

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bag Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi – 110003
Dated: 09-05-2025

To,

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Government of Madhya Pradesh,
Bhopal.

Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 1397.54 ha forest land out of which 1335.35 ha Reserved forest land (RF) in various forest compartments and 62.19 ha Revenue forest in various Khasra's of Forest Range Waidhan/ Sarai East for Open Cast Dhirauli Coal Mine Project in favour of M/s Stratatech Mineral Resources Private Limited under Singrauli Forest Division, Singrauli District of Madhya Pradesh State (Online No. FP/MP/MIN/142344/2021) - regarding.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the APCCF (LM) and Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh letter No. F-1/845/2023/10-11/492 dated 22.01.2024 on the above subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. After careful examination and recommendation of the proposal by the Advisory Committee, constituted under Section-3 of the said Act, '*in-principle*' approval under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 was granted vide Ministry's letter of even number dated 24.09.2024 subject to fulfillment of certain conditions.

In this connection, I am directed to say that on the basis of the compliance report furnished by the APCCF (LM) and Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh vide letter No. F-1/845/2022/10-11 dated 05.05.2025, '**Final approval**' of the Central Government is hereby granted under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 1397.54 ha forest land for Open Cast Dhirauli Coal Mine Project in favour of M/s Stratatech Mineral Resources Private Limited under Singrauli Forest Division, Singrauli District of Madhya Pradesh State subject to fulfilment of the following conditions:

- i. Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged;
- ii. Compensatory afforestation (CA) shall be done on identified non forest land through artificial regeneration of Sal and planting of other native associates of Sal to restore the ecological services of the area. This should be achieved by planting of trees as well as by other measures of eco-restoration, e.g. soil & water conservation and rain water harvesting. Sal and associates of Sal of at

- least 18 month old seedlings should be used in CA and the work of Compensatory afforestation shall start within two years from the date of grant of Final approval;
- iii. In certain patches of non-forest land proposed for CA, which have been mutated in the name of the State Forest Department, the ownership column reflects the names of individuals along with the address of the concerned Range/Division. In this regard, the State shall take necessary action and ensure that the ownership/title of the non-forest land proposed for CA is recorded in the name of the Forest Department only;
 - iv. The state shall ensure that the non-forest land identified for raising compensatory afforestation shall be **notified as RF/PF under IFA, 1927 or any state /local act before handing over of forest land to the User Agency by the State Government**;
 - v. The State Government has realized the NPV of the forest area diverted under this proposal from the User Agency in accordance with the Ministry guidelines dated 6.01.2022 read with guidelines dated 19.01.202, the user agency shall pay the additional amount of NPV, if so determined, as per the Final decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India;
 - vi. The State Government shall ensure that 51.82 ha forest land earmarked as rationalized area shall not be used for any non-site specific activity or additional infrastructure;
 - vii. The User Agency has prepared a detailed mining plan for 40 years, linking the progress of mining and felling of the trees clearly. The State Government shall ensure that felling of trees shall be done, when it is absolutely necessary in phase-wise manner in the areas which become due for mining as per mining plan;
 - viii. The State Government shall ensure that the identified forest land for external OB dump shall be used judiciously by taking appropriate measures to check soil erosion in the area. Since this is non-coal bearing area, hence, after the initial use as OB dump, the entire area shall be reverted back to original by flattening and taking suitable measures including planting of native species;
 - ix. The State Government shall ensure that the Hardul Nala retraining work should be done as per the hydrological study and in consultation with water Resources Department;
 - x. The State Government shall ensure that the diversion of transmission line shall be done using a defined corridor with minimum centre to centre distance between the lines to economise need of additional land;
 - xi. The State Government shall ensure that the site-specific wildlife mitigation plan should be implemented for which the funds has been deposited by the user agency;
 - xii. The State Government shall ensure that a Comprehensive Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) Plan shall be implemented before commencing mining operations in the area;
 - xiii. The State Government shall ensure that Catchment treatment plan should be implemented to compensate the loss of catchment to the small nalas and rivulets in and around the proposed mining lease;
 - xiv. The State Government shall upload the KML files of the area under diversion and the accepted area for raising compensatory afforestation in the e-Green

- watch portal of FSI, before handling over forest land to the user agency;
- xv. The User Agency shall undertake mining in a phased manner after taking due care for reclamation of the mined over area. The concurrent Reclamation Plan as per the approved Mining Plan shall be executed by the User Agency from the very first year, and an annual report on implementation thereof shall be submitted to the Nodal Officer, Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, in the concerned State Government and the concerned Regional Office of the Ministry. If it is found from the annual report that the activities indicated in the concurrent reclamation plan are not being executed by the User Agency, the Nodal Officer or the Chief Conservator of Forests (Central) may direct that the mining activities shall remain suspended till such time, such reclamation activities are satisfactorily executed;
 - xvi. The State Govt. shall ensure that the user agency shall surrender the mined out and reclaimed forest land as per schedule;
 - xvii. The State Govt. shall ensure that the rehabilitated forest area after closure of mining operations shall be handed over to the State Forest Department for sustainable forest management in the future;
 - xviii. Safety Zone Management: Following activities, at project cost, shall be undertaken by the user agency for the management of safety zone as per relevant guidelines issued by the Ministry's guidelines:
 - a. User agency shall ensure demarcation of safety zone (7.5 meter strip all along the inner boundary of the mining lease area), and its fencing, protection and regeneration by erecting adequate number of 6 feet high RCC boundary pillars inscribed with DGPS coordinates with barbed wire fencing and deploying adequate number of watchers under the supervision of the State Forest Department;
 - b. Boundary of the safety zone of the mining lease, adjacent to habitation/roads, should be properly fenced by the user agency;
 - c. Safety zone shall be maintained as green belt around mining lease and to ensure dense canopy in the area, regeneration shall be taken up in this area by the user agency at project cost under the supervision of the State Forest Department; and
 - d. The State Government and the user agency shall ensure that safety zone is maintained as per the prescribed norms;
 - xviii. Following activities, as per approved plan / schemes, shall be undertaken in the lease area by the User Agency under the supervision of the State Forest Department:
 - a. Mitigative measures to minimize soil erosion and choking of stream shall be implemented within a period of three year with effect from the issue of 'Final' approval in accordance with the approved Plan/Scheme in consultation with the State Forest Department;
 - b. Planting of adequate drought hardy plant species and sowing of seeds, in the appropriate area within the mining lease to arrest soil erosion in accordance with the approved Plan/scheme;
 - c. Construction of check dams, retention /toe walls to arrest sliding down of the excavated material along the contour in accordance with the approved Plan/Scheme;

- d. Stabilize the overburden dumps by appropriate grading/benching, in accordance with the approved scheme, so as to ensure that angles of repose at any given place is less than 28°; and
 - e. No damage shall be caused to the top-soil and the user agency will follow the top soil management plan.
- xix. The validity of approval granted under the Adhiniyam shall be for a period co-terminus with the validity of the mining lease proposed to be granted under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, as amended from time to time or Rules framed there under, or for such period as may be specified by the Central Government;
 - xx. The User Agency either himself or through the State Forest Department shall undertake gap planting and soil and moisture conservation activities to restock and rejuvenate the degraded open forests (having crown density less than 0.40), if any, located within the periphery of 100 m from outer perimeter of the mining lease as per approved plan for plantation and SMC activities submitted along with compliance of 'in-principle' approval;
 - xxi. The User Agency shall regularly undertake de-silting of village tanks and other water bodies, located within five km from the mine lease boundary, as per approved plan, to mitigate the impact of project on such tanks/water bodies;
 - xxii. The User Agency shall comply with the Hon'ble Supreme Court order on re-grassing, and re-grass the mining area and any other areas which may have been disturbed due to mining to restore them to a condition which is fit for growth of fodder, flora, fauna, etc. in a timely manner;
 - xxiii. Adequate care shall be taken to check any rolling of overburden/dumps beyond the designated area and to check soil erosion caused due to mining activities;
 - xxiv. The User agency will undertake comprehensive soil conservation measures at the project cost in consultation with the State Forest Department;
 - xxv. The R&R Plan shall be implemented as per the R&R Policy of State Government in consonance with National R&R Policy, Government of India before the commencement of the project work and implementation. The said R&R Plan will be monitored by the State Government/Regional Office of MoEF&CC along with indicators for monitoring and expected observable milestones;
 - xxvi. The user agency shall explore the possibility of translocation of maximum number of trees identified to be felled;
 - xxvii. No labour camp shall be established on the forest land and the User Agency shall provide fuels preferably alternate fuels to the labourers and the staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the nearby forest areas;
 - xxviii. The boundary of the diverted forest land, mining lease and safety zone, as applicable, shall be demarcated on ground at the project cost, by erecting four feet high reinforced cement concrete pillars, each inscribed with its serial number, distance from pillar to pillar and GPS coordinates; The layout plan of the mining plan/ proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government and the forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal;

- xxix. The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agency, department or person without prior approval of the Central Government;
- xxx. No damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused;
- xxxi. The user agency shall comply all the provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, Hon'ble Court Order (s) and NGT Order (s) pertaining to this project, if any, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project;
- xxxii. The User Agency shall submit the annual self -compliance report in respect of the above stated conditions to the State Government, concerned Regional Office and to this Ministry by the end of March every year regularly;
- xxxiii. Any other condition that the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change may stipulate from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife shall be carried with by the State Government and user agency;
- xxxiv. Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and action would be taken as prescribed in para 1.16 of Chapter 1 of the Consolidated Guidelines and Clarifications on Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 as issued by this Ministry's letter dated 29.12.2023;
- xxxv. The State Government and user agency shall ensure compliance to all conditions stipulated in the 'in-principle' approval letter of even no. dated 24.09.2024 for which undertakings have been obtained from the user agency and also the provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations and Guidelines, relevant Hon'ble Court Order (S) and NGT Order (S), if any, for the time being in force; and
- xxxvi. As per Sub-rule 7 of Rule 11 of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 the State Govt. after receiving the 'Final' approval of the Central Government under sub-section (1) of section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and after fulfilment and compliance of the provisions of all other Acts and rules made thereunder, as applicable including ensuring settlement of rights under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (2 of 2007), shall issue order for diversion of forest land.

Yours sincerely,

Digitally signed by
SUNEET BHARDWAJ
Date: 09-05-2025
09:36:23

Sd/-
(Suneet Bhardwaj)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. The PCCF (HoFF), Department of Forest, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal;
2. The Dy. DGF (Central), Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Bhopal;
3. The Nodal Officer, Department of Forest Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal;

4. User Agency;
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi for uploading on PARIVESH portal.