

F. No. 3ASB185/2023/GHY
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj
New Delhi: 110003,
Dated:05-10-2025

To,

The Special Chief Secretary (Forests),
Department of Forests & Environment,
Government of Assam,
Dispur.

Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 in favour of AAFB Exploratory Asset, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) for non-forestry use of 3.7574 ha. Reserved Forests for drilling of exploratory well LGM and approach road in Village- Srikuna, Tehsil- Silchar, District- Cachar in the State of Assam (online proposal No. FP/AS/MIN/46794/2020)- regarding.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Assam online proposal No. FP/AS/MIN/46794/2020 on the above-mentioned subject seeking prior approval of Central Government under Section 2 (1)(ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980. In this regard, it is informed that examination of the proposal in the Ministry revealed following:

- i. In accordance with the provisions of guidelines given at para 7.9 (iii) of the Consolidated Guidelines, an area of 7.5 meter strip along the inner boundary of the impact area of bore hole needs to be earmarked as safety zone. Details of the same may be included in the proposal and the same may be submitted to the Ministry along with its KML file.
- ii. A vegetation density of 0.8 is reported, and the proposal states that 208 trees will be affected from the project. However, if the density is 0.8, 208 trees seems an underestimation. The State Government should re-assess either the vegetation density or number of affected trees, because the two submitted values appears to be inconsistent.
- iii. The area proposed for diversion falls within the High Conservation Value Zone as per Decision Rule 2 of the DSS. Accordingly, the State Government is requested to furnish its considered views on the proposal for diversion of forest land located in such a zone.
- iv. Online proposal contains details of compensatory afforestation over degraded forestland which was proposed initially. However, since the CA is now proposed over non-forest land, the details of the same needs to be

- updated on PARIVESH portal by the user agency.
- v. The user agency in Part-I has recorded the diameter is bore hole as 20 inches while in the subsequent correspondences made with the Regional Office, diameter of bore holes has been indicated as 26 inches. The same may be updated in the online proposal on PARIVESH.
 - vi. Regional Office in its inspection report mentioned that besides the approach road included in the instant proposal, connectivity to the site is also proposed through 5 km road proposed to be constructed in Tripura State for which a separate proposal has been processed by the Government of Tripura. Updated status of the said proposal falling in the State of Tripura may be be informed by the State Government.
 - vii. The PCCF (Wildlife) & CWLW recommended to prepare a Wildlife Conservation Plan and a Wild Animal–Human Conflict Mitigation Plan to ensure suitable management intervention for the wildlife. Status of preparation of the Wildlife Management Plan, may be informed by the State Government.

In view of the above, the Government of Assam is requested to kindly furnish the above information at the earliest to the Ministry for further processing of the proposal under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-
(Charan Jeet Singh)
Scientist 'E'

Copy to: -

1. The PCCF & HoFF, Govt. of Assam, Guwahati.
2. The DDGF (C) Regional Office, Shillong, MoEF&CC.
3. The CCF-cum-Nodal Officer, Government of Assam, Guwahati.
4. The DIGF (C), Sub-office, Guwahati of MoEF&CC.
5. The Monitoring Cell, MoEF&CC, New Delhi.
6. User Agency.