

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi- 110003
Dated:13-01-2025

To

The Principal Secretary, Forests,
Department of Environment and Forest,
Government of Punjab,
Chandigarh.

Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in favour of Shri Ravinder Singh for non-forestry use of 0.6926 ha. (instead of 0.5392 ha) of forest land (areas notified under Section 4 & 5 of the PLPA) for construction of a Marriage palace on Mukerian to Talwara road Km 22-23 L/ Side at Village- Sathwan, Tehsil Mukerian, District- Hoshiarpur in the State of Punjab. (FP/PB/Others/31455/2018)- regarding.

Sir/Madam,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Punjab's letter No. FOREST-FCA0FC3D/2/2021-FCA dated 02.07.2024 on the above mentioned subject, seeking prior approval of Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, and to say that after examination of the proposal in the Ministry, the following shortcoming is observed:

- i. Component wise break up of land proposed for diversion is not submitted along with the proposal. The same needs to be submitted.
- ii. Part- III has been submitted for 0.5392 ha. Revised Part- III for revised area with recommendation of concerned CF/CCF may be submitted.
- iii. Regional Office, Chandigarh has mentioned in site inspection report that work of violation is still in progress and User Agency is using. In this regard the State Government is requested to submit the action taken to stop the violation.
- iv. Further, the State Government is also requested to submit detailed violation report clearly mentioning the nature, extent, date and details of the persons responsible for violation and action taken thereof against erring officials/person of the State concerned may be submitted.
- v. CA scheme submitted along with the proposal does not contain provisions for chain link fencing of land proposed for CA. Revised CA scheme including provisions for chain link fencing of land proposed for CA needs to be submitted.
- vi. As per DSS, entire area proposed for diversion is classified as non-forest (land without tree cover) (as per the ISFR 2021). Legal status of land proposed for diversion may be verified by the State Government.
- vii. As per DSS, forest cover of proposed compensatory afforestation land in

terms of forest classes (as per the ISFR 2021) is classified as moderately dense forest. As per Rule 13 (1) Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023, programme for improvement of forest crop needs to be submitted by the State Government for respective Divisions.

- viii. As per DSS report, the legal status of land proposed for CA cannot be examined with the help of DSS because the forest compartment boundaries for the State of Punjab are not available on the DSS portal. In this regard, the State Govt. is requested to submit KML file highlighting forest compartment boundary.

In view of the above, the State Government of Punjab is requested to submit the information/documents, as indicated above, for further consideration of the proposal in the Ministry.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-

(S. Sundar)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to: -

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Government of Punjab, Chandigarh.
2. The DDGF (Central) Regional Office, Chandigarh of MoEF&CC.
3. The Nodal Officer, Government of Punjab, Chandigarh.
4. The User Agency.
5. The Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF & CC, New Delhi, for uploading.