

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: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 2.21 ha Protected forest land in compartment number PF 399 of Hanumana Forest Range, Rewa Forest Division in favour of M/s Swami Nityanand Ji Maharaj Stones for Sardaman Stone Quarry lease under Rewa District of Madhya Pradesh State (Online No. FP/MP/MIN/152429/2022) - regarding.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Madhya Pradesh's letter No. F-1/837/2022/10-11/796 dated 21.02.2023 on the above mentioned subject, seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 received via e-file from RO, Bhopal in the Ministry on 12.02.2025. In this regard, following shortcomings have been observed in the information submitted by the State Govt. as under:

- i. The State Govt. shall clarify whether the Letter of intent (LoI) issued by the Mineral Resource Department, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh is still valid as on date or otherwise.
- ii. Details of mineral evacuation plan and how the requirements of electricity and water will be met shall be submitted. The detail of additional forest land (if any) required for the purpose shall also be submitted.
- iii. The user agency in Part-I form reported that the Project does not requires Clearance under the Environment (Protection) Act 1986 (Environmental clearance) whereas the instant project is for mining. A clarification in this regard needs submission.
- iv. The instant mine has been proposed to be worked upon by mechanized mining with implementation of Open-cast technology. Therefore, the status of muck disposal plan shall be submitted along with relevant details.
- v. Complete copy of an approved mining plan needs submission. The State Govt. shall also ensure that the land-use as proposed in the proposal shall invariably commensurate with the land-use as given in the approved mining plan. A comparative analysis shall be submitted.
- vi. The State Govt. has not informed as to how much area of the proposed NFL

(village wise/ patch wise) for raising compensatory afforestation is having specified density as per the Rule-13 of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023. Moreover, the State shall also ensure that the area (NFL) proposed for CA is suitable for raising Compensatory Afforestation as per the provisions of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 and the crop improvement programme of the forest crop in the NFL proposed for CA shall be submitted.

- vii. Para 2, Rule-13 of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 says that "Provided that in case the non-forest land or portion thereof provided by the user agency is not fit for raising compensatory afforestation of a specified density, then additional compensatory afforestation shall be raised on a degraded notified or unclassified forest land under the management control of the Forest Department which is twice in size of such shortfall in the given compensatory afforestation land and the user agency shall also bear the additional cost on such account". Keeping this in view, the KML file of the Degraded forest land which is twice in size of such shortfall in the compensatory afforestation land needs to be submitted (if applicable) along with Maps, CA scheme, Site suitability certificate etc.
- viii. The number of project affected trees need to be reconfirmed by the State. It may also be clarified whether the tree enumerations have been done as per actual standing trees on ground or through sampling method or by adopting any other method.
- ix. The State Govt. in the Part-II form reported that the proposed forest land is not prone to soil erosion whereas as depicted through satellite imagery the lease is situated at hilly terrain. Therefore, factual details in this regard needs submission along with the mitigation plan/ Soil Erosion Treatment Plan duly approved by the DCF concerned to choke the soil erosion.
- x. The forest land proposed for diversion is located in Rewa District whereas the land proposed CA has been proposed in the Sagar District. Thus, the land for diversion is situated at an aerial distance of approximately 348 Km away from the land for CA. The State Govt. shall ensure that whether the Para 2.2 (xiii) of Chapter-2 given in the consolidated Handbook of Guidelines issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardha) Rules-2023 has been followed while selecting the land proposed for CA or otherwise.
- xi. The KML files indicating the different components of the projects like safety zone/ Green belt, Infrastructure, OB dump etc shall be submitted along with land use map. The component wise details of the proposed forest land shall also be updated on the PARIVESH portal.
- xii. DSS analysis revealed that the user agency has uploaded incorrect KML file of the Non-forest land proposed for CA because the part of the proposed CA land is partly falling in forest compartment. Further, a transmission line is crossing the CA land at PF-603
- xiii. DSS analysis revealed that the an area of 0.0136 ha forest land proposed for Approach Access has been found broken as depicted through historical data available on the Google imagery. This needs clarification.
- xiv. The APCCF & Nodal officer, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh in their covering letter reported that the instant proposal is for establishment of crushing plant instead of mining. This needs clarification. The State shall also ensure that the forest land cannot be diverted for any non-site specific activities.

- xv. The State Govt. recommended the proposal for diversion of 2.21 ha forest land whereas the user agency has submitted component wise break-up details of 2.2236 ha forest land. Further, the Letter of intent (LoI) issued by the Mineral Resource Department, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh reveals that the project involves 3.4 ha area out of which 2.80 ha is forest land. The complete proposal along with convincing justification in this regard needs submission. The corresponding area details shall also be updated on PARIVESH along with maps, KML files etc.

Accordingly, it is requested to furnish the above mentioned information to this Ministry for further consideration of the proposal.

Yours sincerely,

(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, 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.

Digitally signed by

Suneet Bhardwaj

Date: 02-04-2025

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