

F. No. 8-16/2023-FC (E-209627)  
Government of India  
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change  
(Forest Conservation Division)  
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Indira Paryavaran Bhawan  
Aliganj, Jor bagh Road  
New Delhi– 110003  
**Dated: 24-11-2025**

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 811.29 Ha of forest land for construction of Ganjal Dam out of 2250.05 ha (instead of 2272.05 ha) forest land earlier proposed for construction of Morand - Ganjal Irrigation Project located in Hoshangabad, Betul, Harda and Khandwa Districts of Madhya Pradesh State in favour of M/s Narmada Valley Development Authority (Online No. FP/MP/IRRIG/36231/2018) – regarding.**

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to Government of Madhya Pradesh, vide their letter No. F-3/16/2018/10-11/1667 dated 26.04.2023 and additional information provided vide letter dated 16.08.2023, 10.10.2023, 26.10.2023, 06.02.2024, 06.08.2024, 09.10.2024, 13.11.2024, 07.01.2025, 12.08.2025, 28.08.2025 and 25.09.2025 on the proposal mentioned in above subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government in accordance with Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. The said proposal has been examined by the Advisory Committee (AC) constituted by the Central Government under Section- 3 of the aforesaid Adhiniyam on 27.10.2025.

2. After careful consideration of the proposal of the Government of Madhya Pradesh and on the basis of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee and approval of the same by the competent authority of MoEFCC, New Delhi, the Central Government hereby accords “***In-principle/Stage-I***” approval under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 811.29 Ha of forest land for construction of Ganjal Dam out of 2250.05 ha (instead of 2272.05 ha) forest land earlier proposed for construction of Morand - Ganjal Irrigation Project located in Hoshangabad, Betul, Harda and Khandwa Districts of Madhya Pradesh State in favour of M/s Narmada Valley Development Authority in the State of Madhya Pradesh, subject to the following conditions:-

- i. Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged.
- ii. The User Agency shall transfer the cost of raising and maintaining the Compensatory Afforestation as per the approved CA Scheme at the current wage rate in consultation with State Forest Department in the account of CAMPA of the concerned State through online portal.
- iii. Compensatory Afforestation over equivalent Non Forest land shall be raised at the project cost and afforestation work shall start within two years from the date of final approval and maintained thereafter in accordance with the approved CA scheme by the State Forest Department.
- iv. The non-forest land identified for raising CA shall be transferred and mutated in favour of the State Forest Department before issue of final approval.
- v. The non-forest land transferred and mutated in favour of the State Forest Department shall be notified by the State Government as Protected forest under section 29 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 or under the relevant section(s) of the local Forest Act, before handing over the forest land to the user agency.
- vi. The State Government shall charge the Net Present Value (NPV) of the forest land being diverted under this proposal from the User Agency as per the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India dated 28.03.2008, 24.04.2008 and 09.05.2008 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 202/1995 and the guidelines issued by this Ministry vide its letter No. 5-3/2007-FC dated 06.01.2022 read with 22.03.2022 through online portal of CAMPA account of the State Concerned.
- vii. At the time of payment of the Net Present Value (NPV) at the then prevailing rate, the User Agency shall furnish an undertaking to pay the additional amount of NPV, if so determined, as per the final decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.
- viii. The Compensatory levies to be realized from the User Agency under the project shall be transferred/ deposited, through e-challan, in to the account of National Authority, CAMPA pertaining to the State concerned through e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>).
- ix. **Regional Office Bhopal shall ascertain the suitability of the non-forest land identified for the compensatory afforestation and the State shall take requisite necessary action in consultation with the Regional Office to ensure that the area proposed for Compensatory afforestation is suitable and free from all encumbrances. The complete details of the CA land including the Maps/KML files,site suitability certificates and the CA scheme shall be submitted by the State Government prior to the Stage-II approval.**

- x. **The in-principle approval is for the construction of Ganjal dam Irrigation project only. The decision on construction of the Morand dam shall be taken only after the impacts of the first dam are studied in detail. This staggered approach will enable data driven, evidence-based decision-making, ensuring ecological concerns are not compromised in pursuit of developmental objectives.**
- xi. **The Wildlife Institute of India shall be given a short-term study by the State Government in terms of functionality of the corridor in addition to the other broad mandate of the study already assigned to them. The short study report shall be submitted before the final approval is considered.**
- xii. **A study will be taken up by the State government at the cost of the user agency and in collaboration with NTCA and WII to map presence and movement of tigers between tiger reserves in the Central Indian landscape to delineate true corridors, validated with field data. This may be done on bi-annual basis for a period of at least six years.**
- xiii. **Recommendation of SCNBWL will be obtained before the Stage-II/ Final Approval of the proposal.**
- xiv. **The state shall revise/prepare the CAT plan specifically for the catchment area of the Ganjal Dam.**
- xv. The complete compliance report shall be uploaded on e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>);
- xvi. The State Government shall complete settlement of rights, in term of the Scheduled Tribes and Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, if any, on the forest land to be diverted as per the sub-rule (7) of Rule 11 of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023;
- xvii. The User Agency shall implement the R&R Plan, if applicable, as per 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 shall be monitored by the State Govt./Regional Office of MoEF&CC.
- xviii. The KML files of proposed area for diversion and the CA area shall be uploaded on the e-Green watch portal with all requisite details.
- xix. The user agency shall explore the possibility of translocation of maximum number of trees identified to be felled, if any, 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.
- xx. The cost of felling of trees, if any, shall be deposited by the User Agency with the State Forest Department.

- xxi. The User Agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if required.
- xxii. No labour camp shall be established on the forest land;
- xxiii. The User Agency shall provide fuels preferably alternate fuels, if required to the labourers and the staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the nearby forest areas.
- xxiv. No additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for transportation of construction materials for execution of the project work;
- xxv. 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, distance from pillar to pillar and GPS coordinates.
- xxvi. 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.
- xxvii. The user agency shall undertake afforestation along the periphery of the reservoir and canals bank and maintain plantations with the State Forest Department (as applicable).
- xxviii. A Catchment Area Treatment Plan shall be prepared, and implemented by/or under the supervision of State Forest Department at the project cost, if applicable.
- xxix. The user agency shall carry out muck disposal at pre-designated sites in such a manner so as to avoid its rolling down.
- xxx. The dumping area for muck disposal shall be stabilized and reclaimed by planting suitable species by the user agency at the cost of project under the supervision of State Forest Department. Retaining walls and terracing shall be carried out to hold the dumping material in place. Stabilization and reclamation of such dumping sites shall be completed before handing over the same to the State Forest Department in a time bound manner as per Plan.
- xxxi. The State Government and the user agency shall ensure that the trees available between full reservoir level (FRL) and FRL - 4 meters are not felled.
- xxxii. The user agency shall provide free water for the forestry related projects.
- xxxiii. The User agency will undertake comprehensive soil conservation measures at the project cost in consultation with the State Forest Department. A scheme of the same shall be submitted to the Regional Office along with the Stage-I compliance report.
- xxxiv. 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.

- xxxv. No damage to the flora, fauna or the environment of the adjoining area shall be caused; Adequate measures to ensure no damage to the adjoining areas should be taken by the User Agency at the project cost.
- xxxvi. The concerned Divisional Forest Officer, will monitor and take necessary measures to ensure that there is no adverse impact on the forests in the surrounding area.
- xxxvii. 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.
- xxxviii. 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.
- xxxix. The user agency shall comply all 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.
- xl. 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 issued under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 as issued by this Ministry's letter No. 5-2/2017-FC dated 29.12.2023.

After receipt of compliance report on fulfilment of the conditions mentioned above, the proposal shall be considered for final approval under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. Transfer of forest land shall not be affected till final approval is granted by the Central Government in this regard.

Digitally signed by  
SUNEET BHARDWAJ  
Date: 24-11-2025  
11:42:15

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-  
(Suneet Bhardwaj)  
Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:-

1. PCCF (HoFF), Department of Forest, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal.

2. DDGF (Central), MoEF&CC's Regional Office, at Bhopal.
3. APCCF—cum-Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal.
4. User Agency.
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi for uploading.