

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bag Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi – 110003
Dated: As per E-Sign

To,

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Government of Madhya Pradesh,
Bhopal.

Subject: Diversion of 244.039 ha (237.385 ha Dhar & 6.654 ha Alirajpur Forest Division) Reserved Forest land for construction of Chhotaudepur to Dhar New Broad Gauge Railway line in favour of Dy. Chief Engineer (Construction-II) Western Railway in Dhar & Alirajpur Districts of Madhya Pradesh (Online No. FP/MP/RAIL/154962/2022)- regarding.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer the Government of Madhya Pradesh letter No I/197764/2024 dated 06.12.2024 regarding Consideration of Degraded Forest Land (DFL) for Compensatory Afforestation (CA) for acquisition of forest land for Railway Projects of Western Railway in Madhya Pradesh related to the above cited subject.

In this regard, the Ministry vide letter dated 17.12.2024 has issued detailed clarification (Copy enclosed). The State may take necessary action accordingly.

Yours sincerely,

Signed by

Suneet Bhardwaj

Date: 20-12-2024 10:49:36

Sd/-

(Suneet Bhardwaj)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Encl.: As Above

Copy to:

1. The PCCF (HoFF), Department of Forest, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal;
2. The Dy. DGF (Central), Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Bhopal;
3. The Nodal Officer, Department of Forest, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal;
4. User Agency;
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi for uploading on PARIVESH portal.

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road,
New Delhi: 110003
Dated: December, 2024

To

The Addl. Chief Secretaries of Forests/Principal Secretary (Forests),
All States Governments and Union territory Administrations

Sub: Streamlining of the approval process with regards to compensatory afforestation as envisaged in the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 as amended on 20.09.2024 – reg.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the above subject and to inform that based on the references received from the Ministry of Mines, and Ministry of Coal, the provisions related to raising of compensatory afforestation, as envisaged in the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 as amended on 20.09.2024, have been reviewed by the Ministry and after due deliberations, the Central Government, in accordance with the provisions of section 3C of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 hereby issues the following clarifications:

- i. Provisions of Rule 14(1) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023, provides that the non-forest land identified for raising Compensatory Afforestation (CA) is to be notified as Protected Forests before final approval (Stage-II) approval is granted by the Central Government. However, in cases where non-forest land identified for CA has been transferred and mutated in favour of the State Forest Department (SFD), the Central Government may accord final approval keeping in view the fact that provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 become applicable on such lands being entered as forest in government record/record of rights.
- ii. In such cases, referred in para (i) above, the non-forest land forest land proposed for CA, shall be notified as Protected Forest under section 29 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 or local forest Act before handing over of forest land to the User Agency by the State Government. The Nodal Officer, after notification of such non-forest lands, shall upload a copy of said notification on the PARIVESH portal.
- iii. For the purpose of rule 13(4)(a) of the States or Union territory Administrations, having forest area more than 33% of their total geographical area, concerned State Government/UT Administration may authorise a suitable officer to issue certificate of non-availability of the suitable non-forest land for raising CA.
- iv. As per the provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Amendment Rules, 2024, projects of Central Government entities/CPSU and captive coal blocks of the State PSUs are eligible for raising CA over degraded forest land which will be double in extent of the forest land being diverted. Accordingly, the State Government/UT shall not insist for providing non-forest land as CA unless in cases wherein the Central Government

Agencies/CPSUs or State Government PSUs with captive coal blocks are forthcoming to provide non-forest land available with them as CA or the State Government/UT Administration is willing to provides non-forest land on such terms and condition which is agreed by the Central Government Agencies/CPSUs or State Government PSUs in case of captive coal blocks.

- v. With regards to the applicability of the provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Amendment Rules, 2024 in respect of proposals of the Central Agencies/PSUs and captive coal blocks of the State PSUs which were granted 'in-principle' approval stipulating CA over non-forest land, the following clarification is given in this regard:
 - a. Proposals, which were submitted by the States/UTs before notification of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Amendment Rules, 2024, along with the proposal of raising CA over degraded forest land (DFL) and were granted 'in-principle' approval stipulating CA over non-forest land (NFL), shall be allowed to submit compliance of 'in-principle' approval along with CA proposal over DFL in lieu of NFL. The Central Government will consider and grant final approval in such cases stipulating CA over DFL.
 - b. Proposals, which were submitted by the States/UTs along with CA proposal over non-forest land and were granted 'in-principle' approval stipulating CA over non-forest land (NFL), can also be allowed to submit compliance of 'in-principle' approval along with CA proposal over DFL provided the non-forest land proposed for CA is not transferred and mutated in favour of the State Forest Department. In such cases, the Central Government or its Regional Office, based on the request of the State/UT Government or user agency, shall amend the condition of in-principle approval to raise CA over DFL on a case to case basis and subsequently the User Agency shall submit the compliance of in-principle for the obtaining the 'final' approval.

In view of the above, the State Government and Union territory Administrations are requested to take into consideration the guidelines mentioned hereinabove while considering the proposals submitted under section 2 of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

This issues with the approval of the competent authority.

Yours faithfully,

Signed by

Charan Jeet Singh

Date: 17-12-2024 13:56:41

(Charan Jeet Singh)
Scientist 'E'

Copy to:

1. Director, PMO, South Block, New Delhi
2. Secretary, Ministry of Mines /Coal /Steel/ Power/ Railways/ MoRT&H/ Defence/MHA
3. Secretary, Ministry of Defence, Government of India
4. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, All States Governments and Union territory Administrations
5. Dy Director General of Forests (Central) All Regional Offices of the MoEF&CC

6. Nodal Officers, dealing with the matters related to the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, All States Governments and Union territory Administrations
7. Head, NIC, MoEFCC for aligning the PARIVESH 2.0 as per above