

**File No. 8-06/2025-FC**  
Government of India  
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change  
(Forest Conservation Division)  
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Indira Paryavaran Bhawan  
Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road  
New Delhi- 110003  
Dated:20-04-2026

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 Evam 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 dated 10.04.2026 on the above mentioned subject and to say that after examination of the reply furnished by the State Govt., following has been observed:

- i. The State Govt. submitted that the User Agency has undertaken to stabilize and scientifically reclaim the muck disposal sites post-use and to restore them with vegetation in accordance with the approved plan. However, the details with regard to the surrender schedule of the land proposed for Muck disposal (23.122 ha) along with an undertaking has not been furnished by the User Agency. The same needs to be submitted by the State Govt.
- ii. The State Government has submitted that the overall forest land requirement for the project has been reduced from 243.74 ha to 207.171 ha, i.e., a reduction of 36.569 ha (17.788 ha from muck dumping sites and 19.781 ha from proposed roads). However, it has also been indicated that the total reduction is 36.59 ha. Accordingly, the State Government may be requested to reconcile and rectify this discrepancy.
- iii. The State Govt. has submitted that the User Agency has also undertaken to submit the updated KML files and relevant documents along with Stage-I compliance. However, the revised component wise KML files for the proposed area of 207.171 ha needs to be submitted. The same shall be submitted by the State Govt.
- iv. The State Govt. has not made the necessary correction on the Part-I and Part-II of the online application form as per the revised proposal area of 207.171 ha. The same needs to be done by the State Govt. along with the revised component wise breakup of the land proposed for diversion.
- v. The State Govt. shall clarify whether the DPR of the proposal has been revised as per the revised area. If yes, the revised DPR needs to be

submitted by the State Govt.

- vi. The State Government has submitted that for access roads, upon review, optimization measures such as reduction in carriageway width and adoption of underground access have been undertaken. Consequently, the forest land requirement for roads in the lower reservoir area has been reduced from 39.162 ha to 19.381 ha (reduction of 19.781 ha). As per Van(Sanrakshan evam samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980, even in case of underground roads without surface rights, the diversion of forest area involved is required and payment of compensatory levies is essential. State government may clarify that if underground road area is correctly included in the proposal .

2. 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/-  
(Deepika Chaudhary)  
Deputy 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.