FC), Ministry of Environment & Forests, Paryavaran Bhawan, New Delhi.
2. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Forest Complex, Sector-68, Ajitgarh, Punjab.
3. The Divisional Forest Officer, Forest Division and District Mansa and Bathinda, Punjab.
4. The Executive Engineer, Construction Division, PWD (B&R), Sangrur, Punjab.
5. Guard file