

जयराम रमेश  
JAIRAM RAMESH



राज्य मंत्री (स्वतंत्र प्रभार)  
पर्यावरण एवं वन  
भारत सरकार  
नई दिल्ली-110003  
MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)  
ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI - 110 003

D.O.No.11-231/2010-FC

18<sup>th</sup> August 2010

Dear *My dear Naveen Babu*

Kindly refer to your letter dated August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2010, wherein withdrawal of this Ministry's letter dated 28.7.2010, granting final approval of the Central Government, in accordance with Section-2 of the Forest(Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 3731.07 ha. forest land for the Polavaram (Indira Sagar) Project of the Andhra Pradesh on inter-state river Godavari, has been requested.

The above matter has been examined in the Ministry. The said final approval for diversion of the forest land is subject to compliance of several conditions by the State of Andhra Pradesh and the concerned User Agency. The important among them are as below:

1.The plan approved by Ministry of Tribal Affairs and their conditionalities, as reproduced below, may be followed:

*"The Government of Andhra Pradesh, under the technical guidance of the Central Water Commission, shall ensure that no submergence and displacement of people including Scheduled Tribes(STs) takes place in the territories of States of Orissa and Chhattisgarh, and the population of these two States including STs does not get adversely affected in any manner, either by changes in drainage regime or by any kind of primary/secondary displacements."*

2.The project proposal should be implemented as per the technical clearance given by the CWC and the provisions/decisions of Inter-State Agreement and GWT Award of 1980.

3.The User Agency will ensure that in no case, there should be any submergence of forest land in Orissa and Chhattisgarh which will tantamount to violation of Forest(Conservation) Act,1980 as no land has been diverted for submergence in Chhattisgarh and Orissa.

4. The Government of Andhra Pradesh and the User Agency shall ensure that the approved Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) Package is implemented in a time-bound, transparent and pari passu manner.

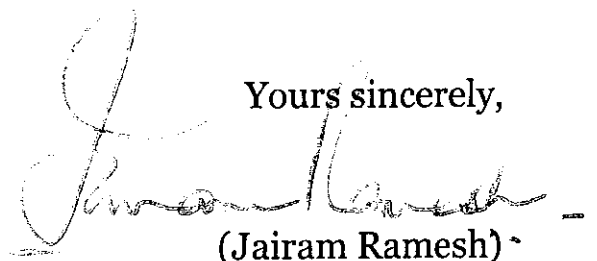
5. The Government of Andhra Pradesh shall constitute a Monitoring Committee under Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary or any other official of higher rank and having a representative from the Ministry of Environment & Forests as its Member to monitor implementation of all the aforementioned conditions in general, and implementation of Rehabilitation and Resettlement Package/Plan, in particular.

The issues raised by the Government of Orissa in the interlocutory application bearing I.A.No.3 of 2009, pertaining to the in-principal approval accorded by this Ministry for diversion of the said forest land have been duly taken care by the aforementioned conditions stipulated in the final approval for diversion of forest land accorded by this Ministry vide its letter dated 28.7.2010.

This Ministry through its representative in the Monitoring Committee to be constituted by the Government of Andhra Pradesh to monitor compliance to the conditions governing diversion of the said forest land will ensure that all such conditions are complied in a time-bound, transparent and pari passu manner.

*Warm regards*  
With regards,  
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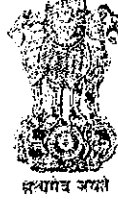
Yours sincerely,

  
(Jairam Ramesh)

Shri Naveen Patnaik,  
Chief Minister  
Government of Orissa

P.S: You may also like to see a copy of my letter to him but it is on the same subject. This is attached.

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JAIRAM RAMESH



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18<sup>th</sup> August 2010

Dear *Settaji*

1. I noticed that the BJD MPs today were agitating outside Parliament House against the decision of the MoE&F to grant final clearance under FCA Act, 1980 to the Polavaram project in Andhra Pradesh.
2. I wish to reassure you that one of the key conditions bound to this approval is that there will be **no** submergence of forest land in Orissa and Chhattisgarh. Any submergence would be tantamount to violation to FCA,1980 and the approval would stand withdrawn if submergence takes place. The Andhra Pradesh Government has given an undertaking to the Supreme Court that they would build a wall to ensure that such submergence would not take place.
3. In addition to the monitoring committee headed by Chief Secretary, Andhra Pradesh that would include a representative of the Union Ministry of Environment & Forests, the MoE&F will strictly monitor all conditions under which the Polavaram project has been cleared. If there are any forest rights that have not been settled under the Scheduled Tribes and other Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Right) Act, 2006, the MoE&F will not hesitate to take necessary action.
4. I also categorically reject the allegation that double standards are being adopted and that Orissa is being unfairly targetted. I would request you not to repeat such blatantly false charges. You know me well and you also know of the enormous goodwill and warmth I have for the State of Orissa and its people.

*Very warm*  
With regards,

Yours sincerely,

*Jairam Ramesh*  
(Jairam Ramesh)

Shri Arjun Charan Sethi  
Member of Parliament  
21, Canning Lane  
New Delhi

Encl: as above