

File No. 8-06/2025-FC
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
 Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road
 New Delhi- 110003
 Dated: 15-12-2025

To

The Principal Secretary (Forests)
 Government of Maharashtra
 Mumbai.

Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (i) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Eevam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in favour of JSW Energy PSP Two Limited for non-forestry use of 243.74 ha. (Shahapur Division 181.45 ha and West Nasik Division 62.29 Ha) of forest land (reserved forest, protected forest and private forest) for Bhavali Pumped Storage Project (1500 MW) in Thane & Nasik District in the State of Maharashtra (Online proposal No. FP/MH/HYD/153240/2022)- reg.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Govt. of Maharashtra's letter No. FLD-1225/CR-101/F-10 dated 05.08.2025 on the subject proposal seeking prior approval of the Central Government in accordance with Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Eevam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and to say that the proposal was considered in the Advisory Committee meeting held on 02.12.2025. The detailed minutes of the said meeting is placed on the website of this Ministry: www.parivesh.nic.in. After examination of the proposal, the Committee deferred the proposal for want of the following information:

- i. Both the reservoirs are being constructed afresh. Further, there is no water source in the vicinity and the lower reservoir is proposed to be filled with rain water. Keeping above in view the site specificity of the project is not established. The site specificity of the project is therefore required to be examined in detail and state shall explore to locate the project over non-forest land.
- ii. An area of 40.91 ha forest land is proposed to be used for muck dumping and job facilities which are not site specific and may be shifted over non-forest land.
- iii. The feasibility of filling the huge reservoir with rain water and maintaining the water level throughout the year needs justification. A detailed report shall be submitted in this regard.
- iv. As per the recommendations of Regional Office, 20 ha NFL proposed for CA is unsuitable for plantation. Accordingly CA scheme shall be revised to carry out plantation in degraded forest areas at double the extent of unsuitable area. The improvement plan is required for the remaining non forest area where canopy density is more than 0.4. The detail of identified DFL along

with KML files shall be submitted.

- v. The DFO Nasik in his recommendations submitted that the project involves construction of tunnel work, which may require stability studies from national level institutions. The details/report in this regard shall be submitted.
- vi. The DFO West Nasik has recommended that in case of land that were allotted prior to 1980, lying in the project area, the user agency shall not utilize/acquire said land parcel without a separate/ additional diversion proposal. The state/user agency has not provided any appropriate justification in this regard. A detailed justification along with a list of such areas involved in the project shall be submitted.
- vii. The state has informed that 13.814 ha area has been excluded as these patches do not fall within the working area. Since these patches are interspersed in-between the working area, the state shall provide the justification for their exclusion and the plan for the protection of these patches.

3. In view of above, the State Government is requested to furnish the information, as indicated above, for further consideration of the proposal in the Ministry.

Yours faithfully,

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

Copy to:-

- 1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Department of Forest, Government of Maharashtra, Nagpur.
- 2. DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Nagpur.
- 3. The APCCF-cum-Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Maharashtra, Nagpur.
- 4. The User Agency.
- 5. The Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi for uploading the letter on PARIVESH portal.