No. 4-1(31)/2015-PT

Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Project Tiger Division

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Dated: 28th August, 2015

To,

The Sr. Pay & Accounts Officer,

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, New Delhi.

Sub: Centrally Sponsored Plan Scheme 'Project Tiger' Administrative Approval for funds release to Mudumalai Tiger Reserve, Tamil Nadu during 2015-16 – enhancement of scheme.

Sir,

I am directed to convey the administrative approval of the competent authority for the enhancement of the Scheme from Rs. 340.055 Lakhs (Rupees Three hundred Forty Lakhs Five thousand Five hundred only) to Rs. 1220.055 Lakhs (Rupees One thousand Two hundred Twenty Lakhs and Five thousand Five hundred only) Mudumalai Tiger Reserve, Tamil Nadu during the year 2015-16. The enhancement of amount of Rs. 880.00 Lakhs (Rupees Eight hundred Eighty Lakhs only), has been sanctioned towards relocation of 88 families from two villages viz., Bennai and Nellikarai of Mudumalai Tiger Reserve, Tamil Nadu in full compliance with the relevant provisions of para 16.9 of the operational guidelines of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger on deciding inviolate space for wildlife and relocation of villagers from core or critical tiger habitats in tiger reserves and settlement of their rights. The above cost of the scheme will be treated as 100% Central Assistance by the Government of India.

- 2. I am also directed to convey the sanction of the President to the payment and release of an amount of Rs. 880.00 Lakhs (Rupees Eight hundred Eighty Lakhs only), to the State Government towards the Grants-in-aid to Government of Tamil Nadu during the current financial year 2015-16.
- 3. The grants-in-aid will be regulated in accordance with the provisions contained in the memorandum of the Centrally Sponsored Project Tiger Scheme. The Grants-in-Aid is also subject to the Chapter 9 of the General Financial Rules 2005, as amended from time to time, read with the Government of India's decision incorporated there-under, and any other guidelines which may be issued in this regard, and in particular to the following conditions:-
 - (i) All relevant information and documents/certificates as required under GFR 209(I) have been received.
 - (ii) The pattern of assistance of rules governing such grants-in-aid have received the approval of the Ministry of Finance, as required under Government of India decision No. (1) under DFPR-Rules 20.
 - (iii) Terms and conditions of the service of the employees employed in the **Mudumalai Tiger**Reserve under the Project Tiger Scheme are not higher than those applicable to similar categories of employees of Central Government and where it is not in accordance with above, the relaxation of Ministry of Finance have been obtained for such discrepancies as required under GFR 208(6)(iv)(a).

- (iv) Assets acquired wholly or substantially out of Government Grants shall not be disposed off without obtaining the prior approval of the sanctioning authority of Grants-in-aid.
- (v) The **Government of Tamil Nadu** agrees to make reservations for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes or OBC in the posts or services under its control on the lines indicated by Govt. of India.
- (vi) The accounts of the **Mudumalai Tiger Reserve** shall be audited by C&AG or by any person authorized by him on his behalf in accordance with the provisions laid down in Section 14 of the C&AG (DPC) Act, 1972 as amended from time to time.
- (vii) The accounts of the Project Tiger Scheme shall be open for inspection by the sanctioning authority and audit, both by the Comptroller & Auditor General of India under the provision of C&AG (DPC) Act, 1972 and internal audit party by the Principal Accounts Office of the Ministry whenever it is called upon.
- (viii) The Utilisation Certificate against the earlier funds released under Grants-in-aid have been received and accepted by the competent authority.
- (ix) Government of Tamil Nadu in respect of **Mudumalai Tiger Reserve** may furnish their performance-cum-achievement report along with Utilisation Certificate in prescribed format on or before 31.3.2016.
- (x) Mudumalai Tiger Reserve will spend Grants-in-aid exclusively in pursuance of the objectives envisaged in rules/memorandum of the Centrally Sponsored 'Project Tiger Scheme' and for the purpose it is being sanctioned.
- (xi) Grants-in-aid to Government of Tamil Nadu is subject to the Economy Instructions issued from time to time by the Ministry of Finance or by the Competent Authority.
- (xii) Grants-in-aid shall be utilized before the end of the current financial year 2015-16 and unspent balance, if any, will be refunded by **Government of Tamil Nadu** to the **Govt. of India**.
- (xiii) Government of Tamil Nadu in respect of **Mudumalai Tiger Reserve** will maintain a separate account and will present their annual accounts in the standard format as required under GFR 209(xiii).
- (xiv) Grants-in-aid shall be utilized for **Mudumalai Tiger Reserve** strictly as per the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, acting through the National Tiger Conservation Authority, Field Director (Mudumalai Tiger Reserve) and **Government of Tamil Nadu.**
- (xv) Monitorable outcomes on the item of works contained in the sanction letter both in physical and financial terms are required to be furnished in the monthly report regularly. Compliance status on Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding is required before submission of additional or ensuing year's Annual Plan of Operation (APO).
- (xvi) The expenditure should be limited to the amount released and in no case should be done in anticipation of further release by the Ministry.
- (xvii) The payments of daily wagers should be done through account transfer / account payee Cheques only.
- (xviii) It may please be ensured that there is no duplication of nature and items of work being proposed in the same area under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger and other Centrally Sponsored Schemes such as Project Elephant, Eco-development and IDWH Schemes etc.
- (xix) The cost estimates worked out by the Field Director should be based on approved schedule of rates of the State Government, with due approval of the competent authority.
- (xx) The admissible funds are paid to the end-user / beneficiaries through their bank accounts / transparent mode of transaction.
- 4. As the annual budget of the Scheme is approved by the Central Government, the Government of Tamil Nadu is not required to furnish bond and sureties, in accordance with the Ministry of Finance O.M. No. 14(1)-EII(A)/64 dated 23.6.1965.

- 2. The Secretary (Finance), Govt. of Tamil Nadu.
- 3. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests / Chief Wildlife Warden, Govt. of Tamil Nadu.
- 4. The Field Director, Mudumalai Tiger Reserve, Tamil Nadu.
- 5. The Accountant General, Tamil Nadu.
- 6. The Director of Audit, Scientific Department, AGCR Building, IP Estate, New Delhi.
- 7. The IG, NTCA Regional Office, Bengaluru.
- 8. Forest Finance Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi.
- 9. Plan Finance Division (PF-II), Ministry of Finance, New Delhi.
- 10. Guard file/Spare copies.

Sanjay Kumar)

Deputy Inspector General of Forests (PT)

- 5. The payment sanctioned above is provisional and is subject to the adjustment on the basis of the audited figures of expenditure. Other terms and conditions of the payment are as under:
 - (a) The grant is in accordance with the pattern of financial assistance approved by the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Finance.
 - (b) The grant sanctioned is subject to the adjustment on the basis of the terms and conditions approving the scheme.
- 6. No deviation from the approved items of expenditure as enumerated in the annexure shall be made without prior concurrence of the Government of India. The guidelines for implementation of National Tiger Conservation Authority shall be fully adhered to. The Chief Wildlife Warden and the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests of the State Government should be directed to ensure that the field works are in accordance with the Tiger Conservation Plan and the Annual Plan of Operation by the field inspections from time to time.
- 7. Further, Ministry of Finance, D/o of Expenditure, Plan Finance-II Division, vide O.M.No.55(5)/PF.II/2011 dated 06-01-2014, has introduced a flexi fund component within the Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) to achieve the following objectives:
 - i) To provide flexibility to States to meet local needs and requirements within the overall objective of each programme or scheme;
 - ii) To pilot innovations and improved efficiency within the overall objective of the scheme and its expected outcomes;
 - iii) To undertake mitigation/restoration activities in case of natural calamities in the sector covered by the CSS.

The flexi-fund will be utilized by the State Government as per the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Finance, Government of India, read with guidelines of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger in vogue, for utilisation in the tiger reserve.

- 8. In accordance with the revised procedure, the Central Accounts Section, Reserve Bank of India, Nagpur, may kindly be advised to pass on credit to the books of the State Government of Tamil Nadu under intimation to this Department.
- 9. The expenditure involved will be met from within the Sanctioned Budget Grants of Centrally Sponsored Project tiger Scheme under Demand No. 32, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Major Head 3601 Grants-in-aid to the State Governments, 3601.02- Grants for State Plan Scheme, 3601.02.659-Environmental Forestry and Wildlife Wildlife Preservation, 3601.02.659.04-Integrated Development of Wild Life Habitats, 3601.02.659.04.03- Project Tiger, 3601.02.659.04.03.31-Grants-in-aid for the year 2015-16 (Plan).
- 10. This issues under the powers delegated to the Ministry and with the concurrence of Integrated Finance Division vide Dy. No. 803/AS & FA dated 21.08.2015.

Yours faithfully,

(Sanjay Kumar)

Deputy Inspector General of Forests (PT)

Copy to:-

1. The Secretary (Forests), Govt. of Tamil Nadu. A copy of the detailed sanction letter issued by the State Government in respect of this scheme for 2015-16 may kindly be furnished to this Ministry immediately.