



भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS &
CLIMATE CHANGE

Regional Office, Ground Floor, East Wing,
New Secretariat Building Civil Lines,
Nagpur - 440001,
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File.No. FC-II/MH-206/2023-NGP/ 14152

Date: 05.04.2025

To,

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Revenue and Forest Department,
Hutatma Rajguru Chowk
Madam Cama Marg, Mantralaya, Mumbai - 400032.

Sub: Diversion of 28.297 ha of forest land in favour of Urmodi Dam Division, Satara for laying of underground 50 mm to 1600 mm diameter P.C.C.F./B.W.S.E./H.D.P.E. type pipeline for agricultural irrigation of command falling under Urmodi Maan irrigation project to drought prone 21 villages, pipeline passing through forest land in Satara District in the State of Maharashtra. (FP/MH/OTHERS/465109/2024)- in principle approval - regarding.

Sir,

Please refer to the Government of Maharashtra letter no. FLD-2022/CR-300/F-10 dated 29.12.2022 and 30.08.2023, and the online proposal No. FP/MH/Pipeline/155566/2022 on the above subject, seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

After due consideration of the proposal and with the approval of the Regional Empowered Committee (REC), the Regional Office, Nagpur, vide letter dated 10.11.2023, conveyed 'in-principle' approval for the subject proposal. Subsequently, the State Government, vide letter dated 27.05.2024, and the Additional PCCF and Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Maharashtra, vide letter no. Desk-17/FCA-S2/PID-155566/Kolhapur/2869 dated 24.03.2025, submitted the compliance report and clarifications on the queries raised by the Regional Office.

After careful examination of the proposal and the compliance report, I am directed to convey the Central Government's *final approval* under Section 2 of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, for the diversion of 28.297 hectares of forest land in favour of the Urmodi Dam Division, Satara, for laying an underground pipeline (50 mm to 1600 mm diameter) of P.C.C.F./B.W.S.E./H.D.P.E. type for agricultural irrigation of the command area falling under the Urmodi-Maan Irrigation Project, which benefits 21 drought-prone villages. The pipeline will pass through forest land in Satara District, Maharashtra, subject to the following conditions:

1. The legal status of the forest land shall remain unchanged.

2. The boundary of the diverted forest land shall be demarcated on the ground by the State Government using funds already realised from the User Agency. This shall be done by erecting four-feet high reinforced cement concrete pillars, each inscribed with its serial number, forward and back bearings, and the distance from pillar to pillar.
3. Compensatory Afforestation shall be undertaken by the State Forest Department over 28.297 hectares of non-forest land at Gut No. 233 in Village Pukalewadi, Taluka Man, District Satara, using funds already realised from the User Agency. A mixture of local indigenous species along with 10% of RET species native to Satara District shall be planted. Monoculture shall be avoided. At least four water bodies (tanks/stop dams) shall be constructed in the area or nearby. If such water bodies already exist but require desilting/repairs, the same shall be undertaken to meet the water requirements of wild animals throughout the year.
4. The non-forest land proposed for Compensatory Afforestation, which has been transferred and mutated in the name of the Forest Department, shall be notified as Reserved Forest (RF) or Protected Forest (PF) before the forest area is handed over to the User Agency. A copy of the original notification under Section 4 or 29 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927, or the relevant section of the State Forest Act, as applicable, shall be submitted to the Regional Office for record.
5. Any additional Net Present Value (NPV) of the diverted forest land that may become due following a revision by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India shall be recovered by the State Government from the User Agency.
6. The State Government of Maharashtra and the Nodal Officer (FCA) shall ensure the settlement of rights under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (Act 2 of 2007), before issuing the order for handing over the forest land to the User Agency. The required certificate from the District Collector shall also be ensured.
7. The User Agency shall restrict tree felling to the minimum necessary, and it shall be carried out under the strict supervision of the State Forest Department, using the funds already realised from the User Agency.
8. In line with the National Forest Policy, 1988, and the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, the User Agency shall, with the involvement of Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) and in consultation with the local DCF, raise at least 25,000 seedlings of forestry species including bamboo, fruit-bearing, medicinal, ornamental, and indigenous/local species over a period of 10 years. At least 50% of these seedlings shall be planted in the vicinity of the project area, while the remaining 50% shall be distributed among local villagers based on their preferences. The concerned JFMCs shall maintain proper records of plantation and seedling distribution.
9. The pipeline shall be laid at a depth of 1.5 metres below ground level, and the ground shall be levelled after its installation.



10. Trees bearing bird nests shall not be felled without written permission from the concerned DCF, both in forest and non-forest areas.
11. The User Agency shall obtain Environmental Clearance, if applicable, under the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986.
12. The layout of the proposal shall not be altered without the prior approval of the Central Government.
13. No labour camps shall be established on forest land.
14. The User Agency shall provide sufficient firewood, preferably alternate fuels, to the labourers by purchasing from the State Forest Department, Forest Development Corporation, or any other legal source.
15. No new or additional path shall be constructed within the forest area for transporting construction materials for the project.
16. The period of diversion shall be co-terminus with the lease period granted to the User Agency or the life of the project, whichever is shorter.
17. The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the project proposal.
18. The diverted forest land shall not, under any circumstances, be transferred to any other agency, department, or person without the prior approval of the Government of India.
19. The total forest area utilised shall not exceed 28.297 hectares, and the land shall be used strictly for the purposes outlined in the proposal. The User Agency shall furnish an undertaking to this effect.
20. The User Agency and the State Government shall ensure compliance with all Acts, Rules, Regulations, and Guidelines issued by the Ministry, as applicable to the project.
21. Any other condition imposed by the Regional Office, Nagpur, in the interest of afforestation, conservation, and protection of flora and fauna, shall be complied with by the User Agency.
22. In the event of non-compliance with any of the above conditions, the User Agency shall be liable for penal action as per the rules/guidelines issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

This is issued with the approval of the Competent Authority, Regional Office, MoEF & CC, Nagpur.

Yours faithfully,




(Dayananda.N)

Technical Officer (Forestry)

05/04/25

Copy to:

- i. The IGF (RoHQ), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor bagh Road, Aliganj, New Delhi- 110003 **for information please**
- ii. The PCCF (HoFF), Government of Maharashtra, Nagpur.
- iii. User agency.
- iv. Guard file.


(Dayananda.N)
Technical Officer (Forestry) 05/04/25