



Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
Minutes of Meeting for Regional Empowered Committee
Integrated Regional Offices, Bhubaneswar



MoM ID: FC/MoM/REC/745231/2024

MoM Date: 06/03/2024

Agenda ID: FC/AGENDA/REC/601428/2024

Title of Meeting: 99th REC Meeting

Meeting Date: 27/02/2024

Meeting Venue: Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Bhubaneswar

Meeting Mode: Hybrid

Other Items Details

List of REC Members:

S.No.	Name	Designation	Email ID
1	ARTATRANA MISHRA	IRO HEAD	jhk1**@ifs.nic.in
2	PADMA MAHANTI	Deputy Inspector General of Forest, IRO	kr10*@ifs.nic.in
3	Shri Anurag Shrivastava	REC Member	anur****@gmail.com
4	Shri Ishwar Singh	REC Member	sing*****@gmail.com
5	PADMA MAHANTI	Deputy Inspector General of Forest, IRO	kr10*****@nic.in

Proposals considered during meeting

1. Project Name : Construction of 132KV two phase DC line from existing 132/33KV Grid Sub-Station, Bangiriposi to Proposed RTSS at Bhanjapur under EHT (Cont.)
Division, Balasore, Odisha

Proposal Number: FP/OR/TRANS/450317/2023

User Agency: ODISHA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

Forest Land Area(Ha): 10.75

Division: Baripada Division, (Odisha)

Brief Description of Project:

F A C T S H E E T 1. Name of the Proposal Diversion of 10.75 ha of forest land for construction of 132 KV two phase DC line from existing 132/33 KV Grid Sub-station at Bangiriposi to proposed RTSS at Bhanjapur under EHT (Const.) Division, Balasore, Odisha by Deputy General Manager (Elect.), EHT (Const.) Division, OPTCL, Balasore under Baripada Forest Division 2. Location (i) State Odisha (ii) District Mayurbhanj (iii) Village/Taluk 3. Particulars of Forests (i) Name of Forest Division Baripada Forest Division. (ii) Forest area involved 10.75 ha (iii) Legal Status/Sy. No Revenue Forest. (iv) Density of vegetation 0.3 (Eco-Value Class-III) (v) Species wise and diameter class wise enumeration of trees. Total 722 nos. of trees have been enumerated over the proposed forest land. Further, 1350 nos. of trees have been enumerated over the non-forest land, out of which 707 nos. are over Govt. non-forest land and 643 nos. over Private non-forest land involved in this project. The details of tree enumerated over forest and non-forest land has been furnished with the proposal. 4. Brief note on topography and vulnerability of the forest land proposed to be utilized for to erosion The DFO, Baripada has reported that the forest land applied for diversion is not vulnerable to erosion. 5. Approximate distance of forest land proposed to be utilized for from boundary of the forest land The DFO, Baripada has reported that the applied area is a forest land. Therefore, distance between applied area and forest is Zero Km. 6. Whether forms part of National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant Corridor etc. (if, so, the details of area, comments of CWLW) The DFO, Baripada has reported that the applied does not form part of any National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant Corridor etc. and also the applied area is not a part of any Eco-Sensitive Zone of any Protected Area. 7. Whether any rare or endangered or unique species of flora and fauna found in the area, if so details thereof: The DFO, Baripada has reported that there are no rare/ unique species of flora and fauna in the area applied for diversion. The trees species like Teak (*Tectona grandis*), Sissoo (*Dalbergia sissoo*), Sal (*Shorea robusta*), Mahul (*Madhuca indica*), Gambhari (*Gmelina arborea*), Asan (*Terminalia tomentosa*), Jamun (*Syzygium cumini*), Kasi (*Bridelia retusa*), Kendu (*Diospyros melanoxylon*), Amba (*Mangifera indica*), Kusum (*Schleichera oleosa*), Arjuna (*Terminalia arjuna*), Bahada (*Terminalia belerica*) etc. are present in the proposed area of diversion. Wildlife such as Monkeys, Reptiles, Snakes, Lizards, Mongoose, Indian Elephants etc. are found in the applied area for diversion. 8. Whether any protected archaeological/heritage/defence establishment or any other important monument is located in the area: There is no archaeological monument/heritage site/defence establishment located in the applied area. 9. Whether requirement of forest land as proposed by user agency is unavoidable and bare minimum for the project. The DFO, Baripada has reported that the applied forest area ha is bare minimum required for the project. 10. Whether any work in violation of FC Act or guidelines issued there under has been carried out (Yes/No). If yes, details of the same including period of work, action taken on erring officials. Whether work violation is still under progress The DFO, Baripada has reported that no violation has been committed by the user agency under FC Act, 1980. 11. Details of Compensatory afforestation Scheme. In lieu of 10.750 ha of forest land proposed for diversion for this project, State Govt. has identified 10.927 ha of Govt. non-forest land in Plot No.20/1, Khata No.8 (AAA), Kizam Parbat-1 of village Hill Block under Bangiriposi Tahasil of Mayurbhanj District for raising compensatory afforestation. The CA land has been allotted vide letter No.2627/Rev dated 25.09.2023 of the Addl. District Magistrate, Mayurbhanj and Memo No.2362 dated 13.09.2023 of the Tahasildar, Bangiriposi. The Tahasildar, Bangiriposi has certified that the land is free from encroachment and free from any encumbrances. The DFO, Baripada has furnished the land suitability certificate for raising C.A. The DFO, Baripada has prepared CA Scheme with a provision of Block plantation @ 1000 seedlings per ha over 4.00 ha, out 10.927 ha of non-forest land with required SMC measures to be taken up including the provision of fencing around the plantation and watering provision with 10 years maintenance. The PCCF (Nodal), Odisha has technically approved the C.A. Scheme with a total financial outlay of Rs.41,84,500/-. Further, to accommodate the balance seedlings of the DFO, Baripada has indentified 4.500 ha of degraded forest land in Bhimpur RF under Betnoi Range of Forest Division. The DFO, Baripada has furnished land suitability certificate with the proposal. The DFO, Baripada has prepared the Additional CA Scheme to take up Block plantation over 4.500 ha of degraded forest land @ 1600 plants per ha with required SMC measures to be taken up with 10 years of maintenance. The PCCF (Nodal), Odisha has technically approved the Addl. C.A. Scheme with a total financial outlay of Rs.26,82,200/-. The choice of species which are to be planted under the CA Scheme/Addl. CA Scheme are Arjuna (*Terminalia arjuna*), Neem (*Azadirachta indica*), Karanja (*Pongamia pinnata*), Amla (*Emblica officinalis*), Sissoo (*Dalbergia sissoo*), Gambhari (*Gmelina arborea*), Salia Bamboo (*Dendrocalamus strictus*), Asan (*Terminalia tomentosa*), Mahul (*Madhuca indica*), Bahada (*Terminalia belerica*) Sirisa (*Albizia lebbek*), Khair (*Acacia catechu*), Jamun (*Syzygium cumini*), Amba (*Mangifera indica*), Bara (*Ficus benghalensis*), Pipal (*Ficus religiosa*), Panasa (*Artocarpus heterophyllus*) etc. 12. FRA certificate: No FRA certificate has been furnished by

the user agency. However, the user agency has furnished an undertaking to provide the certificate under FRA over 10.750 ha forest land for this project before Stage-II approval. 13. Environment Clearance State Govt. reported that Environment Clearance is not required for the project being linear project as per MoEF, Govt. of India Notification, 2006 in accordance with the guideline F.No.11-48/2002-FC (Pt.) dated 04.07.2014. 14. Rehabilitation & Resettlement Plan State Govt. has informed that the project does not warrant displacement of any human habitation. Hence, resettlement and rehabilitation plan is not required. 15. Cost Benefit Analysis: State Govt. reported that as the proposed forest land for diversion is less than 20 ha, cost benefit analysis is not applicable for this project. 16. Recommendation (a) D.F.O Yes (b) PCCF & Nodal Officer Yes (c) Govt. Yes

Previous Deliberation Details:

NA

Current Deliberation Details:

The REC deliberated upon the proposal and examined in the DSS. The State Govt. reported that the power transmission line from existing 132/33 KV Grid Sub-station at Bangiriposi to proposed RTSS at Bhanjpur in Mayurbhanj district is one of the important transmission networks needed for improvement of power supply particularly electrification of Railway tracks in this tribal dominant district of Odisha. State Govt. has provided 10.927 ha of Govt. non-forest land for raising compensatory afforestation. Wildlife such as Monkeys, Reptiles, Snakes, Lizards, Mongoose, Indian Elephants etc. are found in the applied area for diversion.

The Committee decided to approve the proposal for issue of Stage-I/In-principle approval with usual conditions along with following conditions.

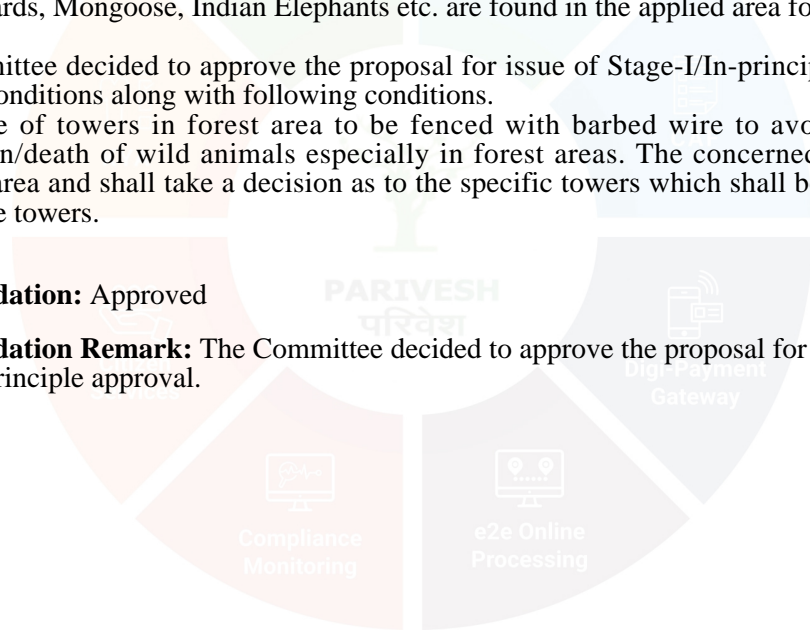
The base of towers in forest area to be fenced with barbed wire to avoid elephant electrocution/death of wild animals especially in forest areas. The concerned DFO shall inspect the area and shall take a decision as to the specific towers which shall be along with the leg of the towers.

Recommendation: Approved

Recommendation Remark: The Committee decided to approve the proposal for issue of Stage-I/In-principle approval.

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Minutes of the 99th meeting of Regional Empowered Committee (REC) of Regional Office, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Bhubaneswar held on 27th February, 2024.

The 99th meeting of the Regional Empowered Committee (REC) of Regional Office, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Bhubaneswar was conducted on 27.02.2024 through **hybrid mode** and process was undertaken by circulation under provisions of Rule 7 of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023. The following members/ representatives of the State Govt. of Odisha were present during the meeting.

1.	Shri A. T. Mishra, Dy. Director General of Forests (Central), Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Regional Office, Bhubaneswar, Odisha	Chairperson
2.	Shri Anurag Shrivastava, PH3, C1, Meridian, Aakriti Eco City, Bawadiya Kala, Bhopal-462026, Madhya Pradesh	Non-Official Member (by Physical mode)
3.	Shri Sahil Aggarwal, 120, Sector-14, Sonipat, Haryana-131001.	Non-Official Member (Not attended)
4.	Shri Ishwar Singh, C-II, Satya Marg, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi - 110021.	Non-Official Member (by virtual mode)
5.	Mrs. Padma Mahanti, Dy. Inspector General of Forests (Central), Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Regional Office, Bhubaneswar, Odisha	Member Secretary
6.	Mrs. Ellora Samal, Joint Secretary, Revenue & Disaster Management Deptt., Government of Odisha.	Special Invitee (by virtual mode)
7.	Smt. Pabitra Das, DCF & Nodal Officer (FCA) Forest Department, Govt. of Odisha	Special Invitee (by Physical mode)

The agenda items and the recommendations by the members through circulations over emails and video conferencing/telephonic discussions of the members with Dy. DGF (Central)-cum-Chairperson REC are as follows:

Agenda No.99.1 (Odisha)

Online Proposal No: FP/OR/RAIL/156513/2022

Diversion of 452.705 ha of forest land (47.362 ha in Jeypore Forest Division + 405.343 ha in Malkangiri Forest Division) for construction of Jeypore-Malkangiri New BG Railway line of East Coast Railway coming under Koraput and Malkangiri Districts by Dy. Chief Engineer, East Coast Railway, Koraput.

1. State Govt. informed that the Indian Railway have taken up a project of construction of a new BG line having a approximate length of 130 Km connecting Odisha State on Kottavalassa-Koraput-Kirandul Railway line to newly proposed Jeypore-Malkangiri Railway line. Jeypore Railway station situated in Koraput district is at a distance of 126 Km from Malkangiri District Headquarters. Jeypore and Malkangiri are also connected by NH-326 (SH-25) having passing through Baipariduda, Govindapali, Mathili and Pangam. For construction of this new BG Rail link from Jeypore to Malkangiri one MoU has been signed between Govt. of India through Ministry of Railways and Govt. of Odisha through Commerce and Transport Department. Since, Koraput and Malkangiri District of Odisha are well irrigated with River Indravati and Upper Kolab with its canal network arrangement cover almost the entire district leading to a fair amount of area being put under agriculture. Also, the districts are having certain industries, so for passenger traffic and freight traffic of the agricultural produce, forest produce

industries and minerals etc. the proposed Jeypore-Malkangiri BG Railway line is a vital one. Main commodities which are likely to be transported by Rail from Malkangiri to Jeypore and vice-versa are Rice, Cement, Fertilizer, Iron and Steel, PoI, Coal, Clinker etc. Also, the local inhabitants under both Koraput and Malkangiri District shall avail better educational, health, marketing and communication system by this proposed Jeypore-Malkangiri BG Rail Link. The total cost of this project is Rs.234364 Lakhs. This project will generate direct employment of 1000 persons and temporary employment of 2000 persons.

2. Giving justification, State Govt. informed that the proposed new line between Jeypore-Malkangiri is part of rail connectivity from Junagarh to Bhadrachalam (440 Km) passing through major towns/District headquarters of Odisha viz. Navarangpur, Jeypore (existing station on KK line), Malkangiri. Malkangiri district presently has no rail head and is one of the backward districts of Odisha. The new Railway line from Lanjigarh Road to Junagarh already commissioned. Construction of Navarangpur-Jeypore-Malkangiri will start shortly after land acquisition. It will be important and useful for the development of the area, and may later become important route for passenger trains in the State of Odisha. Moreover, Govt. of India has approved final location survey from Junagarh to Navarangpur and Malkangiri to Bhadrachalam in Andhra Pradesh. Hence, it will be a major rail route from Raipur to Hyderabad/Vijayawada also. The area from Jeypore to Malkangiri is passing through hilly terrain, thick forests. Efforts made to minimize damage to forest and wildlife. The important place e-route area Boipariguda, Tanginiguda, Mathili and Pondripani Road. Major town Boipariguda is approximately 25 Km from Jeypore via SH-25. There are a number of forest areas including Reserve Forest in the vicinity and attempt has been made to keep interference with the forest area to the minimum extent. Having considered the need for development of Malkangiri District, the most backward district of Odisha in Kalahandi-Bolangir-Koraput Division, need for movement of expected traffic on the proposed section and State Govt. of Odisha's interest to develop the area and willingness to share 25% of the project cost, future extension of line upto Bhadrachalam & other places in Telengana/Andhra Pradesh States, Railway Board has been considered for new line between Jeypore-Malkangiri. Three alternative routes were identified from Jeypore to Malkangiri, considering various aspects of Project works, Socio-economic issue & Interference of forest land, the most feasible route No.1 with maximum safety at minimum cost and involving bare minimum requirement of forest land has been considered. No other alternative route is feasible which avoids forest land interference. All out efforts made to pass the proposed new line near the periphery of the forest areas. The comparative statement showing final selection of Route No.1 among the other two routes explored by the user agency basing on different parameters are as follows:

Sl. No.	Description	Unit	ALT-1	ALT-2	ALT-3
1.	Route Length	Km.	130.000	129.329	129.625
2.	Maximum length of stretch of ruling gradient	m	2900	3200	4200
3.	Single Line/Double line		Single line	Single line	Single line
4.	Gauge	mm	1676	1676	1676
5.	Ballast	mm	350	350	350
6.	Maximum Speed	Kmph	130	130	130
7.	Type of Traffic & Axle load		Passenger & Goods traffic	Passenger & Goods traffic	Passenger & Goods traffic
8.	Bank width for single line	m	7.850	7.850	7.850
9.	Cutting width for single line	m	9.250	9.250	9.250
10.	Maximum degree of curvature	°	6	6	6
11.	Radius	m	291.67	291.67	291.67
12.	Total number of curves	Nos	48	59	62
13.	Curve compensation		0.04 %	0.04 %	0.04 %
14.	Total Curve length	Km	25.417	33.416	40.855
15.	Percentage of curve	%	19.55	25.84	31.52

	alignment				
16.	Total nos. of Bridges	Nos	114	136	155
18.	Total water wages	m	1386.6	1758.963	1945.489
19.	Viaduct	Nos	5	7	9
20.	Total viaduct length	m	4257	8754	9875
21.	Total Road crossing (ROB/RUB/Level crossing)	Nos	30	37	48
22.	Total number of tunnel	Nos.	4	6	7
23.	Total length of tunnel	m	2600	3550	4150
24.	Junction arrangement	Nos	1	0	0
25.	Crossing Stations	Nos.	7 (New)	7 (1 Exist)	9 (1 Exist)
25.	Halt Station	Nos.	0	1	1
26.	Terminal Station	Nos.	1	1	1
27.	Future Station	Nos.	3	4	3
28.	Total Station	Nos.	12	13	14
29.	Maximum height of Bank	m	34.106	35.651	34.862
30.	Average height of Bank		11.2	9,669	9.97
31.	Total land required	Acre	2832.88	2795.436	2775.44
32.	Govt. land required	Acre	492.7075	511.365	651.125
33.	Private land required	Acre	1136.29	1203.938	1207.938
34.	Forest land required	Acre	1203.887	1232.634	1350.658
35.	Merit		Percentage of curve alignment is less. Maintenance cost will be less.		
			Percentage of forest land is low		
			Dismantling of structure is avoided.		
35.	Demerits		Length of alignment is more compared to Alt-2 & Alt-3	Most of the alignment transverse through built up area	Length of alignment is higher than compared to Alt-1 and Alt-2
				Length & Nos. of tunnel is high	Length & Nos. of tunnel is high
				Length & Nos. of viaduct is high	Length & Nos. of viaduct is high
				Dismantling of existing structure is more	of existing structure is more
36.	Cost		23,43,63,84,566	25,64,69,56,253	26,81,27,26,992

3. Total involved in this instant project is 1133.651 ha which comprises of 452.705 ha of forest land (Protected Forest: 29.643 ha + Reserved Forest : 19.905 ha + Revenue Forest : 403.157 ha) and 680.946 ha of non-forest land (Govt. non-forest : 258.269 ha + Private non-forest : 422.677 ha). The detailed land schedule of forest and non-forest land involved in the project including status of forest and non-forest land as on 25.10.1980 duly authenticated by concerned Tahasildars and DFOs are furnished with the proposal. The breakup of total land involved in this project in Jeypore and Malkangiri Forest Divisions is given below:

Forest Division	Forest Area (in ha)				Non-forest Area (in ha)			Grand Total (in ha)
	PF	RF	Revenue Forest	Total	Govt. land	Private land	Total	
Jeypore	0	0	47.362	47.362	142.796	179.598	322.394	369.756
Malkangiri	29.643	19.905	355.795	405.343	115.473	243.079	358.552	763.895
Grand Total	29.643	19.905	403.157	452.705	258.269	422.677	680.946	1133.651

The purpose wise break up of forest land and non-forest land involved in this project in both the divisions are furnished below:

Purpose	Forest land (in ha)	Non-forest land (in ha)	Total (in ha)
Construction of Railway BG Rail Link	452.705	680.946	1133.651
Total	452.705	680.946	1133.651

4. FACT SHEET

1.	Name of the Proposal	Diversion of 452.705 ha of forest land (47.362 ha in Jeypore Forest Division + 405.343 ha in Malkangiri Forest Division) for construction of Jeypore-Malkangiri New BG Railway line of East Coast Railway coming under Korput and Malkangiri Districts by Dy. Chief Engineer, East Coast Railway, Koraput												
2.	Location													
	(i) State	Odisha												
	(ii) District	Koraput and Malkangiri												
	(iii) Village/Taluk													
3.	Particulars of Forests													
	(i) Name of Forest Division	Jeypore & Malkangiri Forest Division.												
	(ii) Forest area involved	452.705 ha												
	(iii) Legal Status/Sy. No	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Legal status</th> <th>Area (in ha)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Protected Forest</td> <td>29.643</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Reserved Forest</td> <td>19.905</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Revenue Forest</td> <td>403.157</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>452.705</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Legal status	Area (in ha)	Protected Forest	29.643	Reserved Forest	19.905	Revenue Forest	403.157	Total	452.705
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	(iv) Density of vegetation	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Division</th> <th>Density of vegetation</th> <th>Eco-Class</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Jeypore</td> <td>0.2</td> <td>III</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Malkangiri</td> <td>0.2</td> <td>III</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Division	Density of vegetation	Eco-Class	Jeypore	0.2	III	Malkangiri	0.2	III			
Division	Density of vegetation	Eco-Class												
Jeypore	0.2	III												
Malkangiri	0.2	III												
	(v) Species wise and diameter class wise enumeration of trees.	<p>Total 12190 nos. of trees have been enumerated over 47.362 ha revenue forest land pertaining to Jeypore Division. No information on tree enumeration over non-forest land involved in Jeypore Division has been furnished with the proposal.</p> <p>In Malkangiri Forest Division, total 27774 nos. of trees have been enumerated over 405.343 ha of forest land involved in the Division. Similarly, 6783 nos. of trees have been enumerated over non-forest land involved in Malkangiri Forest Division. The species wise and girth class wise abstract of trees enumerated has been furnished with the proposal.</p>												
4.	Brief note on topography and vulnerability of the forest land proposed to be utilized for to erosion	The DFO, Jeypore has reported that the forest area is almost flat & there is no issue of soil erosion. Similarly, the DFO, Malkangiri has reported that applied land subject to soil erosion at few points in the ghat section where mechanical measures like retaining wall & breast wall need to be constructed.												
5.	Approximate distance of forest	The DFOs have reported that distance of the project road is zero												

	land proposed to be utilized for from boundary of the forest land	Km. from boundary of the forest land.
6.	Whether forms part of National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant Corridor etc. (if, so, the details of area, comments of CWLW)	The DFOs have reported that the proposed area does not form part of any National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant Corridor. Also the applied area is not forming part of any Eco-Sensitive Zone of any Protected Area.
7.	Whether any rare or endangered or unique species of flora and fauna found in the area, if so details thereof:	<p>The DFOs have reported that no rare and endangered species are found in the forest area applied for diversion.</p> <p>The prevailing vegetation found in the applied area includes Sal (<i>Shorea robusta</i>), Sidha (<i>Lagerstroemia parviflora</i>), Sirisa (<i>Albizia lebbeck</i>), Sissoo (<i>Dalbergia latifolia</i>), Sissoo (<i>Dalbergia sissoo</i>), Bheru (<i>Semicarpus anacardium</i>), Chara (<i>Buchnanian lanzan</i>), Dhaura (<i>Anogeissus latifolia</i>), Piasal (<i>Pterocarpus marsupium</i>), Jamun (<i>Syzizium cumini</i>), Cashew (<i>Anacardium occidentale</i>), Kendu (<i>Diospyros melanoxylon</i>) Mahula (<i>Madhuca indica</i>), Kangada (<i>Xylia xylocarpa</i>), Teak (<i>Tectona grandis</i>), Amba (<i>Mangifera indica</i>), Kusum (<i>Schleichera oleosa</i>), Kumbhi (<i>Careya arborea</i>) Bahada (<i>Terminalia belerica</i>), Mundi (<i>Mitragyna parviflora</i>), Simili (<i>Bombax ceiba</i>), etc.</p> <p>The wild animals such as Rabbit, Jackal, Fox, Wild boar Sloth bear, Hyena, and various birds including Peacock and snakes like Cobra, Russel Viper, King Cobra are noticed in the applied area.</p>
8.	Whether any protected archaeological/heritage/defence establishment or any other important monument is located in the area:	No protected archaeological, heritage site/defence establishment or any other important monuments are found in the area.
9.	Whether requirement of forest land as proposed by user agency is unavoidable and bare minimum for the project.	The DFOs have reported that the requirement of forest land as proposed by the user agency is unavoidable and bare minimum for the project.
10.	Whether any work in violation of FC Act or guidelines issued there under has been carried out (Yes/No). If yes, details of the same including period of work, action taken on erring officials. Whether work violation is still under progress	The DFOs have reported that no violation has been committed by the user agency under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
11.	Details of Compensatory afforestation Scheme.	<p>In lieu of 47.362 ha of forest land proposed for diversion in Jeypore Forest Division, State Govt. has identified 94.724 ha or say 100.138 ha (47.362 ha X 2) in two patches in Banabeda PRF under Jeypore Forest Division for raising C.A. The DFO, Jeypore has furnished land suitability certificate.</p> <p>The DFO, Jeypore has prepared the CA Scheme in ANR/AR plantation mode @ 500/1000 seedlings per ha over 63.00 ha with provision of 10 years maintenance with required SMC measures to be adopted and provision of fencing around the C and watering etc. as per provision in one time cost norms basis. The PCCF (Nodal), Odisha has technically approved the C.A. Scheme with total financial outlay of Rs.2,56,62,500/-.</p>

		<p>Further, in lieu of 405.343 ha of forest land proposed for diversion in Malkangiri Forest Division, the State Govt. has identified 810.686 ha or say 819.151 ha (405.343 ha X 2) of degraded forest land in 16 nos. of sites i.e. in Andaguda-Silakota RL 45.638 ha, Jakalguda Yengulkonda RF 26.051 ha, Marigata-Gomphakonda RF 9.198 ha, Nanurguda-Silakota RL 20.407 ha, Walampally-Udayagiri RF 11.013 ha under Kalimela Range, Chitapari RF 22.410 ha, Khalpadar-Matumkonda PRF 22.638 ha, Bald Hill-K.Gumma-1: 219.107 ha, Bal Hill-K.Gumma-2 : 169.512 ha under Balimela Range, Gandhinagar-Girididangar PRF: 44.37 ha, Pahadaguda-Siadimal RL: 81.792 ha under Malkangiri Range, Bakuli PRF : 25.034 ha, Kyang-Kolab Teak : 6.008 ha, Matiguda-Sarangpali RF : 20.901 ha, Amlajodi-Gurudiguda RL: 8.166 ha under Mathili Range and in Malavaram RF : 86.906 ha under Motu Range of Malkangiri Forest Division for raising C.A. The DFO, Malkangiri has furnished land suitability certificate.</p> <p>The DFO, Malkangiri has prepared the C.A. Scheme in AR/ANR Plantation mode @ 1000/500 seedlings per ha over 819.151 ha with the provision of 10 years maintenance with required SMC measures to be adopted and provision of fencing around the CA land and watering as per provision in one time cost norms basis. The CA Scheme has been technically approved by PCCF (Nodal), Odisha with a total financial outlay of Rs.21,69,65,500/-.</p> <p>Indigenous species to be planted under CA Scheme like Sissoo (<i>Dalbergia sissoo</i>), Sal (<i>Shorea robusta</i>), Piasal (<i>Pterocarpus marsupium</i>), Arjun (<i>Terminalia arjuna</i>), Karanja (<i>Millettia pinata</i>), Neem (<i>Azadirachta indica</i>), Simili (<i>Bombax ceiba</i>), Teak (<i>Tectona grandis</i>), Gambhar (<i>Gmelina arborea</i>), Mahul (<i>Madhuca indica</i>), Asana (<i>Terminalia tomentosa</i>), Dhaura (<i>Anogeissus latifolia</i>), Kendu (<i>Diospyros melanoxylon</i>), Jamun (<i>Syzygium cumini</i>), Amla (<i>Emblica officinalis</i>), Aswastha (<i>Ficus religiosa</i>), Bara (<i>Ficus benghalensis</i>) etc.</p>
12.	FRA certificate:	<p>The user agency has obtained FRA certificate from the Collector, Malkangiri for 351.50 ha of forest land out of 405.343 ha of forest land proposed in Malkangiri District with the proposal. As informed by State Govt., 159 persons have been issued title under FRA over 63.691 ha inside the proposed forest land to be diverted which has been reported by the Collector, Malkangiri. Also, 25 nos. of individual Forest Right Claim under 3 nos. of Tahasils are now under process for finalization with the Tahasildars concerned. So, in this regard, the user agency has to obtain FRA certificate over 53.843 ha (405.343 ha – 351.500 ha) of forest land from the Collector, Malkangiri The user agency has submitted undertaking to submit FRA certificate pertaining to balance forest land soon after receipt.</p> <p>Further, the user agency has submitted an undertaking to submit FRA certificate required for diversion of 47.302 ha of forest land under Jeypore Forest Division of Koraput District.</p>
13.	Environment Clearance	<p>State Govt. has reported that Environmental Clearance is not required for this proejc as per Govt. of India, MoEF Notification No.J-11013/56/2004-IA-II(I) dated 14.09.2006.</p>
14.	Resettlement & Rehabilitation	<p>The DFO, Jeypore in his site inspection report has reported that no Rehabilitation & Resettlement Plan is required for this project in his jurisdiction.</p>

		The DFO, Malkangiri has in his site inspection report has reported that, the Rehabilitation & Resettlement Plan, if required shall be submitted before Stage-II approval. In this regard, the user agency has furnished an undertaking with the proposal.
15.	Cost Benefit Analysis	The State Govt. reported that the total benefit of the project comes to Rs.15,78,40,66,768/-. The total loss on forests including environmental loss comes to Rs.1,10,72,48,827/- Hence, the Cost Benefit Ratio comes to 1 : 14.255 .
16.	Recommendation	
	(a) D.F.Os.	Yes
	(b) RCCF	Yes
	(c) PCCF (Nodal)	Yes
	(c) Govt.	Yes

5.

5. The user agency has submitted SoI Toposheet, DGPS map of proposed forest land and degraded forest land identified for C.A. with the proposal.
6. The user agency has submitted shape/KML file of proposed forest land and degraded forest land identified for compensatory afforestation.
7. The Site inspection reports of DFOs of Jeypore & Malkangiri Division and RCCF, Koraput are furnished with the proposal.
8. The user agency has furnished undertaking to bear the cost of C.A. and NPV with the proposal.
9. State Govt. has identified notified degraded forest land for raising CA in lieu of forest land proposed for diversion. The Nodal Officer (FCA) has accepted the proposal on 10.08.2022. Hence, provisions of Forest (Conservation) Rules, 2022 shall apply to the proposal. The exception given for Central Govt. agencies for CA over twice the degraded forest land is not applicable to the instant project, since the instant forest diversion proposal involves 860.946 ha of non-forest land for execution of the project. Therefore, State Govt. should identify equivalent non-forest land for raising CA and submit details CA Scheme.
10. However, as per Ministry's letter No.FC-11/118/2021-FC dated 27.12.2023 '*In case of proposals which have only been recommended for grant of 'in-principle' but approval of the same has not yet been granted, may have slight changes in the conditions specially with regards to the compensatory afforestation and disposal of proposals pertaining to mining, hydel, encroachment and violation. The Regional Office may proceed to grant of 'in-principle approval to such proposals which falls within the powers delegated to the Regional Office and Regional Empowered Committee as per new rules, subject to change in the conditions specially with regards to raising of compensatory afforestation, as may be applicable, in accordance with the provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 and submission of the supporting detail thereof along with the compliance of 'in-principle' approval*'.
11. The Regional Office, Bhubaneswar has carried out site inspection of the forest land to be diverted on 23.02.2024.

Decision of REC:

The REC deliberated upon the proposal and examined in the DSS. The Committee perused the site inspection report of Regional Office, Bhubaneswar. The Committee observed that in Jeypore Forest Division State Govt. has not reported the tree enumeration report over non-forest land involved in the project. The DCF (Nodal), Odisha present in the meeting informed that total 477 nos. of trees have been enumerated over non-forest land involved in Jeypore Division. Further, State Govt. reported that Malkangiri district presently has no rail head and is one of the backward districts of Odisha. The new Railway line from Lanjigarh Road to Junagarh already commissioned. Construction of Navarangpur-Jeypore-Malkangiri will start shortly after land acquisition. The Committee also noted that the Malkangiri District is highly LWE affected district of Odisha and is having common boundary with Sukma area of Chhattisgarh.

Further, the Committee observed that the instant project is construction of Jeypore-Malkangiri New BG Railway line. As per provisions of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023, for raising CA, equivalent non-forest land is required for the project. However, as per Guidelines issued by Ministry vide FC-11/118/2021 dated 27.12.2023 i.e. "In case of proposals which have only been recommended for grant of 'in-principle' but approval of the same has not yet been granted, may have slight changes in the conditions specially with regards to the compensatory afforestation and disposal of proposals pertaining to mining, hydel, encroachment and violation. The Regional Office may proceed to grant of 'in-principle' approval to such proposals which falls within the powers delegated to the Regional Office and Regional Empowered Committee as per new rules, subject to change in the conditions specially with regards to raising of compensatory afforestation, as may be applicable, in accordance with the provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Smvardhan) Rules, 2023 and submission of the supporting detail thereof along with the compliance of 'in-principle' approval".

The Committee decided to approve the proposal for issue of Stage-I/In-principle approval subject to the following conditions:

- a. The State Govt. shall identify equivalent non-forest land / double degraded Revenue forest land as may be applicable in accordance with the provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 and submit the detail CA scheme along with the KML file, SoI Toposheet and DGPS map before issue of working permission/within one year from the date of Stage-I approval.
- b. NPV must be charged as per the density class. As 60.00 ha of forest land comes under Moderately Dense Forest.
- c. As animals have been reported in the proposed area, the user agency should ensure provision of at least one underpass at every one Km for safe crossing of wild animals/small mammals and to avoid fragmentation of habitat.
- d. A Comprehensive Wildlife Management Plan should be prepared and implemented to mitigate the impact of project on wildlife found in the locality duly approved by CWLW, Odisha.
- e. As reported by the project proponent the trees present inside the outer boundary can be spared from felling by which 10 to 20% trees can be saved. Accordingly, trees inside the outer boundary shall not be felled and any tree felling should be strictly under the supervision of State Forest Department.
- f. The DFO reported that *Dalbergia latifolia* were abundantly present in the past and their number has been drastically reduced, so *Dalbergia latifolia* trees should be transplanted.

Approval conveyed by
e-mail dated 06.03.2024
(Anurag Shrivastava)
Non-Official Member, REC

(Not attended)
(Sahil Aggarwal)
Non-Official Member, REC

Approval conveyed by
e-mail dated 05.03.2024
(Ishwar Singh)
Non-Official Member, REC

Padma Mahanti

(Padma Mahanti)
DIGF (C) & Member Secretary - REC
MoEF&CC, IRO, Bhubaneswar

A.T. Mishra

(A.T. Mishra)
Dy. DGF (C) & Chairperson - REC
MoEF&CC, IRO, Bhubaneswar

Diversion of 11.371 ha of forest land for construction of Bolangir Bypass Road under Bolangir Forest Division by the Executive Engineer, R&B Division, Bolangir.

1. State Govt. informed that National Highs (NH) 26 and 57 passes through Balangir Town. Due to lack of a bypass or ring road, heavy traffic is witnessed in the town area. In 2001, the then Balangir MLA, AU Singhdeo had laid foundation stone of the 22 Km bypass project at Bijakhman. However, the project did not move forward due to unknown reasons. IN 2009, the State Govt. approved the project to connect four corners of the town through a bypass road to ease the traffic congestion. Accordingly to the proposal, work is to be implemented in two phases and in the first phase, a 12 Km road was to be built from Biramuna village near NH-26 to Bijakhman on NH-57 Titlagarh Road). The PWD, NHA and the IDCO were entrusted with the task for construction of road. The IDCO has completed its first phase construction of the road and work has been stopped at the foothills of the Chandali Hill near Sadeipali, 45 Km from Sambalpur Road. The remaining 7.5 Km road form Sadeipali touching IDCO road via Medical College and Kendriya Vidyalaya to reach the NH-57 at Bijakhman of Bolangir-Titlagarh road which will be constructed by the Public Works Department. Now, the Balangir R&B Division has applied Forest Diversion proposal over 11.371 ha of forest land for construction of Balangir Bypass road. Total length of the road is 13.485 Km and width is 30 meter.
2. Giving justification, State Govt. reported that the construction of Bypass road on the west side of Balangir Town is required for smooth flow of traffic. There is no private land available in the west side for the Bypass road and it is difficult for passing a road inside the Balangir township for which large scale displacement of people is required. Hence, it is proposed to construct a road within the Reserve Forest. Further, in the said portion of RF there is an existing narrow forest road and no large scale deforestation will be occurred. In this connection, three alternatives have been explored by the user agency considering the involvement of less forest land and as a result of which a conclusion has been drawn that alternative route No.2 is the best suitable, considering the involvement of less forest land which cannot be avoided and the barest minimum. Route No.2 has been proved to be the feasible alignment, due to below mentioned reasons:
 - a) Negotiating villages: Route No.2 goes through only four villages, where as the other two routes will have to pass through five and six villages respectively.
 - b) Tree felling involved: In alignment No.2, less number of tree felling is required, whereas in alignment No.1 & 3 more tree felling is involved.
 - c) Away from dwelling area: Alignment No.2 passes through agricultural field of 4 villages, whereas in alignment No.1 & 3, the road passes through 5 and 6 villages respectively.
 - d) Least usage of Govt. land: The selected route No.2 involves least usage of Govt. non-forest land. First option involves more pasture land and Patra Jungle. Third involves crossing over a number of natural streams.

The comparative statement of three alternative explored by the user agency is as follows:

Sl.No.	Particulars	Route No.1	Route No.2	Route No.3
1	Route Length (in Km)	6.76	7.51	9.85
2	Forest area (in Ha)	12.821	11.371	12.741
3	Tree felling involved	More	Less	More
4	River Crossing	Nil	Nil	Nil
5	Project Cost (Cr.)	80	50	70
6	Wildlife Sanctuary Length (Km)	NA	NA	NA

3. Total land involved in this project is 22.305 ha comprising of 11.371 ha of forest land (RF : 8.013 ha + Revenue Forest : 3.358 ha) and 10.934 ha of non-forest land (Private non-forest 8.770 ha + Govt. non-forest 2.164 ha). The authenticated land schedule of the forest and non-forest has been furnished with the proposal. The certificate regarding the land schedule proposed to be diverted as on 25.10.1980 of both the forest and non-forest land has been furnished with the proposal. The purpose wise break up of total land involved in this project is furnished below:

Component	Forest land (in ha)			Non-forest land (in ha)			Grand Total (in ha)
	R.F.	Revenue Forest	Total Forest	Govt. non-forest	Private non-forest	Total non-forest	
Road, Bridge, Culvert	8.013	3.358	11.371	2.164	8.770	10.934	22.305
Grand Total	8.013	3.358	11.371	2.164	8.770	10.934	22.305

4. FACT SHEET

1.	Name of the Proposal	Diversion of 11.371 ha of forest land for construction of Bolangir Bypass Road under Bolangir Forest Division by the Executive Engineer, R&B Division, Bolangir.
2.	Location	
	(i) State	Odisha
	(ii) District	Bolangir
	(iii) Village/Taluk	
3.	Particulars of Forests	
	(i) Name of Forest Division	Bolangir Forest Division.
	(ii) Forest area involved	11.371 ha
	(iii) Legal Status/Sy. No	Reserved Forest & Revenue Forest
	(iv) Density of vegetation	0.4 (Eco Value Class-I).
	(v) Species wise and diameter class wise enumeration of trees.	Total trees enumerated over the forest land including Bamboo clumps are 2044 nos. Out of which trees enumerated over Reserved Forest area 1844 Nos. and Bamboo clumps are 33 Nos. and over Revenue forest land 167 Nos. of trees are enumerated. Total trees enumerated over non-forest land are 696 Nos., out of which 118 nos. trees are over Govt. non-forest land and over Private non-forest land are 572 nos. and 6 nos. of Bamboo clumps.
4.	Brief note on topography and vulnerability of the forest land proposed to be utilized for to erosion.	Nil
5.	Approximate distance of forest land proposed to be utilized for from boundary of the forest land	The DFO, Bolangir reported that the area proposed for diversion is passing through the Reserved Forest and Revenue Forest.
6.	Whether forms part of National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant Corridor etc. (if, so, the details of area, comments of CWLW)	The DFO, Bolanagir has reported that the applid area does not form part of any National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant Corridor etc. and is not located within the Eco-Sensitive Zone of any Protected Area.
7.	Whether any rare or endangered or unique species of flora and fauna found in the area, if so details thereof:	The DFO, Bolangir has reported that no rare and endangered or unique species of flora and fauna area found in the applied area. The prevailing vegetation found in the proposed area comprises of Teak (<i>Tectona grandis</i>), Mahul (<i>Madhuca indica</i>), Neem (<i>Azadirachta indica</i>), Chara (<i>Buchnanania lanzan</i>), Bija (<i>Pterocarpus marsupium</i>), Palasa (<i>Butea monosperma</i>), Gohira (<i>Acacia leucopholia</i>) etc. No wildlife seen in the proposed area for diversion.
8.	Whether any protected archaeological/heritage/defence establishment or any other	No protected archaeological/heritage/defence establishment or any other important monuments is located in the applied area.

	important monument is located in the area:	
9.	Whether requirement of forest land as proposed by user agency is unavoidable and bare minimum for the project.	The DFO, Bolangir has reported that the forest land as proposed by the user agency is unavoidable and bare minimum for the project.
10.	Whether any work in violation of FC Act or guidelines issued there under has been carried out (Yes/No). If yes, details of the same including period of work, action taken on erring officials. Whether work violation is still under progress	The DFO, Bolangir has reported that no violation has been committed by the User Agency under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
11.	Details of Compensatory afforestation Scheme.	<p>In lieu of 11.371 ha of forest land proposed for diversion, State Govt. has identified 22.857 ha (2 X 11.371) of degraded Revenue forest land in village Pandarapita under Bolangir Tahasil of Bolangir District. The Tahasildar, Bolangir has allotted the degraded revenue forest land for raising C.A. vide letter No.1740 dated 21.05.2022. The Joint verification report of above CA land done by Forest and Revenue officials mention that the land is free from encroachment and encumbrance. The DFO, Bolangir has furnished land suitability certificate for raising C.A.</p> <p>The DFO, Bolangir has prepared the C.A. Scheme over 22.857 ha of degraded revenue forest land in AR Block Plantation mode @ 1000 seedlings per ha with required SMC measures to be taken up including the provision of Bamboo twig and thorn fencing around the plantation and watering provision with 10 years maintenance.</p> <p>The PCCF (Nodal), Odisha has technically approved the C.A. Scheme for Rs.1,54,76,400/- as per one time cost norm. The approved C.A. Schemes have been furnished with the proposal.</p> <p>The choice of species to be planted under the C.A. Scheme are Neem (<i>Azadirachta indica</i>), Karanja (<i>Derris indica</i>), Amla (<i>Emblica officinalis</i>), Harida (<i>Terminalia chebula</i>), Bahada (<i>Terminalia belerica</i>), Sissoo (<i>Dalbergia sissoo</i>), Gambhari (<i>Gmelina arborea</i>), Salia Bamboo (<i>Dendrocalamus strictus</i>), Chakunda (<i>Cassia siamea</i>), Tentuli (<i>Tamarindus indica</i>), Mahula (<i>Madhuca indica</i>), Simaruba (<i>Simaruba glauca</i>) etc.</p>
12.	FRA certificate:	The user agency has furnished the FRA certificate issued by the Collector, Bolangir vide Memo No.2691 dated 19.10.2023 over an area of 11.372 ha of forest land with the proposal.
13.	Environmental Clearance	The State Govt. has reported that the Environmental Clearance is not required for this project being linear project as per MoEF&CC, Gol Notification 2006.
14.	Resettlement & Rehabilitation	The State Govt. has reported that the project does not warrant displacement of any human habitation and therefore resettlement and rehabilitation plan is not required for this project.
15.	Cost Benefit Analysis	The State Govt. informed that as proposed forest land for

		diversion is less than 20 ha in plain area, the cost benefit analysis is not required for this project.
16.	Recommendation	
	(a) D.F.O.	Yes
	(b) RCCF	Yes
	(c) PCCF (Nodal)	Yes
	(c) State Govt.	Yes

5. The user agency has submitted SoI Toposheet, DGPS maps and KML files of proposed forest land and degraded revenue forest land identified for CA.
6. The site inspection report of DFO, Bolangir is furnished with the proposal.
7. The user agency has submitted an undertaking to pay the cost of NPV and C.A. with the proposal.

Decision of REC:

The REC deliberated upon the proposal and examined in the DSS. The State Govt. reported that the construction of Bypass road on the west side of Balangair Town is required for smooth flow of traffic. There is no private land available in the west side for the Bypass road and it is difficult for passing a road inside the Balangir township for which large scale displacement of people is required. Total length of the road is 13.485 Km and width is 30 meter. State Govt. has provided 22.857 ha (2 X 11.371) of degraded Revenue forest land in village Pandarapita under Bolongir Tahasil of Bolangir District for raising compensatory afforestation. The applid area also does not form part of any National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant Corridor etc. and is not located within the Eco-Sensitive Zone of any Protected Area.

The Committee decided to approve the proposal for issue of Stage-I approval with usual standard condition.

**Approval conveyed by
e-mail dated 06.03.2024**
(Anurag Shrivastava)
Non-Official Member, REC

(Not attended)
(Sahil Aggarwal)
Non-Official Member, REC

**Approval conveyed by
e-mail dated 05.03.2024**
(Ishwar Singh)
Non-Official Member, REC

Padma Mahanti

(Padma Mahanti)
DIGF (C) & Member Secretary - REC
MoEF&CC, IRO, Bhubaneswar

A.T. Mishra

(A.T. Mishra)
Dy. DGF (C) & Chairperson - REC
MoEF&CC, IRO, Bhubaneswar

Agenda No.99.3 (Odisha)**Online Proposal No: FP/OR/TRANS/450317/2023**

Diversion of 10.75 ha of forest land for construction of 132 KV two phase DC line from existing 132/33 KV Grid Sub-station at Bangiriposi to proposed RTSS at Bhanjapur under EHT (Const.) Division, Balasore, Odisha by Deputy General Manager (Elect.), EHT (Const.) Division, OPTCL, Balasore under Baripada Forest Division.

1. State Govt. has informed that the M/s OPTCL, increase need-based transmission network to meet the power requirement of the State in 2025. The power transmission line from existing 132/33 KV Grid Sub-station at Bangiriposi to proposed RTSS at Bhanjapur in Mayurbhanj district is one of the important transmission networks needed for improvement of power supply particularly electrification of Railway tracks in this tribal dominant district of Odisha. This transmission line is a 132 KV two phase DC line having 42.58 Km length and RoW of 27 meter. The project does not need any land acquisition for implementation. Total length of transmission line corridor is 42.58 Km, out of which 37.306 Km (approximately) comes in non-forest land and 5.274 Km passing through forest land.

2. Giving justification, State Govt. informed that construction of 132 KV two phase DC line from existing 132/33 KV Grid Sub-station, Bangiriposi to proposed RTSS at Bhanjapur under EHT (Const.) Division, Balasore, Odisha will meet the power supply demand of industries as well as domestic consumers bringing over all benefit to the people of Mayurbhanj district. The project will facilitate the Rail electrification of Bhanjapur and adjoining area in Mayurbhanj district and overall development of Orisha State in Genral. Initially, three corridors are considered for construction of this transmission line. But, it is observed that, the length of Alternate corridor line-II & III are more than selected Alternate line-I. In Forest diversion point of view, the forest area involved in the Alternative-II & III are more than comparative to Alternative-I. Also, the number of acute angles coming in Alternate-II & III will be problematic for execution of the work form engineering point of view. The following three alternative alignment has explored for the instant project.

Route No.I : Total length of transmission line is 42.580 Km and there are total 164 nos. of towers to be constructed over the entire corridor. There is no build up area coming under this proposed transmission line. Some agricultural land coming under this route. This route involves 10.750 ha of Revenue forest land.

Route No.II: Total length of transmission line is 40.222 Km and there are total 152 nos. of tower to be constructed. There are some Private Industrial land coming under the proposed transmission line. The route involves 14.850 ha of forest land.

Route No.III: Total length of transmission line is 39.053 Km and there are total 148 nos. of towers to be constructed. There are some residential plots coming under the proposed transmission line. The route involves 15.386 ha of forest land.

After extensive exercise of the three alternative routes proposed for construction, Route No.I has been finalized. As analyzed, no alternative suitable non-forest land is available for this project. So, this may be treated as the barest minimum requirement of forest land.

3. This project involves 111.079 ha of land comprising of 10.750 ha of Revenue forest land and 100.329 ha of non-forest land (Govt. non-forest 12.756 ha + Private 87.573 ha). The authenticated land schedule of forest and non-forest land has been furnished with the proposal. The certificate regarding the land schedule of forest and non-forest land involved in the project as on 25.10.1980 duly authenticated b DFO, Baripada and concerned Tahasildars have been furnished with the proposal. The purpose wise utilization of forest and non-forest land of the project is furnished below:

Component	Forest land (in ha)		Non-forest land (in ha)			Grand Total (in ha)
	Revenue Forest	Total	Govt. non-forest	Private non-forest	Total	
Transmission line	10.750	10.750	12.756	87.573	100.329	111.079
Total	10.750	10.750	12.756	87.573	100.329	111.079

4. **FACT SHEET**

1.	Name of the Proposal	Diversion of 10.75 ha of forest land for construction of 132 KV two phase DC line from existing 132/33 KV Grid Sub-station at Bangiriposi to proposed RTSS at Bhanjapur under EHT (Const.) Division, Balasore, Odisha by Deputy General Manager (Elect.), EHT (Const.) Division, OPTCL, Balasore under Baripada Forest Division
2.	Location	
	(i) State	Odisha
	(ii) District	Mayurbhanj
	(iii) Village/Taluk	
3.	Particulars of Forests	
	(i) Name of Forest Division	Baripada Forest Division.
	(ii) Forest area involved	10.75 ha
	(iii) Legal Status/Sy. No	Revenue Forest.
	(iv) Density of vegetation	0.3 (Eco-Value Class-III)
	(v) Species wise and diameter class wise enumeration of trees.	Total 722 nos. of trees have been enumerated over the proposed forest land. Further, 1350 nos. of trees have been enumerated over the non-forest land, out of which 707 nos. are over Govt. non-forest land and 643 nos. over Private non-forest land involved in this project. The details of tree enumerated over forest and non-forest land has been furnished with the proposal.
4.	Brief note on topography and vulnerability of the forest land proposed to be utilized for to erosion	The DFO, Baripada has reported that the forest land applied for diversion is not vulnerable to erosion.
5.	Approximate distance of forest land proposed to be utilized for from boundary of the forest land	The DFO, Baripada has reported that the applied area is a forest land. Therefore, distance between applied area and forest is Zero Km.
6.	Whether forms part of National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant Corridor etc. (if, so, the details of area, comments of CWLW)	The DFO, Baripada has reported that the applied does not form part of any National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant Corridor etc. and also the applied area is not a part of any Eco-Sensitive Zone of any Protected Area.
7.	Whether any rare or endangered or unique species of flora and fauna found in the area, if so details thereof:	<p>The DFO, Baripada has reported that there are no rare/ unique species of flora and fauna in the area applied for diversion.</p> <p>The trees species like Teak (<i>Tectona grandis</i>), Sissoo (<i>Dalbergia sissoo</i>), Sal (<i>Shorea robusta</i>), Mahul (<i>Madhuca indica</i>), Gambhari (<i>Gmelina arborea</i>), Asan (<i>Terminalia tomentosa</i>), Jamun (<i>Syzygium cumini</i>), Kasi (<i>Bridelia retusa</i>), Kendu (<i>Diospyros melanoxylon</i>), Amba (<i>Mangifera indica</i>), Kusum (<i>Schleichera oleosa</i>), Arjuna (<i>Terminalia arjuna</i>), Bahada (<i>Terminalia belerica</i>) etc. are present in the proposed area of diversion.</p> <p>Wildlife such as Monkeys, Reptiles, Snakes, Lizards, Mongoose, Indian Elephants etc. are found in the applied area for diversion.</p>
8.	Whether any protected archaeological/heritage/defence establishment or any other important monument is located	There is no archaeological monument/heritage site/defence establishment located in the applied area.

	in the area:	
9.	Whether requirement of forest land as proposed by user agency is unavoidable and bare minimum for the project.	The DFO, Baripada has reported that the applied forest area ha is barest minimum required for the project.
10.	Whether any work in violation of FC Act or guidelines issued there under has been carried out (Yes/No). If yes, details of the same including period of work, action taken on erring officials. Whether work violation is still under progress	The DFO, Baripada has reported that no violation has been committed by the user agency under FC Act, 1980.
11.	Details of Compensatory afforestation Scheme.	<p>In lieu of 10.750 ha of forest land proposed for diversion for this project, State Govt. has identified 10.927 ha of Govt. non-forest land in Plot No.20/1, Khata No.8 (AAA), Kisam Parbat-1 of village Hill Block under Bangiriposi Tahasil of Mayurbhanj District for raising compensatory afforestation. The CA land has been allotted vide letter No.2627/Rev dated 25.09.2023 of the Addl. District Magistrate, Mayurbhanj and Memo No.2362 dated 13.09.2023 of the Tahasildar, Bangiriposi. The Tahasildar, Bangiriposi has certified that the land is free from encroachment and free from any encumbrances. The DFO, Baripada has furnished the land suitability certificate for raising C.A.</p> <p>The DFO, Baripada has prepared CA Scheme with a provision of Block plantation @ 1000 seedlings per ha over 4.00 ha, out 10.927 ha of non-forest land with required SMC measures to be taken up including the provision of fencing around the plantation and watering provision with 10 years maintenance.</p> <p>The PCCF (Nodal), Odisha has technically approved the C.A. Scheme with a total financial outlay of Rs.41,84,500/-.</p> <p>Further, to accommodate the balance seedlings of the DFO, Baripada has indentified 4.500 ha of degraded forest land in Bhimpur RF under Betnoi Range of Forest Division. The DFO, Baripada has furnished land suitability certificate with the proposal.</p> <p>The DFO, Baripada has prepared the Additional CA Scheme to take up Block plantation over 4.500 ha of degraded forest land @ 1600 plants per ha with required SMC measures to be taken up with 10 years of maintenance.</p> <p>The PCCF (Nodal), Odisha has technically approved the Addl. C.A. Scheme with a total financial outlay of Rs.26,82,200/-.</p> <p>The choice of species which are to be planted under the CA Scheme/Addl. CA Scheme are Arjuna (<i>Terminalia arjuna</i>), Neem (<i>Azadirachta indica</i>), Karanja (<i>Pongamia pinnata</i>), Amla (<i>Emblica officinalis</i>), Sissoo (<i>Dalbergia sissoo</i>), Gambhari (<i>Gmelina arborea</i>), Salia Bamboo (<i>Dendrocalamus strictus</i>), Asan (<i>Terminalia tomentosa</i>), Mahul (<i>Madhuca indica</i>), Bahada (<i>Terminalia belerica</i>) Sirisa (<i>Albizzia lebbek</i>), Khair (<i>Acacia catechu</i>), Jamun (<i>Syzygium cumini</i>), Amba (<i>Mangifera indica</i>), Bara (<i>Ficus benghalesis</i>), Pipal (<i>Ficus religiosa</i>), Panasa (<i>Artocarpus heterophyllus</i>) etc.</p>

12.	FRA certificate:	No FRA certificate has been furnished by the user agency. However, the user agency has furnished an undertaking to provide the certificate under FRA over 10.750 ha forest land for this project before Stage-II approval.	
13.	Environment Clearance	State Govt. reported that Environment Clearance is not required for the project being linear project as per MoEF, Govt. of India Notification, 2006 in accordance with the guideline F.No.11-48/2002-FC (Pt.) dated 04.07.2014.	
14.	Rehabilitation & Resettlement Plan	State Govt. has informed that the project does not warrant displacement of any human habitation. Hence, resettlement and rehabilitation plan is not required.	
15.	Cost Benefit Analysis:	State Govt. reported that as the proposed forest land for diversion is less than 20 ha, cost benefit analysis is not applicable for this project.	
16.	Recommendation		
	(a)	D.F.O	Yes
	(b)	PCCF & Nodal Officer	Yes
	(c)	Govt.	Yes

- 5 The user agency has furnished SoI Toposheet and DGPS map of proposed forest land for diversion and non-forest land/degraded forest land identified for C.A./Addl. CA has been furnished with the proposal.
- 6 The user agency has submitted KML file of proposed forest land, non-forest land/degraded forest land identified for C.A./Additional CA and entire alignment of proposed transmission line with the proposal.
- 7 The site inspection report of DFO, Baripada has been furnished with the proposal.
- 8 The user agency has furnished undertaking to bear the cost of NPV and C.A. the proposal.

Decision of REC:

The REC deliberated upon the proposal and examined in the DSS. The State Govt. reported that the power transmission line from existing 132/33 KV Grid Sub-station at Bangiriposi to proposed RTSS at Bhanjpur in Mayurbhanj district is one of the important transmission networks needed for improvement of power supply particularly electrification of Railway tracks in this tribal dominant district of Odisha. State Govt. has provided 10.927 ha of Govt. non-forest land for raising compensatory afforestation. Wildlife such as Monkeys, Reptiles, Snakes, Lizards, Mongoose, Indian Elephants etc. are found in the applied area for diversion.

The Committee decided to approve the proposal for issue of Stage-I/In-principle approval with usual conditions along with following conditions.

- a) The base of towers in forest area to be fenced with barbed wire to avoid elephant electrocution/death of wild animals especially in forest areas. The concerned DFO shall inspect the area and shall take a decision as to the specific towers which shall be along with the leg of the towers.

**Approval conveyed by
e-mail dated 06.03.2024**

(Anurag Shrivastava)

Non-Official Member, REC

(Not attended)

(Sahil Aggarwal)

Non-Official Member, REC

**Approval conveyed by
e-mail dated 05.03.2024**

(Ishwar Singh)

Non-Official Member, REC

Padma Mahanti

(Padma Mahanti)

DIGF (C) & Member Secretary - REC
MoEF&CC, IRO, Bhubaneswar

A.T. Mishra

(A.T. Mishra)

Dy. DGF (C) & Chairperson - REC
MoEF&CC, IRO, Bhubaneswar

Agenda No.99.4 (Odisha)

Online Proposal No: FP/OR/TRANS/149711/2021

Diversion of 30.469 ha (Phulbani Division 19.563 ha + Boudh Division 10.906 ha) of forest land for construction of 132/33 KV DC line on DC tower from existing 132/33 KV Phulbani Grid Sub-Station to 132/33 KV Grid Sub-Station at Boudh by OPTCL, Angul, Odisha.

1. The proposal was discussed in the REC meeting held on 29.08.2023. The REC deliberated upon the proposal and examined the proposal in DSS. The DFO, Boudh reported that the construction of transmission line on tower has been completed in the Revenue forest area to be diverted since one month without forest clearance. The DFO, Boudh has furnished Geo co-ordinates of 10 nos. of towers constructed within the forest land. The DFO, Phulbani has reported that no violation has been committed by the user agency under FC Act, 1980. However, as per DSS analysis the user agency has constructed 30 nos. of towers in forest land without forest clearance. Out of 30 towers erected, 11 towers are in Boudh Division and 19 nos. of towers are in Phulbani Division. The Committee decided to defer the proposal and seek information from the State Govt. on the following points.
 - a) The State Govt. shall carry out a joint inspection involving forest, revenue and OPTCL officials to ascertain actual number of towers erected along with GPS Coordinates and extent of forest area used thereon, in violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
 - b) Detail action taken report on violation of FC Act, 1980 in both Boudh and Phulbani Division with name and designation of erring officials responsible for violation causing diversion of forest land for non-forestry purpose may be furnished.
2. Accordingly, Regional Office, Bhubaneswar vide letter dated 31.08.2023 has requested the State Govt. to furnish the above information.
3. The Nodal Officer (FCA), Odisha vide letter dated 06.02.2024 has furnished the point wise compliance of the above observation to Regional Office, Bhubaneswar which is as follows:

- a) The DFO, Boudh has reported that joint inspection involving Forest, Revenue and OPTCL officials has been conducted on 26.10.2023 to ascertain the actual number of towers erected on forest land proposed for diversion without prior approval of the competent authority under FC Act, 1980. The list of towers with GPS co-ordinates and extent of forest area used thereon is furnished with the reply.

Further, DFO, Boudh Division has reported that during the preliminary site inspection, 10 nos. of transmission towers were found to be erected on forest land amounting to violation of FC Act, 1980. However, during the re-verification of the tower locations, the Tahasidar, Boudh has certified that Plot No.81, Khata No.15 of Samapaju village as non-forest land, thus bringing down the number of towers to 9 nos. of towers.

The DFO, Phulbani has reported that the joint site inspection involving Forest, Revenue and OPTCL officials was carried out, the report is enclosed is furnished the reply. The DFO, Phulbani has reported that all the violations were found on Revenue forest land which were reported by the concerned Revenue Authority and/or User Agency.

The Division wise no. of towers constructed and extent of forest area used in violation is given below:

Division	No. of towers constructed in violation of FC Act	Area used in violation of FC Act (in ha)
Phulbani	21	0.3012
Boudh	9	0.0836
Total	30	0.3848

- b) In compliance, the DFO, Boudh has reported that show cause notice has been issued to Shri Prafulla Kumar Pati, Ex-DGM (Elect), EHT (Const.) Division, Angul vide letter No.6996 dated 19.11.2023 for violation of FC Act, 1980.

The Collector, Boudh has been requested by the DFO, Boudh vide his letter No.7000 dated 19.11.2023 to initiate action against erring officials responsible for violation as per the local prevailing laws. Subsequently, the Tahasildar, Boudh and Tahasildar, Harbhanga have initiated encroachment cases against the erring official i.e. Shri Prafulla Kumar Pati, Ex-DGM (Elect), EHT (Cons) Division, Angul under Odisha Prevention of Land Encroachment Act, 1972 communicated vide letter No.329 dated 29.01.2024 and letter No.292 dated 16.01.2024 of Tahasildar, Boudh and Tahasildar, Harabhanga respectively.

The Collector, Kandhamal vide letter No.180 dated 12.01.2024 has reported that encroachment cases have been booked by Tahasildar, Phulbani and Khajuripada against unauthorized construction of electric towers by OPTCL on forest land. The action taken reports are enclosed with the reply.

4. Details Facts of the proposal by indicated by State Govt. is as follows:

- i) State Govt. has informed that the proposed 132 KV Boudh-Phulbani DC line 65.374 Km can be connected to the system from existing 132/33 KV Sub-Station at Boudh to 132/33 KV Grid Sub-station at Phulbani for system strengthening purpose. The proposed 132 KV transmission line project will provide evacuation path from 132/33 KV Grid Sub-Station at Phulbani to 132/33 KV Grid Sub-Station at Boudh. Presently Phulbani area is drawing power from 132 KV Sub-Station at Bhanjanagar in single circuit. There is no alternate power supply to Phulbani. Commissioning of proposed 132 KV Boudh-Phulbani D.C. line will ensure steady reliable power supply and eradicate low voltage problem not only at Phulbani but also nearby area of Phulbani town. The proposed 132 KV transmission line is passing through Forest Divisions of Boudh and Phulbani of Boudh and Kandhamal districts respectively.
- ii) Giving justification, State Govt. informed that OPTCL is a Govt. of Odisha undertaking organization. This proposal is formulated to supply power from 132 KV Grid Sub-Station at Boudh to 132/33 KV Grid Sub-Station at Phulbani Township and adjoining areas in Kandhamal and District over a distance of 65.374 Km. In order to eradicate low voltage problem in the southern part of Odisha, it is felt essential for construction of 132 KV DC line on DC Tower from existing Phulbani Grid Sub-Station to 132/33 KV Boudh Grid Sub-Station at Boudh and 02 nos. feeder by extension at Phulbani Grid Sub-Station and 02 nos. of feeder by extensions at Boudh Grid Sub-Station. This project is meant for uninterrupted reliable and quality power supply in the district of Kandhamal and Boudh. This project will also help in improving irrigation, agriculture, industry and other small scale industries which will improve standard of the public. It is informed that all possible alternatives have been explored to reduce the area of forest land, avoiding thickly populated villages and thickly forest area before finalization of the selection route. The area was studied thoroughly and found that other routes are having high impact on forest areas. The suitable route is Route-III of the transmission line. The user agency has explored following three alternatives for this project.

Route-I: The length of the transmission line is about 59.961 Km and having 81 Angles points. This route involved total forest area of 57.773 ha including 14.785 ha Reserved Forest and passing through Ranipathar RF, Donga RF and Bankamundi RF.

Route-II: The length of the transmission line is about 64.652 Km and having 93 Angles points. This route involved total forest area of 37.941 ha including 8.458 ha Reserved Forest and passing through Khaumunda RF, Donga RF and Sudrukumpa RF.

Route-III: The length of the transmission line is about 65.374 Km and having 77 Angles points. This route involved total forest area of 30.469 ha including 5.476 ha Reserved Forest and passing through Donga RF.

- iii) The project involves 176.512 ha of land, out of which forest land is 30.469 ha and non-forest land is 146.043 ha. Total towers to be erected in both forest and non-forest land is 248 nos. Out of which 45 nos. of towers are proposed to be erected in forest land. The length of the proposed transmission line is 65.676 Km. Out of which 27.698 Kms is proposed in Boudh Forest Division and 37.676 Km is proposed in Phulbani Forest Division. The length of the transmission line in forest area of Boudh Forest Division is 4.040 Km and 7.245 Km in Phulbani Forest Division. Out of total 30.469 ha of forest land involved in this project, 19.563 ha of forest land is in Phulbani Forest Division and 10.906 ha of forest land in Boudh Forest Division. The authenticated land schedule of forest and

non-forest land as on 25.10.1980 duly signed by concerned Tahasildars and DFOs are furnished with the proposal. The Division wise forest and non-forest land involved in this project is given below:

Forest Division	Forest Area (in ha)			Non-forest Area (in ha)			Grand Total (in ha)
	RF	Revenue Forest	Total	Govt.	Private	Total	
Phulbani	5.476	14.087	19.563	29.227	52.938	82.165	101.728
Boudh	0	10.906	10.906	13.466	50.412	63.878	74.784
Total	5.476	24.993	30.469	42.693	103.350	146.043	176.512

iv) The purpose wise utilization of forest and non-forest land in Phulbani and Boudh Forest Division is furnished below:

Sl. No.	Purpose of utilization	PHULBANI FOREST DIVISION					
		Forest land		Non-forest land		Total land	
		No. of Towers/ Length	Forest land (in ha)	No. of Towers/ Length	Non-forest (in ha)	No. of Towers/ Length	Total Area (in ha)
1	Towers	37 nos.	0.277	108 nos.	0.485	145 nos.	0.765
2	Transmission line	7.245 Km	19.286	30.431 Km	81.680	37.676 Km	100.963
Total Area (in ha)			19.563		82.165		101.728

Sl. No.	Purpose of utilization	BOUDH FOREST DIVISION					
		Forest land		Non-forest land		Total land	
		No. of Towers/ Length	Forest land (in ha)	No. of Towers/ Length	Non-forest (in ha)	No. of Towers/ Length	Total Area (in ha)
1	Towers	08 nos.	0.040	95 nos.	0.432	103 nos.	0.472
2	Transmission line	4.040 Km	10.866	23.685 Km	63.446	27.698 Km	74.312
Total Area (in ha)			10.906		63.878		74.784

v) FACT SHEET

1.	Name of the Proposal	Diversion of 30.469 ha (Phulbani Division 19.563 ha + Boudh Division 10.906 ha) of forest land for construction of 132/33 KV DC line on DC tower from existing 132/33 KV Phulbani Grid Sub-Station to 132/33 KV Grid Sub-Station at Boudh by OPTCL, Angul, Odisha.																				
2.	Location																					
	(i) State	Odisha																				
	(ii) District	Khandhamal & Boudh																				
	(iii) Village/Taluk																					
3.	Particulars of Forests																					
	(i) Name of Forest Division	Phulbani & Boudh Forest Division.																				
	(ii) Forest area involved	30.469 ha																				
	(iii) Legal Status/Sy. No	Reserved Forest & Revenue Forest.																				
	(iv) Density of vegetation	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Forest Division</th> <th>Density</th> <th>Eco Value Class</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Phulbani</td> <td>0.4 to 0.7</td> <td>Eco Class-I</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Boudh</td> <td>0.01</td> <td>Eco Class-III</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>						Forest Division	Density	Eco Value Class	Phulbani	0.4 to 0.7	Eco Class-I	Boudh	0.01	Eco Class-III						
Forest Division	Density	Eco Value Class																				
Phulbani	0.4 to 0.7	Eco Class-I																				
Boudh	0.01	Eco Class-III																				
	(v) Species wise and diameter class wise enumeration of trees.	Total 3538 nos. of trees have been enumerated over the proposed forest land. Further, 3749 nos. of trees have been enumerated over the non-forest land involved in this project. The Division wise tree enumerated over forest and non-forest land is furnished below:																				
		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Division</th> <th colspan="3">No. of trees enumerated</th> <th rowspan="2">No. of trees over</th> <th rowspan="2">Grand Total</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Rev. Forest</th> <th>R.F.</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>						Division	No. of trees enumerated			No. of trees over	Grand Total	Rev. Forest	R.F.	Total						
Division	No. of trees enumerated			No. of trees over	Grand Total																	
	Rev. Forest	R.F.	Total																			

					non-forest		
		Phulbani	2186	1209	3395	3398	6793
		Boudh	143	0	143	351	494
		Total	2329	1209	3538	3749	7287
4.	Brief note on topography and vulnerability of the forest land proposed to be utilized for to erosion	The DFO, Phulbani has reported that Donga RF is hilly & undulating terrain, high drainage. The DFO, Boudh has reported that there is no remarkable vulnerability noticed in this area.					
5.	Approximate distance of forest land proposed to be utilized for from boundary of the forest land	The DFO, Phulbani reported that the proposed area is inside Donga RF (0 – 3 Km). Similarly, the DFO, Boudh has reported that the proposed site for diversion is approximately at 500 mtr. Distance from Gouddei and Bankamundi RF.					
6.	Whether forms part of National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant Corridor etc. (if, so, the details of area, comments of CWLW)	The DFOs have reported that the applied does not form part of any National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant Corridor etc. No National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant corridor, Wildlife Migration Corridor is located within 1 Km from the boundary of the forest land proposed for diversion.					
7.	Whether any rare or endangered or unique species of flora and fauna found in the area, if so details thereof:	The DFO, Boudh has reported that there are no rare/ unique species of flora and fauna in the area applied for diversion. The existing vegetation found in the proposed area under Phulbani Division comprises of Arjuna (<i>Terminalia arjuna</i>), Bahada (<i>Terminalia belerica</i>), Bara (<i>Ficus bengalensis</i>), Chara (<i>Buchanania lanzan</i>), Dhaura (<i>Anogeissus latifolia</i>), Harida (<i>Terminalia chebula</i>), Karanja (<i>Pongamia pinnata</i>), Kendu (<i>Diospyros melanoxylon</i>), Mahul (<i>Madhuca indica</i>), Mango (<i>Mangifera indica</i>), Sal (<i>Shorea robusta</i>), Bela (<i>Aegle murelos</i>), Chakunda (<i>Cassia tora</i>), Kusuma (<i>Schleichera oleosa</i>), Jamu (<i>Syzygium cumini</i>), Simili (<i>Bombax ceiba</i>), Teak (<i>Tectona grandis</i>), Piasal (<i>Pterocarpus marsupium</i>), Asan (<i>Terminalia tomentosa</i>), Dimiri (<i>Ficus recemosa</i>), Kanchana (<i>Bauhinia variegata</i>), Barakoli (<i>Ziziphus jujube</i>), Guava (<i>Psidium guava</i>), Korei (<i>Holoptelechia antidysintrica</i>), Kumbhi (<i>Careya arborea</i>), Osta (<i>Ficus religiosa</i>), Panasa (<i>Artocarpus heterophyllus</i>), Sidha (<i>Lagerstroemia parviflora</i>), Karada (<i>Cleistanthus collinus</i>), Achhu (<i>Morinda tinctoria</i>), Sissoo (<i>Dalbergia sissoo</i>), Tentuli (<i>Tamarindus indica</i>), Sirisa (<i>Albizia lebbek</i>), Sunari (<i>Casia fistula</i>), Gangasuili (<i>Nictanthus arbotristis</i>), Kasi (<i>Bridelia retusa</i>), Amla (<i>Emblica officinalis</i>), Bhalia (<i>Semicarpus anacardium</i>), etc. The common fauna found in the applied area are Leopard, Leopard cat, Wild boar, Sloth bear, Fox, Pangolin, Ratel, Sambar, Barking deer, Elephant, Grey mangoose, Small India cervet, Monkey etc.					
8.	Whether any protected archaeological/heritage/defence establishment or any other important monument is located in the area:	There is no archaeological monument/heritage site/defence establishment located in the applied area.					
9.	Whether requirement of forest land as proposed by user	The DFOs of Phulbani and Boudh Division have reported that the applied forest area ha is unavoidable and barest minimum					

	agency is unavoidable and bare minimum for the project.	required for the project.
10.	Whether any work in violation of FC Act or guidelines issued there under has been carried out (Yes/No). If yes, details of the same including period of work, action taken on erring officials. Whether work violation is still under progress	<p>The DFO, Phulbani has reported that no violation has been committed by the user agency under FC Act, 1980.</p> <p>But, the DFO, Boudh has reported that the construction of transmission line on tower has been completed in the Revenue forest area to be diverted since one month, although there is no damage to the forest.</p> <p>The DFO, Boudh in his Memo No.3568 dated 21.06.2023 addressed to RCCCF, Berhampur has intimated that the violation was committed by the then Dy. General Manager (Elect), EHT Division, Angul Shri Prafulla Kumar Pati. The DFO, Boudh has furnished Geo co-ordinates of 10 nos. of towers constructed within the forest land.</p>
11.	Details of Compensatory afforestation Scheme.	<p>In lieu of 30.469 ha of forest land proposed for diversion for this project, State Govt. has identified twice degraded forest land over 61.00 ha in Bankud RF under Patnagarh Forest Range of Bolangir Forest Division for raising Compensatory Afforestation. The DFO, Phulbani has furnished site suitability certificate with the proposal.</p> <p>The DFO, Phulbani has prepared CA Scheme with a provision of ANR plantation @ 500 seedlings per hectare over 61.00 ha of degraded forest land. A calendar of pre-planting, planting and post planting operation along with rising of nursery has been prepared and incorporated in the prepared C.A. Scheme. To protect the plantation from grazing and other biotic interference, it is proposed to fence the plantation with bamboo twigs & thorns along the periphery over 4650 rmt. For watering, solar system fitted with bore well module has been adopted. Beside this SMC work over the entire planted area is also proposed.</p> <p>The PCCF (Nodal), Odisha has technically approved the C.A. Scheme with a total financial outlay of Rs.1,88,02,100/-</p>
12.	FRA certificate:	<p>No FRA certificate has been furnished by the user agency.</p> <p>However, the user agency has furnished an undertaking to provide the certificate under FRA over 19.563 ha forest land in Kandhamal District and 10.906 ha forest land in Boudh District after obtaining from concerned District Collector.</p>
13.	Environment Clearance	State Govt. reported that Environment Clearance is not required for the project being linear project as per MoEF, Govt. of India Notification, 2006 in accordance with the guideline F.No.11-48/2002-FC (Pt.) dated 04.07.2014.
14.	Rehabilitation & Resettlement Plan	State Govt. has informed that the project does not involve displacement of any human habitation. Hence, resettlement and rehabilitation plan is not required.
15.	Cost Benefit Analysis:	State Govt. reported that although it is a linear project, but involves forest land more than 20 ha. Hence, cost benefit analysis is required for the applied project. The cost of the forest proposed for diversion has been assessed by the DFO, Phulbani and DFO, Boudh as Rs.524.905 Lakh. The user agency estimated the benefit of the project as Rs.2236.771 Lakh. The Cost Benefit ratio comes to 1 : 4.261.

16.	Recommendation		
	(a)	D.F.O	Yes
	(b)	RCCF	Yes
	(c)	PCCF	Yes
	(c)	Govt.	Yes

- vi) The user agency submitted SoI Toposheet, DGPS maps & KML file of proposed forest land, and degraded forest identified compensatory afforestation with the proposal.
- vii) The site inspection reports of DFO, Phulbani and DFO, Boudh have been furnished with the proposal.
- viii) The user agency has submitted an undertaking to pay the cost of NPV and C.A with the proposal.

Decision of REC:

The REC deliberated upon the proposal along with the reply furnished by the State Govt. The Committee observed that as per field verification report, total 30 towers (21 towers in Phulbani and 9 towers in Boudh Forest Division) has been erected over 0.3858 ha of forest land in violation. The DFO, Boudh has issued show cause notice to Shri Prafulla Kumar Pati, Ex-DGM (Elect), EHT (Const.) Division, Angul. The Tahasildar, Boudh and Tahasildar, Harbhanga have initiated encroachment cases against the erring official i.e. Shri Prafulla Kumar Pati, Ex-DGM (Elect), EHT (Cons) Division, Angul under Odisha Prevention of Land Encroachment Act, 1972 communicated vide letter No.329 dated 29.01.2024 and letter No.292 dated 16.01.2024 of Tahasildar, Boudh and Tahasildar, Harabhanga respectively. The Collector, Kandhamal vide letter No.180 dated 12.01.2024 has reported that encroachment cases have been booked by Tahasildar, Phulbani and Khajuripada against unauthorized construction of electric towers by OPTCL on revenue forest land.

Initially, the DFO, Phulbani has reported that no violation under FC Act, 1980. However, after joint inspection, it is reported that 21 towers has been constructed over Revenue forest land in violation. The Committee opined that State Govt. shall call for explanation from the DFO and Revenue Officials responsible for causing diversion of forest land and providing wrong information without proper inspection of the project.

The Committee decided to recommend the proposal to Ministry for approval with following conditions:

- Penal CA over non-forest/ revenue forest land five (5) times to the extent of forest land used for non-forest activities for violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 shall be carried out by the State Govt. at the project cost.
- State Govt. shall realize Penal NPV of five (5) times of the NPV plus 12% simple interest from the user agency for violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

**Approval conveyed by
e-mail dated 06.03.2024**

(Anurag Shrivastava)
Non-Official Member, REC

Padma Mahanti

(Padma Mahanti)
DIGF (C) & Member Secretary - REC
MoEF&CC, IRO, Bhubaneswar

(Not attended)

(Sahil Aggarwal)
Non-Official Member, REC

**Approval conveyed by
e-mail dated 05.03.2024**

(Ishwar Singh)
Non-Official Member, REC

A.T. Mishra

(A.T. Mishra)
Dy. DGF (C) & Chairperson - REC
MoEF&CC, IRO, Bhubaneswar

Agenda No.99.5 (Odisha)

Online Proposal No. FP/OR/TRANS/50828/2020

Diversion of 48.782 ha of forest land for construction of 220 KV LILO Transmission line from existing LoC No.70 of 220 KV Malkangiri - Balimela Transmission line to existing 220/33 KV Grid S/S Khairput, Gobindapalli under Malkangiri Forest Division in Malkangiri District by OPTCL, EHT Construction Division, Jeypore, Odisha.

1. The proposal was discussed in the REC meeting held on 18.04.2023. During deliberation, the REC observed that the DFO, Malkangiri and RCCF, Koraput have reported that the user agency has constructed 4 (four) nos. of Web Towers in Tarlakota PRF proposed to be diverted during 2018-19 and 1 (one) no. of Web Tower in Revenue forest area. But, while examining the proposal on DSS, the Committee observed that more than 20 towers have been erected over the proposed forest land. So, the exact number of towers constructed on the proposed forest land and forest area brought under non-forestry use could not be ascertained. The Committee decided to defer the proposal and desired to seek the following information from the State Govt.
 - a) The State Govt. shall carry out a joint inspection to ascertain actual number of towers erected along with GPS Coordinates and extent of forest area used thereon, in violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 involving officials from State Forest Department, Revenue Department and OPTCL.
 - b) Action taken against the erring officials responsible for violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and legal action taken by the forest and revenue department for the illegal act.
 - c) When the construction of towers started? Whether the construction work is going on or has been stopped.
2. Accordingly, IRO, Bhubaneswar vide letter dated 28.04.2023 has sought information on the above observation of REC from State Govt.
3. In compliance to IRO, Bhubaneswar's letter dated 28.04.2023, the PCCF (Nodal), Odisha vide letter dated 12.07.2023 has furnished the following information.
 - a) State Govt. reported that after joint inspection by Forest and Revenue and OPTCL staff, it is ascertained that 146 numbers of towers have been erected (5 Nos. towers in Tarlakota PRF + 53 Nos. of in Revenue Forest + 88 Nos. towers in Non-forest area). The forest area extent for erected 58 Nos. of towers (out of 58 Nos. of towers, 54 Nos. of towers are without stringing of conductor which include 0.950 ha of forest area is violated). The forest area extent for conductor stringing between 14 Nos. of towers (Sl.No.130 to 143 Nos.) is 3.325 ha (Out of 14 nos. of towers erected, 4 nos. of towers are coming under Forest area. The total area violation is 0.950 ha + 3.325 ha = 4.275 ha. Thus total forest area under violation is 4.275 ha. The copy of joint field inspection report with details of erected towers along with GPS co-ordinates is furnished with the compliance report.
 - b) State Govt. reported that for violation of FC Act, 1980, the Director (HRD), OPTCL, Bhubaneswar vide lettr No.AW-GE-III-127/05/1912 dated 27.06.2022 has initiated departmental action against Shri Laxmikanta Panda, Ex-DGM (Elect), EHT Construction Division, Jeypore.

The DFO, Malkangiri has issued show cause notice against the concerned Forester and Forest Guard as part of departmental proceedings vide his Memo No.3893 dated 04.08.2022. The DFO, vide his Memo No.2308 dated 30.05.2023 has submitted draft departmental proceedings against Shri Samir Kumar Jena, Forester to RCCF, Koraput Circle.

The DFO, Malkangiri has reported that the Tahasildar, Kudumuluguma vide letter dated 98 dated 19.01.2023 has issued show cause notice to Revenue Inspector, Kudumuluguma as part of departmental proceedings.
 - c) State Govt. reported that out of 58 numbers of erected towers in forest areas, 5 nos. of towers have been erected during March, 2019 and 53 nos. of towers have been erected between April, 2022 to January, 2023 by the user agency. Moreover, the DFO, Malkangiri has reported that the construction work has been stopped.
4. The proposal was again discussed in the REC meeting held on 27.07.2023. The REC deliberated upon the proposal along with the reply submitted by the State Govt. The Committed observed that total 58 nos. of towers have been erected by the user agency over forest land out of which 5 nos. are in Tarlakota PRF and 53 Nos. in Revenue Forest and total extent of forest land under violation is reported

to 4.275 ha. The Committee also observed that State Govt. has not intimated regarding action taken under Orissa Forest Act, 1972 and OPLE Act for unauthorized use of forest land. The Committee decided to defer the proposal and seek information from State Govt. regarding detail action taken under Orissa Forest Act, 1972 and OPLE Act for unauthorized use of forest land both in the notified forest as well as in the revenue forest.

5. Accordingly, Regional Office, Bhubaneswar vide letter dated 31.03.2023 has requested the State Govt. to furnish information on the above observation of REC.
6. The Nodal Officer (FCA), Odisha vide letter dated 19.02.2024 has furnished the following action taken report to Regional Office, Bhubaneswar.
 - a) The Tahasildar, Kudumulugumma has instituted encroachment cases against representatives of the user agency i.e. Dy. General Manager (Elect.), EHT (Construction) Division, OPTCL, Jeypore under Section 4, 6, & 7 of the OPLE Act, 1972. Further, the Tahasildar, Kudumulugumma has demanded penalty amount of Rs.52,227/- towards encroachment of Revenue forest land against the user agency which has been deposited vide Cheque No.048136 dated 09.01.2023. A copy of the letter No.182 dated 11.01.2024 of Addl. District Magistrate, Malkangiri along with its enclosures has been furnished with the reply.
 - b) Further, the Range Officer, Balimela has booked a case under OR Case No.79 of 2023-24 against the OPTCL for violation of the provision of Section 37 of Orissa Forest Act, 1972.
7. The proposal is placed before REC with above reply of State Govt. for further consideration.
8. The factsheet of the proposal is given below:
 - i) The proposal envisages diversion of 48.782 ha of forest land for construction of 220 KV LILO Transmission line from existing LoC No.70 of 220 KV Malkangiri – Balimela Transmission line to existing 220/33 KV Grid S/S Khairput, Gobindapalli under Malkangiri Forest Division in Malkangiri District by OPTCL, EHT Construction Division, Jeypore, Odisha.
 - ii) State Govt. has informed that this proposal is a 220 KV LILO transmission line, which emanates from existing LoC No.70 of 220 KV Malkangiri – Balimela Transmission line to existing 220/33 KV Grid S/S Khairput, Gobindapalli in Malkangiri District, Odisha over a distance of 37.770 Km. The said transmission line will supply EHT voltage, which will ensure un-interrupted, assured and quality power supply in 27 villages and other nearby villages of Chitrakonda, Malkangiri, Kudumuluguma & Khairput Tahasil in Malkangiri Forest Division Malkangiri District and also is adjoining villages in Koraput district, Odisha. This project will also improve the voltage profile of nearby villages.
 - iii) The entire transmission line will be constructed by erecting 52 nos. of towers inside forest land (Angele Tower 16 Nos. and normal tower 36 nos.) and over non-forest land 94 no. of towers totaling to 146 nos. of towers covering a total distance of 37.77 Km (out of which 13.938 Km is inside forest area and 23.832 Km over non-forest land). The Right of Way inside forest area is 35 meter and also over 35 mtr over non-forest land. The height of transmission line will be 14 mtr.
 - iv) Giving Justification, State Govt. has reported during field survey, three alternatives were identified. EHT transmission line cannot take frequent turn because of limitation of turn (maximum 60⁰) and other technical constraint. After avoiding dense vegetation, Hilly area, human habitation, forest plantation and dense village forest, Route-II is found to be most suitable route. The three alternate alignment route survey is given below:

Alternate Route	Total length (in Km)	No. of Tower/ Angles points in forest land	Forest land involved (in ha)			Total Forest (in ha)
			Revenue Forest	RF	PRF	
Route-I	36.187	65	48.358	31.080	0	79.438
Route-II	37.770	52	44.283	0	4.499	48.782
Route-III	38.426	57	42.691	26.565	0	69.256

- v) Total land involved in this project is 132.196 ha comprising of 48.782 ha of forest land (Revenue Forest 44.283 ha + PRF 4.499 ha) and 83.414 ha of non-forest land (Govt. Non-forest land 31.073 ha + Private Non-forest land of 52.341 ha). The detailed land schedules of forest and non-forest land involved in the project including status of forest and non-forest land as on 25.10.1980 duly

authenticated by concerned Tahasildars is furnished with the proposal. The purpose wise break-up of total land involved in this project is furnished below:

Sl. No.	Purpose of Utilization	Area required (in ha)		Total land (in ha)
		Forest land	Non-forest land	
1.	Foundation casting Towers	0.284	0.593	0.877
2.	Passing Transmission line Conductor	48.498	82.821	131.319
Grand Total (in ha)		48.782	83.414	132.196

vi) Details indicated by State Govt. is as follows:

1.	Name of the Proposal	Diversion of 48.782 ha of forest land for construction of 220 KV LILO Transmission line from existing LoC No.70 of 220 KV Malkangiri – Balimela Transmission line to existing 220/33 KV Grid S/S Khairput, Gobindapalli under Malkangiri Forest Division in Malkangiri District by OPTCL, EHT Construction Division, Jeypore, Odisha.
2.	Location	
	(i) State	Odisha
	(ii) District	Malkangiri
	(iii) Village/Taluk	
3.	Particulars of Forests	
	(i) Name of Forest Division	Malkangiri Forest Division
	(ii) Forest area involved	48.782 ha
	(iii) Legal Status/Sy. No	PRF & Revenue Forest
	(iv) Density of vegetation	0.5 (Eco-Value Class-III)
	(v) Species wise and diameter class wise enumeration of trees.	State Govt. has reported that in forest land 1380 nos. of trees have been enumerated out of which 885 trees are to be felled and 495 trees are to be pruned. In non-forest land 1158 nos. of trees have been enumerated, out of which 698 trees are to be felled and 460 trees are to be pruned. In total 2358 nos. of trees have been enumerated over forest and non-forest land, out of which 1583 trees are to be felled and 955 trees are to be pruned.
4.	Brief note on topography and vulnerability of the forest land proposed to be utilized for to erosion	The DFO, Malkangiri has reported that the forest area is not vulnerable, not part of seriously eroded area.
5.	Approximate distance of forest land proposed to be utilized for from boundary of the forest land	The DFO, Malkangiri has reported that the approximate distance of proposed site for diversion is 0.2 Km from boundary of forest.
6.	Whether forms part of National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant Corridor etc. (if, so, the details of area, comments of CWLW)	State Govt. has reported that the applied area does not form a part of any National Park/Wildlife Sanctuary/Biosphere Reserve/ Tiger Reserve/ Elephant Corridor. The proposed site for the project does not comes under Eco-sensitive zone of any Protected area
7.	Whether any rare or endangered or unique species of flora and fauna found in the area, if so details thereof:	No rare/endangered or unique species of flora and fauna are found in the area. The common floral species found in the applied area are Acacia, Amla, Ankula, Arjuna, Bada Chakunda, Bahada, Bandhan, Bara, Bela, Bija, Chakunda, Char, Daman, Gambhari, Harida, Jamba, Jamun, Kaju, Karanja, Kasi, Kendu, Kirchi, Kumbhi, Kusum, Mahula, Mango, Neem, Osta, Panasa, RAuli, Sagan, Sahada, Sal, Simili, Sirisi, Sisoo, Tangini, Tentuli etc. The wild fauna fauna like Jackal, Wild boar, Bear, Heyna and various birds and snakes etc. are seen in the project site.
8.	Whether any protected archaeological/heritage/defence	There is no archaeological monument/heritage site/defence establishment located in the applied area.

	establishment or any other important monument is located in the area:	
9.	Whether requirement of forest land as proposed by user agency is unavoidable and bare minimum for the project.	The DFO, Malkangiri has reported that the requirement of forest land as proposed by the user agency is unavoidable and bare minimum for the project.
10.	Whether any work in violation of FC Act or guidelines issued there under has been carried out (Yes/No). If yes, details of the same including period of work, action taken on erring officials. Whether work violation is still under progress	The DFO, Malkangiri and RCCF, Koraput have reported that the use agency has constructed 4 (four) nos. of Web Towers in Tarlakota PRF proposed to be diverted during 2018-19 and 1 (one) no. of Web Tower in Revenue forest area.
11.	FRA certificate:	The user agency has not submitted FRA certificate pertaining to forest land proposed for diversion with the proposal. However, the user agency has submitted an undertaking to submit the requisite FRA certificate before Stage-II clearance.
12.	Cost Benefit Analysis:	State Govt. has informed that the estimated cost of forest diversion comes to Rs.941.27 lakhs and estimated benefit comes to Rs.1801.90 lakhs. The C.B. ratio is 1 :2.
13.	Resettlement & Rehabilitation	State Govt. has reported that the project does not warrant displacement of any human habitation and therefore, the resettlement and rehabilitation plans are not required.
14.	Recommendation	
	(a) D.F.O.	Yes
	(b) RCCF	Yes
	(c) PCCF	Yes
	(c) Govt.	Yes

- vii) **Details of Compensatory afforestation Scheme:** In lieu of proposed forest land for diversion the State Govt. has identified 97.564 Ha of degraded forest land in two patches for raising Compensatory Afforestation as given below:

Division	Name of PF/RF & Range	Area (Ha)	Mode of plantation	Approved financial outlay of C.A. Scheme (in Rs.)
Malkangiri	Ranginiguda PRF/ Chitrakunda Range	97.564	Block plantation @ 1600 plants/ha	1,97,01,300/-

- viii) The species to be planted under above C.A. Schemes are Bada Chakunda (*Samanea saman*), Teak (*Tectona grandis*), Khair (*Acacia catechu*), Bamboo (*Dendracatamus strictus*), Babool (*Acacia Arabica*), etc. The C.A. Scheme has provision for maintenance of 10 years along with provision of soil & moisture conservation measures like staggered trenches, percolation pits etc and vegetative fencing around the plantation. The DFO, Malkangiri has furnished non-encroachment & non-encumbrance certificate and land suitability certificate.
- ix) On scrutiny of the proposal, IRO, Bhubaneswar vide letter dated 28.12.2021 has sought following information from State Govt.
- a) The DFO, Malkangiri and RCCF, Koraput in their site inspection reports have reported that the use agency has constructed 4 (four) nos. of Web Towers in Tarlakota PRF proposed to be diverted during 2018-19 and 1 (one) no. of Web Tower in Revenue forest area in violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

State Govt. has been requested to furnish the details and extent of violations, including the name & designation of officials prima facie found guilty and action taken report on the aforesaid violation to this office to this office for further necessary action.

x) In compliance, the CCF (Nodal), Odisha has vide letter dated 01.08.2022 has furnished the detail extent of violation, name & designation of officials prima facie found guilty and action taken report by the user agency as follows:

1. **Extent of violation:**

State Govt. has reported that the extent of violation is 369.61 Sq. meter or 0.04 ha against installation of 5 nos. of web towers in Tarlakota PRF.

2. **Name & Designations of officials prima facie found guilty:**

It is reported that the user agency has applied for the regular forest diversion proposal on dated 11.10.2020. Further, it has been reported that the above construction work was executed during the period of Shri Laxmikant Panda, Ex-DGM (Elect), EHT (Cons) Division, OPTCL, Jeypore and the exact date of start of work in the forest area was 07.03.2019.

3. **Action Taken Report:**

State Govt. has reported that the Director (HRD), OPTCL, Bhubaneswar has initiated departmental action against Shri Laxmikant Panda, Ex-DGM (Elect.) EHT (Const) Division, OPTCL, Jeypore for failure to discharge duties properly by violating provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 while executing construction of 220 KV LILO Transmission line from existing LoC No.70 of 220 KV Malkangiri-Balimela Transmission to existing 220/33 KV Grid Sub-station, Khairput, Govindpalli in the district of Malkangiri by OPTCL, EHT (Construction) Division, Jeypore.

Decision of REC:

The REC deliberated upon the proposal along with the reply furnished by the State Govt. The Committed observed that total 58 nos. of towers have been erected by the user agency over forest land out of which 5 nos. are in Tarlakota PRF and 53 Nos. in Revenue Forest and total extent of forest land under violation is reported to 4.275 ha. The Tahasildar, Kudumulugumma has instituted encroachment cases against representatives of the user agency i.e. Dy. General Manager (Elect.), EHT (Construction) Division, OPTCL, Jeypore under Section 4, 6, & 7 of the OPLE Act, 1972. Further, the Tahasildar, Kudumulugumma has realized penalty amount of Rs.52,227/- towards encroachment of Revenue forest land from the user agency.

The Committee opined that State Govt. shall call for explanation from the DFO and Revenue Officials responsible for causing diversion of forest land and providing wrong information without proper inspection of the project.

The Committee decided to recommend the proposal to Ministry for approval with following conditions:

- Penal CA over non-forest/revenue forest land five (5) times to the extent of forest land used for non-forest activities for violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 shall be carried out by the State Govt. at the project cost.
- State Govt. shall realize Penal NPV of five (5) times of the NPV plus 12% simple interest from the user agency for violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
- Action against erring official for not being able to protect the forest land from being used for non-forestry activity.

**Approval conveyed by
e-mail dated 06.03.2024**

(Anurag Shrivastava)

Non-Official Member, REC

(Not attended)

(Sahil Aggarwal)

Non-Official Member, REC

**Approval conveyed by
e-mail dated 05.03.2024**

(Ishwar Singh)

Non-Official Member, REC



(Padma Mahanti)

DIGF (C) & Member Secretary - REC
MoEF&CC, IRO, Bhubaneswar



(A.T. Mishra)

Dy. DGF (C) & Chairperson - REC
MoEF&CC, IRO, Bhubaneswar

Agenda No.99.6 (Odisha)

Online Proposal No. FP/OR/ROAD/14428/2011

Diversion of 29.5480 ha of forest land for Rehabilitation and upgrading to the 2 lane/2-lane with paved shoulders configuration from Km.131/0 to Km.192/0 from Bhojpur to Chhatabar Section of NH-200 in Bamra Wildlife Division of Sambalpur District and Deogarh Forest Division of Deogarh District in the State of Odisha under National Highways Interconnectivity Improvement Project (NHIIP) with World Bank Assistance – De-link of condition No.vii & viii of in-principle approval order.

1. The above proposal has accorded Stage-I/in-principle approval vide letter No.5-ORC258/2015-BHU dated 04.04.2016 with usual standard conditions and following additional conditions as recommended by REC in its meeting held on 21.03.2016.

Condition No.(vii):

The State Govt. shall complete the process of declaration of 133.03 acres and also the land available, if any, out of 46.01 acres being used by villagers of de-reserved forest land of Pravasuni R.F., as Protected Forest or re-notifying the same as Reserved Forest before issue of Stage-II approval.

Condition No.(viii):

The State Govt. shall submit forest diversion proposal under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for the forest land already used for non-forestry purpose in the de-reserved forest area of Pravasuni R.F., before Stage-II approval. Further, efforts shall be made to take back and notify as much of forest land as possible and only such forest land which cannot be brought back to forestry use shall be proposed for diversion, from Pravasuni R.F.

2. After scrutiny of the proposal, the Regional Office vide letter dated 26.08.2015 had sought following information along with four other information from State Govt.
 - a) The DFO, Bamra (WL) Division in his site inspection report has informed that the Govt. of Odisha vide Notification dated 27.10.1987, have de-reserved 257.25 Acres or 104.15 ha from Pravasuni RF after enactment of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. This is an extremely serious violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and therefore, before considering the present proposal for approval, the State Govt. may take the following actions and inform the ERO, MoEF&CC.
 - i) The said notification dated 27.10.1987 be withdrawn and the de-reserved forest land be handed back to the Forest Department.
 - ii) Action be initiated against officials responsible for de-reservation of the forest land in the year 1987 without obtaining prior approval under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and a detail report on the action taken be submitted.
3. The State Govt. vide letter dated 08.01.2016 has submitted the reply which were placed before the REC meeting held on 25.10.2016. On deliberation of the reply furnished by the State Govt., the REC observed the following and this office vide letter dated 08.02.2016 has requested the State Govt. to furnish the reply of the observation of REC.
 - i) The status of de-reserved forest area of 104.15 ha in Pravasuni RF may be furnished by the State Govt. i.e. whether any non-forest activity has been carried out in the de-reserved forest area till date. Present land use of the de-reserved forest be given in details.
 - ii) The action taken report regarding de-reserving of the forest area be furnished by the State Govt., as asked for earlier by ERO vide letter No.5-ORC258/2015-BHU dated 26.08.2015.
4. The State Govt. vide letter dated 27.02.2016 has furnished the point wise reply of this office letter dated 08.02.2016 which is as follows:
 - i) Regarding status of de-reserved forest land, it is stated that out of 257.25 acres, 70.60 acres has been allotted to 21 displaced families of Rengali Dam Project, 7.61 acres has been included in this present proposal. 84.76 acres are recorded as Jungle Kisam. 48.27 acres is having mostly Sal trees and 46.01 acres is being used by the villagers for different purposes.

- ii) Regarding action taken report, it is informed that efforts are being made for declaration of 133.03 acres of de-reserved forest land as Protected Forest or re-notifying the same as Reserved Forest.
 - iii) The State Govt. has requested to consider the above reply for issue of Stage-I approval considering this is an important infrastructure project in LWE affected Sambalpur & Deogarh district.
5. The proposal was discussed in the REC meeting held on 21.03.2016 and the REC recommended the proposal for issue of Stage-I approval with usual standard conditions and with above two additional conditions mentioned at Sl.No.1 above.
 6. The instant project was discussed in the several FRCM meetings on Linear Projects conducted by Regional Office for early compliance of stipulated conditions of Stage-I approval. The project proponent present during FRCM meetings informed that due to above two conditions they are unable to submit the Stage-I compliance report.
 7. During 48th FRCM the user agency has informed that there are no progress in compliance of the above stipulated conditions. Regional Office vide letter dated 05.06.2023 has requested the FE&CC Department, Govt. of Odisha to look into the compliance of the condition No.(vii) & (viii) and resolve the issues, so as the user agency can submit Stage-I compliance report since the above project is pending for Stage-II approval more than 5 years. However, no reply has been received from the State Govt. till date.
 8. Further, the DCF (Nodal), Odisha present during 59th FRCM held on 17.11.2023 has informed that the Nodal Officer (FCA), Odisha has written a letter on 13.07.2023 to Development Commissioner-cum-Addl. Chief Secretary, Water Resource Department, Govt. of Odisha to issue necessary direction to the CE & Basin Manager, Bramhani Left Basin, Samal for submitting forest diversion proposal for 47.19 ha of forest land already de-reserved area of Pravasuni RF, so that the Work Department (SE, NH Division) can submit the compliance to the Condition No.(vii) & (viii) of State-I approval for grant of Stage-II approval.
 9. However, no response from the Water Resource Department has been received in this office or in Nodal Office (FCA), Odisha. Since, instant proposal is pending for more than 5 years from Stage-I approval for Stage-II approval. Regional Office letter dated 04.10.2023 has issued notice to the Chief Engineer, NH Division, Bhubaneswar as to why the in-principle approval given the project be not revoked with immediate effect.
 10. The Chief Engineer, NH Division, Odisha vide letter dated 29.12.2023 has informed that this office is pursuing the matter with all stakeholders for early compliance of condition No.(vii) & (viii) Stage-I approval. However, no visible progress has been observed till date. Further, it is informed that since this is a National Highway Project and the user agency is "Ministry of Road Transport & Highway, Govt. of India, and the said conditions are no way related to the National Highway project. The Chief Engineer, NH Division, Odisha has requested to de-link from the condition of Stage-I approval, so that Stage-II proposal can be submitted by the user agency.
 11. The request of the user agency regarding delink of Condition No.(vii) & (viii) of Stage-I approval dated 04.04.2016 is placed before REC for consideration

Decision of REC:

The REC deliberated upon the request of the user agency. The Committee observed that the DFO, Bamra (WL) Division in his site inspection report has informed that the Govt. of Odisha vide Notification dated 27.10.1987, have de-reserved 257.25 Acres or 104.15 ha from Pravasuni RF after enactment of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. State Govt. vide letter dated 27.02.2016 has informed that status of de-reserved forest land. It is stated that out of 257.25 acres, 70.60 acres has been allotted to 21 displaced families of Rengali Dam Project, 7.61 acres has been included in this present proposal of NH Division for construction of road 29.5480 ha, 84.76 acres are recorded as Jungle Kisam. 48.27 acres is having mostly Sal trees and 46.01 acres is being used by the villagers for different purposes. State Govt. had also informed that efforts are being made for declaration of 133.03 acres of de-reserved forest land as Protected Forest or re-notifying the same as Reserved Forest. However, till date no action has been taken by the State Govt. to re-notifying the de-reserved forest land as PF/RF.

The Committee opined that the Condition No.(vii) & (viii) can not be de-linked till the State Govt. i) complete the process of declaration of 133.03 acres as Reserve Forest and also the land available, if any, out of 46.01 acres being used by villagers of de-reserved forest land of Pravasuni R.F., as Protected Forest or re-notifying the same as Reserved Forest, ii) submit regularization of diversion proposal under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for the forest land already used for non-forestry purpose without prior approval of Central Government in the de-reserved forest area of Pravasuni R.F. and iii) a detailed action taken report against the officials responsible for de-reservation of the forest land in the year 1987 without obtaining prior approval under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, needs to be furnished and action to be initiated against the erring officials. This process needs to be completed within a period of six months failing which the entire de-reservation of Pravasuni RF shall be construed as a violation and action shall be initiated under 3A and 3B of FC Act, 1980.

**Approval conveyed by
e-mail dated 06.03.2024**
(Anurag Shrivastava)
Non-Official Member, REC

(Not attended)
(Sahil Aggarwal)
Non-Official Member, REC

**Approval conveyed by
e-mail dated 05.03.2024**
(Ishwar Singh)
Non-Official Member, REC

Padma Mahanti

(Padma Mahanti)
DIGF (C) & Member Secretary - REC
MoEF&CC, IRO, Bhubaneswar

A.T. Mishra

(A.T. Mishra)
Dy. DGF (C) & Chairperson - REC
MoEF&CC, IRO, Bhubaneswar

Diversion of 8.435 ha of forest land for construction of 220 KV/DC Transmission line from 400/200 KV PGCIL Grid Sub-Station, Keonjhar to 220/132/33 KV Grid Sub-Station at Turumunga, Keonjhar by OPTCL

1. The proposal was discussed in the REC meeting held on 13.06.2023. The REC deliberated upon the proposal and examined the proposal in DSS. While examining, it is observed that one tower has been constructed in the forest land proposed for diversion in violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The REC deferred the proposal and decided to seek clarification from the State Govt. on the following points.
 - a) Extent of forest area used in violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
 - b) Detailed action taken by the State Govt. on violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
2. Accordingly, Regional Office, Bhubaneswar vide letter dated 30.06.2023 has requested the State Govt. to furnish information on the above observation of REC.
3. In compliance, the PCCF (Nodal), Odisha vide letter dated 18.08.2023 has furnished the point wise compliance of observation made in RO, Bhubaneswar letter dated 30.06.2023 which areas follows:
 - a) State Govt. has reported that as a temporary structure was noticed in Revenue Forest Land, the Tahasildar Keonjhar was requested by the DFO, Keonjhar vide letter No.8783 dated 26.07.2023 to initiate legal action against the user agency. Subsequently, the Tahasildar, Keonjhar vide letter No.4878 dated 25.08.2023 has informed that the encroacher (user agency) has been instructed to vacate the encroached land within 30 days by dismantling the structure and the user agency had assured to do so within the aforesaid stipulated period. The DFO, Keonjhar in his letter dated 26.07.2023 has mentioned that during the inspection, it is noticed that the area where the violation is noticed is devoid of any tree growth. The extent of area of violation is only 0.006806 ha. Further, as per circumstantial evidence, the violation is found to be unintentional.
 - b) State Govt. reported that the Tahasildar, Keonjhar vide letter No.5966 dated 09.10.2023 addressed to the DFO, Keonjhar has intimated that the project proponent i.e. OPTCL has dismantled and removed the electric tower from the Plot No.104, Khata No.41, Mouza: Manoharpur of Keonjhar District of Keonjhar Tahasil and the said land is free from encroachment. The General Manager (Elect), EHT Construction Division, OPTCL, has also intimated the said fact to the Tahasildar, Keonjhar vide his letter No.632 dated 26.09.2023. The DFO, Keonjhar has also informed that no damage to the said forest area has occurred due to the above encroachment and subsequent dismantling. Hence, no further action is required from the State Govt.
4. The proposal was again discussed in the REC meeting held on 17.11.2023. The Committee deliberated upon the proposal and examined the reply of the State Govt. The State Govt. reported that project proponent i.e. OPTCL has dismantled and removed the electric tower from the Plot No.104, Khata No.41, Mouza: Manoharpur of Keonjhar District and the said land is free from encroachment. The Tahasildar, Keonjhar has initiated one encroachment case No.62/2003 against the OPTCL under OPLE Act, 1972. The DFO, Keonjhar has also informed that no damage to the said forest area has occurred due to the above encroachment and subsequent dismantling. The Committee observed that encroachment case has been registered by the Revenue Officials. Also action has been taken against OPTCL officials. The revenue forest land (0.0068 ha) has been made free from encroachment. The Committee observed that since it is a case of violation, the committee recommended the proposal to Ministry for approval.
5. Thereafter the proposal file was submitted to Ministry on 04.12.2023 for approval. The Ministry has returned the proposal to Regional Office on 07.02.2024 and informed that this proposal was referred by RO Bhubaneswar after taking the same before REC as a matter of violation of FCA. As per the new Rules, the proposal was taken to Advisory Committee. Advisory Committee found that there is no violation of FCA in the matter and the matter related can not be taken as regularisation of encroachment as well since the tower made had been destroyed and no encroachment of IFA exists at this juncture and the proposal may be sent back to RO for taking to REC and deciding the entire proposal on merit. As per the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, Regional Office

Bhubaneswar to consider the proposal and take decision on merit and get the enforcement completed by the State Govt. as per law.

6. Accordingly the proposal is placed before the REC for consideration.

7. The facts of the proposal is as follows:

- i) State Govt. has informed that OPTCL proposed to construct a 220 KV/DC transmission line from 400/200 KV PGCIL Grid Sub-Station at Keonjhar and the line has been connected with newly constructed Grid Sub-Station at Turumunga in Keonjhar district. The project will supply EHT voltage, which will ensure un-interrupted power supply to the local area as well as for sustainable power supply outages and to prevent inconveniences. The transmission line has been drawn by erecting 66 nos. of Towers covering the entire length of 17.132 Km, out of which 10 nos. falls inside forest area and 56 nos. over non-forest land. The RoW for this line is 35 meter and length of transmission line in forest land is over 2.786 Km and over non-forest land is 14.346 Km.
- ii) Giving justification, State Govt. reported that the 2 x 3.15 MVA 33/11 KV Distribution Sub-Station at Turumunga is fed from 220/33 KV GIS Sub-Station, Ranki by 33 KV Turumunga feeder. The length of the 33 KV feeder is around 40 Km. Due to long length of the line, the voltage profile is very low near Turumunga. So, in order to eradicate the low voltage profile and frequent power interruption of Turumunga and nearby areas a 2 x 160 MVA and 2 x 20 MVA, 220/132/33 KV Grid Sub-Station at Turumunga is needed. Also, the Grid Sub-Station at Turumunga will act as an alternative supply to the distribution sub-stations making the distribution system stable and more reliable. At present, 2 x 12.5 + 20 MVA, Karanjia Grid Sub-station is getting supply from Kuchei Grid Sub-station via Rairangpur Grid Sub-station and 2x20+40 MVA, Palaspanga Grid Sub-station is getting supply from Karanjia and Joda Grid Sub-stations. The load on 2x12.5+20 MVA, Karanjia Grid Sub-station is around 24 MW during peak hours and similarly the load on 2x20+40 MVA, Palaspanga Grid Sub-station is around 95 MW during peak, So, Palaspanga Grid is drawing 15 MW from Karanjia Grid Sub-station and supply the same power through 132 KV Industrial feeder directly. So, during peak hours the load on Palaspanga and Karanjia Grid Sub-station increases to a very high extent. The proposed 2x160 MVA and 2x20 MVA, 220/132/33 KV Grid Sub-station at Turumunga will be fed from 400/220 KV Keonjhar PGCIL Grid Sub-station through 220 KV/DC line and connected to 132 KV system through 132 KV LILO line from 132 KV Palaspanga-Karanjia line. This proposed Grid Sub-station at Turumunga will share the 15 MW load of 2x12.5+20 MVA, Karanjia Grid Sub-station and avoid overloading of transformer during normal and N-1 contingency condition. This will also improve the 132 KV voltage profile of Karanjia, Palaspanga, Joda and Rairangpur Grid Sub-Stations making the 132 KV system more reliable. The proposed 220/132/33 KV Grid Sub-station at Turumunga will facilitate the un-interrupted power supply to the villages under Tahasil Sadar, Patna, Karanjia, Saharapada command area and overall development of Odisha state in general This will ultimately feed power to these DISSCOM consumers with better voltage profile strengthen the 132 KV network in the district. The Comparative statement of alternative route alignment has been furnished below:

Line 1:- The length of the transmission line Route-1 is 16.17 Km covering 56.532 ha of total land which includes 9.257 ha of forest land and 47.275 ha of non-forest land. Total 30 number of towers to be erected. The line passing through mainly in plain area. The estimated cost is Rs.13500 Lakhs.

Line-2:- The length of the transmission line Route-2 is 17.132 Km covering 59.831 ha of total land which includes 8.435 ha of forest land and 51.396 ha of non-forest land. Total 27 number of towers to be erected. The estimated cost is Rs.11900 Lakhs.

Line 3 :- The length of the transmission line Route-3 is 17.367 Km covering 55.678 ha of total land which includes 15.357 ha of forest land and 40.321 ha of non-forest land. Total 38 number of towers to be erected. The estimated cost is Rs.15600 Lakhs.

During the walk over survey of the line, three alternative lines were identified. After avoiding dense vegetation, human habitation, forest plantation and thick village forest, Line No.2 is suitable with involvement of barest minimum forest area is 8.435 ha.

- iii) Total land involved in this project is 59.831 ha comprising of 8.435 ha of forest land (Reserved Forest : 4.092 ha + Revenue Forest: 4.343 ha) and non-forest land 51.396 ha (Govt. non-forest : 14.306 ha + Private non-forest : 37.090 ha). The land schedule of forest and non-forest land involved in the project duly authenticated by concerned Tahasildars and DFO, Keonjhar. The purpose wise breakup of the forest land & non-forest land required for the project is furnished below:

Purpose of Utilization	Forest Area (in ha)			Non-forest Area (in ha)			Grand Total (in ha)
	RF	Revenue Forest	Total	Govt. Non-forest	Private Non-forest	Total	
Foundation Casting AP & Suspension Tower inside passing the Transmission line corridor (35 mtr RoW)	4.092	4.343	8.435	14.306	37.090	51.396	59.831
Grand Total	4.092	4.343	8.435	14.306	37.090	51.396	59.831

- iv) Details indicated by State Govt. is as follows:

FACT SHEET

1.	Name of the Proposal	Diversion of 8.435 ha of forest land for construction of 220 KV/DC Transmission line from 400/200 KV PGCIL Grid Sub-Station, Keonjhar to 220/132/33 KV Grid Sub-Station at Turumunga, Keonjhar by OPTCL.
2.	Location	
	(i) State	Odisha
	(ii) District	Keonjhar
	(iii) Village/Taluk	
3.	Particulars of Forests	
	(i) Name of Forest Division	Keonjhar Forest Division.
	(ii) Forest area involved	8.435 Ha
	(iii) Legal Status/Sy. No	Reserved Forest, Revenue Forest.
	(iv) Density of vegetation	0.3 (Eco Value Class-I)
	(v) Species wise and diameter class wise enumeration of trees.	State Govt. has reported that total 420 number of trees have been enumerated over the applied forest area out of which 350 nos. sound tree and 70 nos. unsound tree. Similarly, total 1169 nos. of trees have been enumerated over non-forest land involved in the project.
4.	Brief note on topography and vulnerability of the forest land proposed to be utilized for to erosion	The DFO, Keonjhar has reported that the area is prone to erosion if pruned or felled.
5.	Approximate distance of forest land proposed to be utilized for from boundary of the forest land	DFO, Keonjhar has reported that the proposed site is about 0.00 Km from the Naranpur RF.
6.	Whether forms part of National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant Corridor etc. (if, so, the details of area, comments of CWLW)	<p>The applied does not form part of any National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant Corridor etc. The applied area does not involve any Eco-Sensitive Zone.</p> <p>However, DFO, Keonjhar has reported that Naranpur Reserved Forest is the dwelling habitat for Elephant, Leopard, Bear, Barking Deer, Hyena, Porcupine etc. Movement of wild elephants is occasionally noticed in the proposed forest blocks applied for diversion. The project is 48.00 Km distance from the Telkoi-Pallahara Elephant Corridor. Nonetheless, this site falls under Elephant Habitat Zone-2 as per the book titled</p>

		Remote Sensing Application for characterization of elephant habitat and corridor in Odisha and parts of Bihar published by ORSAC in September, 1999.
7.	Whether any rare or endangered or unique species of flora and fauna found in the area, if so details thereof:	<p>The DFO, Keonjhar has reported that there are no rare/ unique species of flora and fauna in the area applied for diversion.</p> <p>The prevailing vegetation found in the proposed area comprises of Sal (<i>Shorea robusta</i>), Mango (<i>Mangifera indica</i>), Asan (<i>Terminalia Tomentosa</i>), Jamun (<i>Syzygium cumini</i>), Dhaura (<i>Anogeissus latifolia</i>), Kendu (<i>Dispyros melanoxyton</i>), Neem (<i>Azadirachta indica</i>) etc.</p> <p>The wildlife seen in the area are Elephant, Leopard, Bear, Barking Deer, Hyena, Porcupine etc.</p>
8.	Whether any protected archaeological/heritage/defence establishment or any other important monument is located in the area:	There is no archaeological monument/heritage site/defence establishment located in the applied area.
9.	Whether requirement of forest land as proposed by user agency is unavoidable and bare minimum for the project.	The DFO, Keonjhar has reported that the applied forest area of 8.435 ha is unavoidable and barest minimum required for the project.
10.	Whether any work in violation of FC Act or guidelines issued there under has been carried out (Yes/No). If yes, details of the same including period of work, action taken on erring officials. Whether work violation is still under progress	The DFO, Keonjhar reported that no work in violation of FC Act, 1980 has been carried out in the forest land proposed for diversion by the project proponent.
11.	Details of Compensatory afforestation Scheme.	<p>In lieu of 8.435 ha of forest land proposed for diversion for this project, State Govt. has identified 18.00 ha of degraded forest land against requirement of 2 x 8.435 ha = 16.870 ha in Ukhunda RF under Champua Range of Keonjhar Forest Division for raising Compensatory Afforestation. The DFO, Keonjhar has furnished land suitability certificate.</p> <p>The DFO, Keonjhar has prepared the Site Specific CA Scheme over 18.00 ha of degraded forest land in AR Plantation mode @ 1000 saplings per ha with provision for soil moisture conservation activities, watering and fencing and 10 years maintenance in onetime cost norm basis. The PCCF (Nodal), Odisha has technically approved the C.A. Scheme with a total financial outlay of Rs.77,80,300/-.</p> <p>The species to be planted in the C.A. Schemes are Sissoo (<i>Dalbergia sissoo</i>), Neem (<i>Azadirachta indica</i>), Bahada (<i>Terminalia belerica</i>), Karanj (<i>Pongamia pinnata</i>), Anla (<i>Embllica officinalis</i>), Sal (<i>Shorea robusta</i>) etc.</p>
12.	FRA certificate:	<p>No FRA certificate has been furnished by the user agency. However, the user agency has furnished an undertaking to obtain the FRA certificate under FRA over an area of 8.435 ha of forest land involved in the instant project.</p>
13.	Rehabilitation & Resettlement Plan	State Govt. has informed that the project does not involve displacement of any human habitation and therefore resettlement and rehabilitation plan not warranted.
14.	Cost Benefit Analysis:	State Govt. has reported that being a linear project having

		involvement of forest land over 8.435 ha which is less than 20.00 ha in plain area, the cost benefit analysis report is not required for this project as per MoEF&CC guidelines dated 28.03.2019.
15.	Recommendation	
	(a) D.F.O	Yes
	(b) RCCF	Yes
	(c) PCCF	Yes
	(c) Govt.	Yes

Decision of REC:

The Committee deliberated upon the proposal. The proposal was discussed in the REC meeting held on 17.11.2023. The Committee deliberated upon the proposal and examined the reply of the State Govt. The State Govt. reported that project proponent i.e. OPTCL has dismantled and removed the electric tower from the Plot No.104, Khata No.41, Mouza: Manoharpur of Keonjhar District and the said land is free from encroachment. The Tahasildar, Keonjhar has initiated one encroachment case No.62/2003 against the OPTCL under OPLE Act, 1972. The DFO, Keonjhar has also informed that no damage to the said forest area has occurred due to the above encroachment and subsequent dismantling. The Committee observed that encroachment case has been registered by the Revenue Officials. Also action has been taken against OPTCL officials. The revenue forest land (0.0068 ha) has been made free from encroachment. The Committee observed that since it is a case of violation, the committee recommended the proposal to Ministry for approval.

Thereafter the proposal file was submitted to Ministry on 04.12.2023 for approval. The Ministry has returned the proposal to Regional Office on 07.02.2024 and informed that this proposal was referred by RO Bhubaneswar after taking the same before REC as a matter of violation of FCA. As per the new Rules, the proposal was taken to Advisory Committee. Advisory Committee found that there is no violation of FCA in the matter and the matter related can not be taken as regularisation of encroachment as well since the tower made had been destroyed and no encroachment of IFA exists at this juncture and the proposal may be sent back to RO for taking to REC and deciding the entire proposal on merit. As per the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, Regional Office Bhubaneswar to consider the proposal and take decision on merit and get the enforcement completed by the State Govt. as per law.

One of the Member of the Committee, Shri Ishwar Singh did not agree with the decision taken by Advisory Committee and subsequent direction by Ministry. He said that this is a case of violation and it should again send to Ministry for condonation. But, the other members of the Committee feel that as the matter has already been reported to the Ministry and the Advisory Committee has taken a decision and the matter has been referred back to take decision on merit. So, the other members in majority decided to approve the proposal for issue of Stage-I/In-principle approval with usual standard conditions along with following condition.

- State Govt. shall realize Penal NPV of five (5) times of the area used for non-forestry activity.
- Minimum 100 trees to be planted as Penal CA at the cost of user agency.

Approval conveyed by
e-mail dated 06.03.2024
(Anurag Shrivastava)
Non-Official Member, REC

(Not attended)
(Sahil Aggarwal)
Non-Official Member, REC

Approval conveyed by
e-mail dated 05.03.2024
(Ishwar Singh)
Non-Official Member, REC

Padma Mahanti

(Padma Mahanti)
DIGF (C) & Member Secretary - REC
MoEF&CC, IRO, Bhubaneswar

A.T. Mishra

(A.T. Mishra)
Dy. DGF (C) & Chairperson - REC
MoEF&CC, IRO, Bhubaneswar