

File No.:5-ORB557/2023-BHU
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 Addl. Chief Secretary (Forests),
Government of Odisha,
Bhubaneswar.

Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 1.84911a. of Forest land for implementation of Dhamra-Haldia Pipeline (DIPI,) project, a spur line of Jagadishpur-Haldia-Bokaro-Dhamra Pipeline (JHBDPL) project in Bhadrak, Balasore & Mayurbhanj Districts of Odisha by GAIL (India) Limited- regarding.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Odisha's letter No. FE-DIV-FLD-0021-2023-4529/FE&CC dated 10.03.2023 and additional information submitted vide letter No. 25420/9F (Pipeline)-401/2022 dated 29.12.2023 and vide letter No. 20941/ 9F(Pipeline)-401/2022 dated 19.10.2024 on the above subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. After careful examination of the proposal by the Forest Advisory Committee, constituted under Section-3 of the said Act, 'in-principle' approval to the proposal under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 was granted vide this Ministry's letter of even number dated 08.01.2025 subject to fulfillment of certain conditions prescribed therein. The State Government has furnished compliance report in respect of the conditions stipulated in the in- principle approval and has requested the Central Government to grant final approval.

In this connection, I am directed to say that on the basis of the compliance report furnished by the State Government vide letter No. 16515/9F (Pipeline)-401/2022 dated 05.08.2025 and letter No. 22364/9F (Pipeline)-401/2022 dated 04.11.2025, 'final' approval of Central Government under Section 2 of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 is hereby granted for diversion of 1.84911a. of Forest land for implementation of Dhamra-Haldia Pipeline (DIPI,) project, a spur line of Jagadishpur-Haldia-Bokaro-Dhamra Pipeline (JHBDPL) project in Bhadrak, Balasore & Mayurbhanj Districts of Odisha by GAIL (India)

Limited subject to the following conditions:

1. Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged;
2. The Compensatory afforestation over degraded forest land, double in extent to the forest land being diverted i.e 4.2 ha, shall be raised by the State Forest Department at the project cost within two years from the date of grant of Stage - II approval. Further, the State shall ensure that the compensatory afforestation area is made free from of all encumbrances;
3. The compensatory afforestation scheme, as approved, shall be implemented by the State Forest Department. The CA will be maintained for 10 years and the CA scheme may include afforestation of indigenous species with appropriate provision for anticipated cost increase for works scheduled for subsequent years;
4. 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;
5. Compensatory levies, if any, realized in future under the extant project, shall be transferred/ deposited, through e-payment module on PARIVESH portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>), into the account of CAMPA of the State concerned, managed by the National Authority (CAMPA);
6. ***The State Govt. shall ensure that the Divisional Forest Officer or Deputy Conservator of Forests having jurisdiction over the forest land involved in the instant proposal shall initiate action against violation under section 3A/3B of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, before the issuance of final diversion order by the State Government.***
7. *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 issued.*
8. State Government shall ensure that overburden shall not be dumped outside the width of the RoW. The muck generated in the earth cuttings will be disposed of at the designated dumping sites and in no case the muck/debris will be allowed to roll down the hill slopes;
9. The user agency will undertake comprehensive soil conservation measures at the project cost in consultation with the State Forest Department;
10. The user agency will ensure that forest area nearby shall not be encroached upon due to implementation of the project;
11. The State Government shall ensure that the minimum number of trees/ plants/ poles in any case not more than mentioned in the applied forest area will be removed and the trees should be felled under strict supervision of the

State Forest Department;

12. The cost of felling of trees shall be deposited by the user agency with the State Forest Department;
13. 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;
14. The User Agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if required;
15. 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;
16. 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;
17. The State Government shall ensure that the forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal;
18. 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;
19. No damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused;
20. The User Agency shall ensure that because of this project, no damage is caused to the wildlife available in the area;
22. The layout plan of the 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 except the change in land use allowed on the forest land vide Ministry's guideline dated 26.12.2024;
23. 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;
24. 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;

25. The user agency shall comply the provisions of 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;
26. 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;
27. 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;
28. The State Government and user agency shall ensure compliance to all conditions stipulated in the 'in-principle' approval letter dated 08.01.2025 for which undertakings have been obtained from the user agency; and
29. 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 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 the forest land.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-

(Suneet Bhardwaj)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. The PCCF (HoFF), Department of Forest, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
2. The DDGF (Central), Regional Office of MoEF&CC at Bhubaneswar.
3. The Nodal Officer (FCA), Department of Forest, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
4. User Agency.
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi for uploading on PARIVESH portal.