

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

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

To,

**The Principal Secretary (Forests),**  
Government of Maharashtra,  
Mumbai.

**Subject: Diversion of 315.74 ha forest land under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for Renovation of Asolamendha Irrigation Project in Division Bramhapuri, Central Chanda and Chandrapur Forest Division, Saoli, Mul and Pombhurna talukas of Chandrapur District in the State of Maharashtra (Online No. FP/MH/IRRIG/39591/2019) – regarding.**

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Maharashtra's letter No. FLD-2022/CR291/F-10 dated 14.11.2022 forwarding a proposal to obtain prior approval of the Central Government, in terms of the Section-2 (1) (ii) Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, and to say that the said proposal was placed before the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 30.04.2024. The minutes of the meeting of the AC may kindly be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). After detailed deliberation on the matter, the Committee deferred the proposal and sought the following details:

- i. The Asolamendha Irrigation Project in the Chandrapur District was constructed in British Era and the dam construction completed in the year 1914. The State government therefore has to ensure the safety and stability of the existing dam structure and its capacity to hold such a huge volume, in view of the fact that the dam has been constructed in the year 1914 and the irrigation potential of the instant project is proposed to increase from 9919 ha to 54879 ha due to increase in the height of the dam. A certificate in this regard shall be submitted by a competent authority of the state government.
- ii. The non-forest land identified for the compensatory afforestation (CA) is situated in the periphery of Bemla Reservoir in Yavatmal District and a part of the area has been found to be under water as per DSS analysis. The Regional Office has also raised concerns regarding the protection of the said area. Keeping this in view, the Regional Office, Nagpur shall revisit the area proposed for Compensatory Afforestation, examine its suitability and furnish its clear recommendations in this regard.
- iii. The State shall submit the complete details, background, area already utilized for Compensatory Afforestation and legal status of 2635 ha area under

- Bembala project which was approved for alternative afforestation.
- iv. Asolamendha Renovation Project involves proposal for diversion of 315.74 ha forest area, out of which 267.33 ha forest area has been moved for clearance from the NBWL for corridor of animals including tiger. The Committee observed that the details of the remaining area which has not been included in the proposal along with detailed reasons for not including the same in the proposal seeking clearance of SCNBWL needs to be provided.
  - v. Further it was decided that the issue of notification issued by the Wildlife Division of the Ministry dated 18.03.24 with respect to issuance of FC before taking the matter before the SC-NBWL will be dealt as per policy decision taken in the matter.

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

Yours sincerely,

Signed by Suneet Bhardwaj

Date: 17-05-2024 16:04:39

Sd/-

(Suneet Bhardwaj)

**Assistant Inspector General of Forests**

**Copy to:**

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