

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bag Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi – 110003
Dated: March, 2024

To,

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

Subject: Diversion of 70.88 ha forest land in favour of Water Resource Department for the construction of Semal Khedi Teerth Minor Irrigation Project under Vidisha District of Madhya Pradesh State (Online No FP/MP/IRRIG/30846/2017) – regarding.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer the APCCF (LM) and Nodal Officer, FCA, 1980, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh letter No. F-3/72/2017/10-11/3/824 dated 05.02.2024 forwarding a fresh proposal on the above subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. After examining the proposal, the following shortcomings have been observed:

- i. The State Govt. has not submitted the basic details of proposed Dam like its height, length, earthen or concrete dam, command area, technical approval, hydrological assessment etc. along with detailed project report.
- ii. Details of three (3) identified alternatives sites with their KML files along with no. of trees proposed for felling against each alternate, the reasons for the rejection of other alternatives and justification for selecting the proposed alternative shall be submitted.
- iii. The State Govt. shall re-examine the site specificity of the proposal and submit a detailed report along with justification as to why the project cannot be executed in non-forest area.
- iv. The copy of approved Catchment Area Treatment (CAT) Plan in view Para 9.2 of the consolidated guidelines issued under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 shall be submitted.
- v. The State Govt. has informed that the proposal is for irrigation purpose. However as per online Part-I it has been mentioned that installed power generation capacity of the project as 40 MW. The State Govt. shall clarify whether the project is for irrigation purpose or otherwise and necessary correction in the component wise breakup and other details shall be

- done in the online application form.
- vi. The Cost Benefit ratio has not been calculated in the instant project. Therefore, the cost-benefit analysis as per revised NPV rates and on the prescribed format needs to be submitted.
 - vii. In the online Part-I, the total command area of the project has been mentioned as 1240 ha. However, relevant details along with the details of villages to be benefited has not been submitted.
 - viii. The details of distribution network like canals and pipelines, which may further have required diversion of forest land etc. has not been given. A holistic proposal is required to be submitted as forest land may be required for laying of underground pipelines as well. The State Govt. shall therefore provide the complete lay out plan indicating all the components like canal, pipelines etc. The detail of the area requirement for these components shall also be submitted keeping in view Para 9.1 of the consolidated guidelines issued under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980.
 - ix. The user agency in the instant proposal has submitted an undertaking to bear the cost of Reclamation plan which is usually applicable in the Mining projects. In this regard, the State Govt. shall clarify whether any mining activity is to be carried out in the proposed forest land to meet the requirement for the construction of dam, if so, the details thereof along with approved mining plan needs submission.
 - x. The land use plan for the entire land involved in the project is required to be submitted.
 - xi. The present proposal is for diversion of 70.88 ha forest land against which the District Collector vide order dated 01.08.2022 allotted only 60.162 ha revenue land. Hence, there is variation of 10.718 ha area of land given for CA has been observed. The above variation needs clarification. Further, the documentary evidence/revenue record indicating that the area proposed for compensatory afforestation is non-forest land and is free from all encumbrances shall be submitted.
 - xii. Satellite imagery shows the presence of Agricultural lands, Pucca Road and few Built-up area within the forest land sought for diversion. This needs clarification.
 - xiii. The complete KML file of submergence area which is falling on the Non-forest land i.e. 69.1 ha has not been uploaded on the PARIVESH portal. Therefore, the complete component wise KML file shall be uploaded/ submitted.
 - xiv. Interpretation of the Satellite imagery revealed that the proposed dam is to be constructed over flat surface and to have better understanding of the ground condition in terms of Geo-spatial context, the State Govt. shall provide contour map/ digital elevation model specifically showing the boundary of instant project.
 - xv. As per the DSS analysis, the CA patch namely Village Saklon, Khasra No. 1/1 comprising an area of 1.914 ha is falling in the forest land. Further, the said CA patch is found isolated and having area less than 5

- ha. The same needs revision.
- xvi. Proposed CA patches are having encroachment of Agriculture land. In this regard, the State Govt. shall examine the suitability of proposed CA land as per Rule-13 of the Van (Sanrakshan evam Samvardhan), Rules-2023 and submit a report.

In view of the above, the State Government is again requested to furnish the above mentioned information to this Ministry for further consideration of the proposal.

Yours sincerely,

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

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 (FCA), 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.