

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Aliganj, Jor bagh Road
New Delhi- 110003
Dated: 21-01-2025

To

The Principal Secretary, Forests,
Forest and Environment Department,
Government of Meghalaya,
Shillong.

Subject: 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 M/s. Hill Cement Company Ltd. for non-forestry use of 32.693 ha. of deemed forest land for construction of ancillary structures and for green belt at Mynkre, Jaintia Hills Territorial Division, East Jaintia Hills District in the State of Meghalaya (Online Proposal No. FP/ML/IND/150152/2021)- regarding.

Sir/Madam,

I am directed to refer to Government of Meghalaya letter No. FOR.22/2022/102 dated 31.10.2023 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 proposal the following shortcoming is observed:

- i. As per component wise break up submitted by the State Government 17.693 ha is proposed for ancillary structures, however, detailed component wise break up is not submitted. The same needs to be submitted along with KML file.
- ii. Layout plan of the proposal is not submitted along with the proposal. Layout plan of the proposal mentioning various components needs to be submitted.
- iii. From examination of consolidated KML file (i.e. 32.693 ha and 4.00 ha) it is observed that route for transportation of excavated material to the plant is not defined. The same needs to be mentioned in component wise break up and revised KML file needs to be submitted.
- iv. State Government has mentioned in their letter No. MFG.16/50/HCCL/32.693 ha dated 16.03.2024 and as per site inspection report submitted by the Regional Office, Shillong, violation is over an area of 12.12 ha, whereas, as per DSS report violation is identified approximately over an area of 18.89 ha. Clarification in this regard needs to be submitted by the State Government

and Regional Office, Shillong.

- v. As per component wise break up submitted by the State Government, 15.00 ha is proposed for green belt, whereas, as per component wise break-up in site inspection submitted by Regional Office, Shillong, 10.00 ha proposed for green belt. Clarification in this regard, needs to be submitted. Further, User Agency may clarify on why the diversion is being sought for green belt area.
- vi. Activities to be carried out in area proposed for green belt needs to be submitted.
- vii. As per component wise break-up in site inspection report submitted by Regional Office, Shillong, 5.0 ha is proposed for staff colony. State Government may inform whether the area sought for the same is barest minimum. Further, State Government may also explore the possibility of shifting the same to non-forest and revised area, if any, may be intimated to the Ministry.
- viii. As per component wise break-up in site inspection report submitted by Regional Office, Shillong, 5.573 ha is proposed for stockyard for various materials, additives etc. State Government may inform whether the area sought for the same is barest minimum. Further, State Government may also explore the possibility of shifting the same to non-forest and revised area, if any, may be intimated to the Ministry.
- ix. Cost benefit analysis submitted along with the proposal is incomplete. Revised and complete Cost benefit analysis with cost benefit ratio needs to be submitted.
- x. Calculated area of shape file/ KML file of Forest land proposed for diversion is 35.407 ha, whereas, area proposed for diversion is 32.693 ha. Discrepancy of 2.714 ha is observed in area proposed for diversion, revised KML file needs to be submitted.
- xi. DGPS map and Sol toposheet of land proposed for compensatory afforestation uploaded on PARIVESH portal is inaccessible. The same needs to be re-submitted.
- xii. As per DSS report, it is observed from time series that forest land has been freshly broken after 2012 till 2024. Action taken by the State Government against the breaking of forest land after 2012 when the area was declared as forest needs to be submitted.
- xiii. Action taken by the State Government regarding the continued use of forest land since its declaration in 2012 till present needs to be submitted along with reasons.

In view of the above, the State Government 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 Meghalaya, Shillong.
2. The DDGF (C) Regional Office, Shillong, MoEF&CC.
3. The APCCF-cum-Nodal Officer, FCA, Government of Meghalaya, Shillong.
4. The Monitoring Cell, MoEF&CC, New Delhi.
5. User Agency.