

State urges Centre to release Rs 325crore compensatory afforestation fund management and planning authority fund

TNN Oct 31, 2012, 07.26AM IST

BHUBANESWAR: The state government has sent a proposal to the Centre for utilizing Rs 325 crore from the state's compensatory afforestation fund management and planning authority (CAMPA) funds, Rs 32 crore of which would be spent to prevent elephant deaths by electrocution.

Chief minister [Naveen Patnaik](#), while meeting Union environment and forests minister Jayanti Natarajan in New Delhi on Tuesday, urged her to sanction the funds on yearly basis for a period of five years.

While the Union minister has already agreed to sanction Rs 32 crore to check jumbo casualties, she has also asked the state government to send a separate proposal in this regard.

"Works in this regard should be undertaken by state energy department or PSUs, not by private distribution companies," she was quoted as saying in the press release.

Naveen exhorted Natarajan to expedite the approval of the proposed establishment of National Wetland and Coastal Ecosystem Research and Training Centre (NWCERTC) in Bhubaneswar.

The state government has identified two acre land in the city for the project.

Though the ministry has given its nod to the National Wetland and Coastal Ecosystem Research and Training Centre, it is pending with the planning commission for concurrence. Once the planning commission gives its clearance, the ministry will take prompt action for its quick establishment, the release said.