

Government of Maharashtra

By Speed Post

No.FLD-1225/CR-101/F-10

Revenue and Forest Department,
Mantralaya, Mumbai - 400 032.

Dated:- 05.08.2025.

To,

The Secretary,
Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change,
Government of India,
Indira Paryavaran Bhavan,
New Delhi.

Subject: Forest Land – Thane & Nashik

Diversion of 243.74 ha. (Shahapur division 181.45 ha. and West Nashik Division 62.29 ha.) Forest land for Bhavali Pumped Storage Project (1500 MW) Village Kothale & Kalbhode in Tal.Shahapur, Dist. Thane & Village Jamunde, Tal. Igatpuri, Dist. Nashik in the State of Maharashtra (FP/MH/HYD/153240/2022)

The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Nodal Officer, Maharashtra State, Nagpur has submitted proposal for diversion of 243.74 ha. (Shahapur division 181.45 ha. and West Nashik Division 62.29 ha.) Forest land for Bhavali Pumped Storage Project (1500 MW) Village Kothale & Kalbhode in Tal.Shahapur, Dist. Thane & Village Jamunde, Tal. Igatpuri, Dist. Nashik in the State of Maharashtra.

The details of forest land proposed for diversion are as under:-

Sl. No.	Purpose	Village	Tehsil	District	Survey No.	Gut No.	Area (in ha.)	Legal Status
1	Lower Dam & Reservoir	Kothale	Shahapur	Thane	40	25	9.080	Protected Forest
2	Lower Dam & Reservoir				51	24	0.600	Protected Forest
					53pt	23	35.240	Reserved Forest
3	TRC				53pt	23	1.640	Reserved Forest
4	TRT (Underground)				53pt	23	4.200	Reserved Forest
5	Approach Road				53pt	23	20.932	Reserved Forest
6	HRT (underground)				53pt	23	4.500	Reserved Forest
7	Power House (Underground)				53pt	23	2.000	Reserved Forest
8	ADIT/MAT (underground)				53pt	23	0.230	Reserved Forest
9	Cable & Ventilation				53pt	23	0.084	Reserved Forest

10	Dumping Area and Job Facilities	Kal-bhonde	Shahapur	Thane	53pt	23	27.030	Reserved Forest
11	Service Corridor				53pt	23	2.064	Reserved Forest
12	Lower Dam & Reservoir				--	62, 66/2, 66/1, 67/4, 71/1, 71/7, 71/6, 71/2, 70/3, 72/3, 72/2, 70/2, 70/1, 73/2, 72/1, 73/1, 86	36.180	Private Forest (Deemed RF)
12	ADIT/MAT (underground)	Kal-bhonde	Shahapur	Thane	--	86	0.760	Private Forest (Deemed RF)
13	Dumping Area and Job facilities				--	86, 75/1, 75/2, 75/3, 75/4, 75/5, 75/6, 74	13.880	Private Forest (Deemed RF)
14	Working Space	Kal-bhonde	Shahapur	Thane		86, 77/1, 77/2	4.800	Private Forest (Deemed RF)
15	Approach Road				--	68/16, 68/14, 68/12, 68/13, 68/6, 68/1, 68/3, 70/4, 67/3, 71/3, 71/5, 69/3, 70/2, 70/3, 86, 78/1, 2, 3, 73/1, 76, 77/1, 77/2, 80/2	18.230	Private Forest (Deemed RF)

(A) Total Forest Area (Shahapur Forest Division)							181.45	
1	Upper Dam & Reservoir	Jamunde	Igatpuri	Nashik	--	42	58.42	Reserved Forest
2	Approach Road to Upper Dam				--	42	0.77	Reserved Forest
3	HRT (Underground)				--	42	2.18	Reserved Forest
4	Saddle Dam				--	42	0.11	Reserved Forest
5	Service Corridor				--	42	0.81	Reserved Forest
(B) Total Forest Area (West Nashik Forest Division)							62.29	
Grand Total (A)+ (B)							243.74	

2. Justification of Site Specificity

The Pumped Storage Project is essentially a site specific project because it requires a particular type of topographical and geological conditions. The sites of elevation variance are required to construct reservoirs of desired capacity. Reservoir location should compulsorily fulfill the geo-technical criteria needed for establishing the pumped storage project. Since this project requires water as a means to store energy, the project has to be in close proximity of the water source. For this project, initially, the proposed site was identified by the Government of Maharashtra. The Government of Maharashtra has entered into an agreement with JSW Group by signing the Memorandum of Understanding for setting up of the extant project.

3. Deputy Conservator of Forests, Shahapur and West Nashik have certified that:-

- 3.1) No suitable alternate non forest land is available for the purpose of project and demand for the forest land is bare minimum
- 3.2) The land proposed for diversion has been put under Eco-Value Class-I, with the density of vegetation is 0.1 to <0.7 and 0.5.
- 3.3) As per the enumeration, the felling of 63881 trees is involved in the project. The girth with tree enumeration details are as follows:-

(Tree Girth in cm)												
Division	Range	Below 30 cm	31-45 cm	46-60 cm	61-75 cm	76-90 cm	91-105 cm	106-120 cm	121-150 cm	Above 150cm	Actual Felling upto FRL-4	Total involved tress in the project
Shahapur	Washala	25110	13547	3906	2243	1201	722	371	410	178	47688	50673
	Dolkhamb	4899	2021	1705	663	385	120	39	126	0	9958	10881
West Nashik	Igatpuri	2400	1916	669	345	224	166	98	170	247	6235	7546
Total		32409	17484	6280	3251	1810	1008	508	706	425	63881	69100

- 3.4) The proposed area is not included in the area of any National Park/Wildlife Sanctuary/Kalsubai Harishchandra Gad Wildlife Sanctuary, but part of Igatpuri Conservation Reserve.

- 3.5) The Kalsubai Harishchandra Gad Wildlife Sanctuary and its ESZ is located 2.21 Kms and 12.5 m. away respectively from the closest point on the boundary of the project. The area of the project falls within the notified area of Igatpuri Conservation Reserve.
- 3.6) The Divisional Forest Officer Ratnagiri (Chiplun) has inspected an area of 245.735 ha. as below:-

Sr. No.	Village	Survey No.	Area (in ha.)
1	Choravane, Tal. Khed, Dist.Ratnagiri	71,72,73,74,75,91,92,93,94,95,96, 97,98,101,102,103,104,113,114	245.735
Total Area			245.735

Of Village Choravane, Tal. Khed, Dist. Ratnagiri to be transferred to the Forest Department as alternate land for compensatory afforestation in lieu of diversion of 243.74 ha. forest land under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan), Adhiniyam, 1980 for 1500 MW Bhavali Pump Storage Project purpose at Village Kothale, Kalbhonde, Tal. Shahapur, Dist. Thane and Village Jamunde, Tal. Igatpuri, Dist. Nashik proposed by JSW Energy PSP Ltd. is suitable for forest management purpose. The area is free from encroachment. The area is at moderate slopes with dense tree growth and covered by bushes and climbers with 0.5 density. The area is included in the proposed Eco-Sensitive Zone of Western Ghat of Maharashtra. The land is acceptable for compensatory afforestation as per the guidelines issued by Government of India, dated 21/08/2023. The Compensatory Afforestation Scheme for 30.00 ha. and Protection plan of land is proposed in 245.7350 ha. Non-forest which is enclosed on

- 3.7) There is no violation of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and their guidelines.
- 3.8) The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Shahapur & West Nashik have certified that the proposed project is not likely to affect any monument sites of cultural, historical, religious archaeological or recreational importance.

4. The User Agency has submitted an undertaking:-

- 4.1) to defray the cost of Compensatory Afforestation.
- 4.2) to defray the cost of Net Present Value
- 4.3) The complete compliance of the FRA, 2006 shall be ensured by way of prescribed certificate from the concerned District Collector

5. Deputy Conservator of Forests, Shahapur Forest Division, Shahapur has recommended the proposal for approval under Section-2 of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

The proposal is recommended for acceptance on following grounds:

1. Demand for the power is on steady rise with an average annual rate of 8-9% in the country. The project aims at augmentation of present installed capacity of hydro

power in the country by 1500 MW. The Government of Maharashtra has executed Memorandum of Understanding with the project proponent for development of the extant project.

2. The Hydro Energy Project is an established, proven and cost effective technology for clean and cheap electricity. Demand for the power is on steady rise in the State of Maharashtra. The project has potential to bridge the gap between demand and supply of electricity in Maharashtra.

3. The project will generate significant employment opportunities for the people of Maharashtra for the decades together and will create infrastructure facilities to accelerate socio-economic development of the region.

4. The project is site specific and requirement of Forest Land is assessed to barest minimum & unavoidable for the project. Hence, recommended for acceptance.

6. Deputy Conservator of Forests, West Nashik Forest Division, Nashik has recommended the proposal for approval under Section-2 of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

'The project involves construction of tunnel work as one of the component which may necessitate stability studies from national level institution. Also in the case of land that were allotted prior to 1980, lying in the project area, the user agency shall not utilize/acquire said land parcel without a separate/additional diversion proposal. Considering the above, project is recommended for approval (62.29 ha.)'

7. **Recommendation of the Chief Conservator of Forests (T), Thane:-**

The Chief Conservator of Forests (T.), Thane on 05/05/2025 has recommended for acceptance this proposal for diversion of 243.74 ha. (Shahapur division 181.45 ha. and West Nashik Division 62.29 ha.) Forest land for Bhavali Pumped Storage Project (1500 MW) Village Kothale & Kalbhode in Tal. Shahapur, Dist. Thane & Village Jamunde, Tal. Igatpuri, Dist. Nashik in the State of Maharashtra.

8. **Recommendation of the Chief Conservator of Forests (T), Nashik:-**

This project is recommended subjected to the following conditions:-

- 1) A Wildlife Management and Mitigation Plan must be prepared and implemented in accordance with the guidelines and approval of the Chief Wildlife Warden (CWW), Maharashtra.*
- 2) A scientifically designated Catchment Area Treatment (CAT) Plan shall be implemented to prevent soil erosion, enhance water retention, and promote vegetative regeneration in the catchment area.*
- 3) The User Agency must ensure strict compliance with the provisions of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, along with its applicable Rules.*

- 4) *A detailed study regarding the suitability and safety of tunnel construction must be conducted by a national-level institute of repute, specializing in hydro-geological and tunnel engineering.*
- 5) *It must be ensured that access to nearby agricultural fields, water resources, and human habitations is not obstructed during either the construction or operational phases of the project.*

The User Agency shall take all possible measures to minimize tree felling wherever feasible.

9. Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Nodal Officer, Maharashtra State, Nagpur, has recommended the proposal subject to the conditions, given in his recommendations, under Section-2 (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. His recommendations are enclosed in the proposal.

10. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Maharashtra State, Nagpur has recommended the proposal subject to the conditions, given in his specific recommendations, under Section-2 (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. His specific recommendations are enclosed in the proposal.

11. In the circumstances explained in aforesaid paragraphs and enclosures, the State Government recommends that the said forest land may be allowed to be diverted under Section-2 (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, subject to conditions proposed by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF) and Addl. PCCF & Nodal Officer, Nagpur along with the following condition.

- i) User Agency shall obtain wildlife clearance and/or ensure compliance of mitigation measures, if required or suggested by the PCCF (Wildlife).
- ii) User Agency shall submit NOC of the Private landholders of the proposed land along with Stage-I compliance and compensate them as per prevalent Acts and Rules in this regard.
- iii) The non-forest land proposed for CA shall be transferred and mutated in the name of Forest Department and notified as RF/PF prior to Stage-II approval.

The matter may kindly be placed before the Government of India for approval under Section-2 of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.


(Ganesh Jadhao)

Under Secretary to the
Government of Maharashtra

Encl: A) Set of case papers

B) The following documents are enclosed:-

1. Prescribed form as per Rules.
2. Area Statement

Under Secretary
Revenue and Forests Department
Hutatma Rajguru Chowk
Madam Cama Road, Mantralaya
Mumbai 400 032

3. Commitment from the Applicant for defraying the cost of Net Present Value & Compensatory Afforestation
4. Site Inspection Report.
5. Certificate in Part V.

Copy:

1. Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, New Delhi.
2. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), M.S., Nagpur.
3. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), M.S., Nagpur.
4. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & C.E.O, Maha-CAMPA, Nagpur.
5. Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Nodal Officer, Maharashtra State Nagpur with reference to his letter No.Desk-17/Nodal/S1/PID-153240/Thane/357/25-26, Dt.19.05.2025.
6. Chief Conservator of Forests (T), Thane / Nashik
7. Deputy Conservator of Forests, Shahapur Forest Division, Shahapur
8. Deputy Conservator of Forests, West Nashik Forest Division, Nashik
9. Authorized Signatory, JSW Energy PSP Limited, Mumbai
10. Select File (F-10)

Forest Land – Thane & Nashik

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PART - V

(To be filled up by the Secretary in charge of Forest Department or by any other authorized officer of the State Government not below the rank of an Under Secretary)

1. Recommendation of the State Government

The proposal is recommended
vide Government letter
No.FLD-1225/C.R.101/F-10
Dated:- 05.08.2025



(Ganesh Jadhao)

Under Secretary to the Government of Maharashtra

Place: Mumbai.

Date:-05.08.2025

Under Secretary
Revenue and Forests Department
Hutatma Rajguru Chowk
Madam Cama Road, Mantralaya
Mumbai 400 032