

File No.: 6-MPR027/2023-BHO (E- 217728)

Government of India

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road
New Delhi- 110003
Dated: 16-02-2026

To

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

Subject: Proposal for seeking approval of the Central Government under Van (Sanrakshan evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 8.0357 ha. forest area for proposed 3rd railway line between Jujharpur (Km.750+000) and Dodharamohor (Km.792+650) section in Favour of Central Railway CST Mumbai in the State of Madhya Pradesh (FP/MP/RAIL/150074/2021)- reg.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Govt. of Madhya Pradesh's letter No. AF 5/1211/2022/10-11/2407 dated 08.06.2023 and further clarification provided vide letter dated 18.12.2025 were examined in the Ministry and the State Government is requested to furnish the information on the following points:

- i. The proposed 3rd railway line is a linear project; however, the State Government has submitted the proposal in a fragmented manner. The Regional Office, Bhopal sought justification for the isolated forest land polygons proposed for diversion. In response, the State Government informed that the forest patches were jointly inspected with the Forest Department and only those patches deficient in width for construction of the 3rd railway line were proposed for diversion. The State Government further stated that the forest patches not included in the diversion proposal are under Railway ownership; however, no documentary evidence has been furnished in support of this claim. Moreover, as per DSS analysis and the forest compartment boundary available therein, it is observed that the User Agency has not submitted complete KML files for the forest land falling within the forest compartment. As a result, the proposed KML file of the forest land appears disjointed and non-contiguous. The State Government is, therefore, requested to furnish correct and complete details in this regard.
- ii. The State Government has further submitted that a portion of the land proposed for diversion is under Railway ownership. The instant proposal pertains to the construction of a 3rd railway line, whereas two railway lines have already been established. The State Government shall clarify whether the establishment of the existing railway lines involved any violation of the provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

Further, a detailed chronology of the establishment of the existing railway lines, along with documentary evidence and details of approvals, if any, granted earlier by the Ministry, is required to be submitted by the State Government.

- iii. The proposed area falls within the Satpura–Melghat Tiger Corridor. The State Government was requested to furnish details regarding the extent of the proposal area falling within the tiger corridor. In response, the State Government submitted fragmented patches falling within the corridor for Forest Clearance. Further, the State Government has submitted a proposal for diversion of 287.64 hectares for NBWL clearance. The State Government is requested to provide the present status of the wildlife clearance proposal.
- iv. The REC sought No Objection Certificates (NoCs) from NHAI for locations where the proposed railway alignment intersects with NHAI infrastructure. The State Government has submitted the NoC from NHAI. However, details of any prior approvals granted by the Ministry to NHAI, if applicable, are also required to be submitted by the State Government.
- v. The State Government has proposed Compensatory Afforestation (CA) over an area of 20.00 ha. However, as per DSS analysis, the CA area is observed to be 30.103 ha. Accordingly, the State Government is required to submit the correct CA details, along with the complete CA suitability certificate, and upload the same in Part-II of the PARIVESH portal.
- vi. As per satellite imagery, pre-plantation work is visible on the proposed CA land. Accordingly, the State Government is requested to submit details of the plantation work, if any, carried out by the State Forest Department.
- vii. The State Government has reported a violation of the Van (Sanrakshan evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 over an area of 0.0366 ha. Accordingly, the State Government is required to submit a detailed Action Taken Report in accordance with the provisions of the said Adhinyam against the UA and Forest Department officials, who were not able to prevent the non-forestry use of forest land.
- viii. The User Agency has not uploaded the KML files for 11.1926 ha of non-forest land involved in the proposal on the PARIVESH portal. Consequently, the complete layout of the proposed railway line cannot be depicted. The State Government is, therefore, required to submit the same.

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

Encl: as above

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-
(Raja Ram Singh)
Deputy Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:-

1. PCCF (HoFF), Department of Forest, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal.

2. DDGF (Central), MoEF&CC's Regional Office, at Bhopal.
3. APCCF-cum-Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal.
4. User Agency.
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi for uploading.