

Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Aliganj, Jorbagh Road,
New Delhi – 110003

Dated: 14th December, 2021

To

The Regional Officer,
Integrated Regional Office,
MoEF&CC, Lucknow.

Sub: Diversion of 115.874 ha. of forest land in favour of M/s Jaiprakash Associates Ltd. for proposed diversion of forest land at village Kota in Tehsil Robertsganj, District Sonbhadra for JP Super cement plant & it's township (a unit of Jaiprakash Associates Ltd. Sector 128, Noida) in District Sonbhadra, State Uttar Pradesh- reg.

Madam/Sir,

Kindly refer to the Integrated Regional Office, MoEFCC, Lucknow letter no. 8A/U.P./09/1177/2019/400 dated 07.12.2021 on the above mentioned subject.

In this regard, the para 2.4(v) of the Handbook of guidelines dated 28.03.2019, mentions that any non-forest land for the purpose of Compensatory Afforestation(CA), selected by the State Govt. may be accepted by MoEF&CC irrespective of crown density. However, the said provision does not indicate that the school playground, buildings and roads can be accepted for the purpose of CA, because the NFL has to be put to forestry use in the longer run.

The existence of the playground, road and buildings on the proposed land and the fact that few plots are under joint holding indicate that the same are not free from all encumbrances and will continue to remain under non-forestry use in future also.

Further may refer to the Tabular information provided for newly proposed CA areas. The total area of the Khasra nos. given in column 2 in most cases is less than the area proposed for CA in column 3, which is not possible in normal circumstances and needs correction.

As such the area under the school playground, roads and building etc. is required to be excluded. The State Government is required to provide the NFL which is free from all encumbrances. The State Govt therefore be asked to do the needful and submit the revised detail(including KML files) of the suitable patches which will be verified by the IRO.

This issues with the approval of competent authority.

Yours sincerely,
Sd/-

(Suneet Bhardwaj)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

- i. The Principal Secretary (Forests), Department of Environment & Forests, Government of Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow;
- ii. The PCCF & HoFF, Department of Forests, Government of Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow;
- iii. The Nodal Officer, (FCA), O/o PCCF, Government of Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow;
- iv. User Agency;
- v. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi for uploading on PARIVESH portal.