To

The Principal Secretary,
Department of Environment and Forests,
Government of Bihar, Sinchai Bhawan,
Secretariat, Patna.

Sub: Diversion of 15.06 ha of forest land for widening and strengthening of NH-327E (0.00 - 39.00 Km) Galgalia-Thakurganj-Bahadurganj Road in Kishanganj district of Bihar.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the State Govt. letter No.Van Bhumi-16/2018-397(E)/Pa.Va. dated 3.4.2018, wherein prior approval of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change for diversion of 15.06 ha of forest land for widening and strengthening of NH-327E (0.00 - 39.00 Km) Galgalia-Thakurganj-Bahadurganj Road in Kishanganj district of Bihar, was sought in accordance with Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. After due consideration of the proposal of the State Government, ‘in-principle’ approval for diversion of the said forest land was accorded by the Ministry vide letter of even number dated 19.7.2018 subject to fulfillment of certain conditions. The State Government has furnished compliance report in respect of the conditions stipulated in the in-principle approval and has requested to grant final approval.

In this connection, I am directed to say that on the basis of the compliance report furnished by the State Government of Bihar vide their letter No.Van Bhumi-16/2018-1131(E)/Pa.Va. dated 8.10.2018, approval of the Central Government is hereby granted under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 15.06 ha of forest land for widening and strengthening of NH-327E (0.00 - 39.00 Km) Galgalia-Thakurganj-Bahadurganj Road in Kishanganj district of Bihar, subject to the fulfillment of the following conditions:-

1. Legal status of forest land diverted shall remain unchanged.

2. Additional amount of NPV of the diverted forest land, if any, becoming due after finalization of the same by the Hon’ble Supreme Court of India, shall be charged by the State Govt. from the user agency.

3. Compensatory Afforestation over the degraded forest land, twice in extent to the forest land being diverted, shall be raised and maintained by the State Forest Department from the funds already provided by the User Agency.

4. The State Government/ Forest Department shall recast its CA Scheme within the CA fund collected, with focus on creation water bodies, impounding nullas within or adjacent to CA plots for creating water bodies.
5. The boundary of the diverted forest land shall be demarcated on ground at the project cost, by erecting four feet high reinforced cement concrete pillars, each inscribed with its serial number, DGPS coordinates, forward and back bearing and distance from adjoining pillars etc.

6. Minimum number of trees should be felled. Felling should be done under the supervision of the Forest Department.

7. Modern technology will be used to translocate to the extent possible only those trees which are unavoidable and needs to be removed so that minimum numbers of trees are felled.

8. The user agency shall gap plant/plant tall saplings/tree species with low cost vegetative tree guards on either side of the road at project cost, as per IRC specification, with maintenance of 5 years.

9. Wherever possible and technically feasible, the User Agency shall undertake afforestation measures along the roads within the area diverted under this approval, in consultation with the State Forest Department at the project cost.

10. Extra underpasses excluding the existing culverts, bridges and Hume pipe passages shall be constructed/renovated by the User Agency for the safe passage of the wildlife including amphibians and reptiles, so that no adjacent underpasses are more than 500 meters apart.

11. The designing of new culverts/bridges and redesigning the existing ones over the natural streams/rivers/canals should be done in such a manner that it does not hamper the natural course of water, does not give rise to water-logging, so that it does not hamper movement of wild animals including fishes & amphibians migration.

12. Earth or any other material shall not be brought from the adjoining forest area and debris resulting during construction nor shall be disposed of in the adjoining forest area by the user agency.

13. It will be the responsibility of the User Agency to ensure that the labourers, staff engaged in construction activity does not damage the nearby forest flora and fauna.

14. The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change.

15. The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal and under no circumstances be transferred to any other user agency, department or person.
16. The user agency and the State Government shall ensure compliance of provisions of all the Acts, Rules, Regulations and Guidelines, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project.

17. The user agency shall submit the annual self compliance report in respect of the above conditions to the State Government and to the Regional Office of the Ministry regularly.

18. Any other conditions that the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change may impose from time to time in the interest of afforestation, conservation and management of flora and fauna in the area shall be complied by the user agency.

19. In case of non-compliance of any of the above conditions, the State Govt. shall report to this office as per procedure laid down in the clause 1.9 of guidelines issued under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

As has been mentioned at Para-2 of the Stage-II approval, this approval for diversion of forest land is subject to the fulfillment of stipulated conditions mentioned in this approval letter. Therefore, in the event of non-compliance of any of the conditions laid out in this approval letter, the Regional Office of Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change may withdraw the said approval for diversion of the forest land and stop the non-forest activity being carried out in the forest land besides initiating the legal action as per provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Yours faithfully,

(Sujoy Dutta)

Technical Officer (Forestry)

Copy to:-
1. The Director, RO(HQ), Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi – 110 003.
2. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Bihar, Aranya Bhawan, Shahid Pir Ali Khan Path, Patna - 800 014.
3. The APCCF-cum-Nodal Officer, Forest Department, Government of Bihar, Aranya Bhawan, Shahid Pir Ali Khan Path, Patna - 800 014.
4. The Divisional Forest Officer, Araria Forest Division, Bihar.
5. The Executive Engineer, NH Division, Araria, Bihar.

(Sujoy Dutta)

Technical Officer (Forestry)