

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Aliganj, Jor Bag Road,
New Delhi - 110003.

Dated:20-11-2025

To

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Government of Maharashtra
Mumbai.

Sub: Proposal for Ex-post facto approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for Diversion of 6.0760 ha of reserved forest land for laying of 220 KV Kalmeshwar substation to 220 KV Warud substation transmission line in favour of MSETCL, EHV Project Division, Amravati in Taluka - Katol, District-Nagpur in the State of Maharashtra (Online No. FP/MH/TRANS/38296/2019) - regarding.

Madam/ Sir,

I am directed to refer the Government of Maharashtra letter No. FLD-2022/CR-309/F-10 dated 17.04.2023 on the above subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. The proposal was granted '**In-Principle**' (Stage-I) approval by the Central Government vide letter dated 20.03.2025. The Government of Maharashtra has reported/submitted the compliance report vide letters dated 28.04.2025, 03.06.2025 and 06.10.2025 to the conditions stipulated in the '**In-Principle**' approval and requested for grant of final approval.

In this connection, I am directed to say that on the basis of the compliance report furnished by the Government of Maharashtra vide letters dated 28.04.2025, 03.06.2025 and 06.10.2025, **Stage-II/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 6.0760 ha of reserved forest land for laying of 220 KV Kalmeshwar substation to 220 KV Warud substation transmission line in favour of MSETCL, EHV Project Division, Amravati in Taluka - Katol, District-Nagpur in the State of Maharashtra subject to fulfilment of the following conditions:

- i. Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged;
- ii. *The Regional Office, Nagpur shall initiate action under section 3A/3B of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 (as applicable);*
- iii. The State Government shall ensure that the Compensatory Afforestation over the identified degraded forest land of 12.50 ha in Compartment no. 251, Survey no. 328 of Village Kurhad. Taluka Ghatanji, District Yavatmal. Maharashtra State shall be raised at the project cost under the supervision of

the State Forest Department and afforestation works shall start within two years from the date of final approval and maintained thereafter in accordance with the approved CA scheme in consultation with the State Forest Department;

- iv. *The matter regarding imposition of penal CA is under consideration for the formulation of a uniform policy guideline in the matter. Keeping this in view, the imposition of penal CA (if any) shall be as per the said guideline, if applicable.*
- v. The UA shall pay the additional amount of NPV, if so determined, as per the final decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India or otherwise;
- vi. The State Government shall ensure to 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 handing over forest land to the user agency;
- vii. The User Agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act; 1986; if required;
- viii. The Width of right of way for the transmission line shall be limited to 35 meter;
- ix. The user agency shall install circuit breakers at suitable places besides maintain necessary ground clearance to prevent electrocution of wild animals;
- x. No approach road shall be constructed in the forest area for transportation of steel and other material required for the transmission line. As far as possible the User Agency shall use the existing road and the proposed RoW for the transportation of the material and in the event of non-availability of such facilities, the User Agency shall transport material manually without construction of any path;
- xi. The State Government shall ensure that below each conductor, width clearance of 3 meters would be permitted for carrying the tension stringing equipment. The trees on such strips may be felled but after stringing work is completed, the natural regeneration will be allowed to come up;
- xii. The State Government shall ensure that one outer strip may be left clear to permit maintenance of the transmission line;
- xiii. The State Government shall ensure that in the remaining width the right of way felling/pollarding/pruning of trees will be done with the permission of the local forest officer whenever necessary to maintain the electrical clearance, trees shall be allowed to be felled or lopped to the extent required, for preventing electrical hazards by maintaining the minimum 4.6 meter clearance between conductors and trees. The sag and swing of the conductors are to be kept in view while working out the minimum clearance mentioned as above;
- xiv. The State Government shall ensure that the User agency in consultation with

- the State Forest Department prepare a detailed scheme for creation and maintenance of plantation of dwarf species (preferably medicinal plants) in right of way under the transmission line, and provide funds for execution of the said scheme to the State Forest Department;
- xv. The State Government shall ensure that in case a portion of the transmission lines to be constructed is located in hilly areas, where adequate clearance is already available, trees shall not be cut;
 - xvi. The State Government shall ensure that no labour camp shall be established on the forest land and the User Agency shall provide firewood 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;
 - xvii. The State Government shall ensure that the boundary of the diverted forest land shall be demarcated on ground at the project cost, by erecting four feet high reinforced cement concrete pillars, each inscribed with its serial number, forward and back bearing and distance from pillar to pillar
 - xviii. The State Government shall ensure that the forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal;
 - xix. The State Government shall ensure that because of this project, no damage is caused to the wildlife available in the area;
 - xx. The State Government shall ensure that the user agency shall explore the possibility of translocation of maximum number of trees identified to be felled and shall ensure that any tree felling shall be done only when it is unavoidable and that too under strict supervision of the State Forest Department;
 - xxi. The State Government shall ensure that the cost of felling of trees shall be deposited by the User Agency with the State Forest Department;
 - xxii. The State Government shall ensure that the layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government;
 - xxiii. The State Government shall ensure that 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;
 - xxiv. The State Government shall ensure that the user agency in consultation with the State Government shall create and maintain alternate habitat/ home for the avifauna, whose nesting trees are to be cleared in this project. Bird's nests artificially made out of eco-friendly material shall be used in the area, including forest area and human settlements, adjoining the forest area being diverted for the project;
 - xxv. The State Government shall ensure that the user Agency shall implement the R & R Plan, if applicable, 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;
 - xxvi. The State Government shall ensure that 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;

- xxvii. Any other condition that the concerned Regional Office of this Ministry may stipulate with the approval of competent authority in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife;
- xxviii. The State Government and user agency shall ensure compliance to all conditions stipulated in the 'in-principle' approval letter dated 20.03.2025 for which undertakings have been obtained from the user agency and also the provisions of all Acts, Rules, Regulations and Guidelines, relevant Hon'ble Court Order (S) and NGT Order (S), if any, for the time being in force, including compliance of the Schedule Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forests Rights) Act, 2006,
- xxix. The 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;
- xxx. The State Government after receiving 'Final approval' of the Central Government under sub section (1) of Section 2 of the Adhiniyam, and after fulfillment and compliance of the provisions of all other Acts and Rules made thereunder, as applicable including ensuring the settlement of rights under the Scheduled Tribes or Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) act, 2006 (2 of 2007), shall issue order for diversion;

Digitally signed by
SUNEET BHARDWAJ
Date: 20-11-2025
17:40:29

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-
(Suneet Bhardwaj)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. The PCCF (HoFF), Government of Maharashtra, Nagpur.
2. The Dy. DGF (Central), Regional Office, Nagpur at MoEF&CC
3. The Nodal Officer (FCA), O/o PCCF, Government of Maharashtra, Nagpur.
4. User Agency.
5. Monitoring Cell of FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi.