

SITE INSPECTION REPORT OF THE 0.1785 HA OF FOREST LAND PROPOSED FOR DIVERSION FOR ACCESS PERMISSION FOR TRANSPORTATION OF MINING MATERIAL AT VILL KHANAK UNDER FOREST DIVISION AND DISTRICT BHIWANI, HARYANA. (ONLINE PROPOSAL NO. FP/HR/APPROACH/146575/2021)

Recommendations of the Deputy Director General of Forests (Central):

1. The State Government has reported the violation in the instant case. Accordingly, as per the extant Rules and Guidelines under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam; the Technical Officer of the RO, Chandigarh inspected the site on 15.05.2025.
2. The findings and recommendation of the inspecting officer of the RO, Chandigarh is attached herewith and same is agreed upon and recommended. Accordingly same is recommended for consideration of MoEF&CC as per the extant Rules and Guidelines issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

Digitally signed by
Satya Prakash Negi
Date: 22-05-2025
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(Satya Prakash Negi)

Deputy Director General of Forest

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Name of the Inspecting Officer- N K Dimri, Technical Officer (Gr-I), MoEF&CC, Regional Office, Chandigarh on 15.05.2025.

Officials from the State Forest Department

1. Shri Rajesh Vats, DFO, Bhiwani.
2. Forest Range Officer, Bhiwani.

Officials from the User Agency

1. Shri Harish, Mining Engineer; representative of the User Agency.

I. Legal status of the forest land proposed for diversion: Protected Forest land.

II. Item-wise break-up details of the forest land proposed for diversion: Item-wise break-up:

Approach Road – 0.1785 ha

III. Whether proposal involves any construction of buildings (including residential) or not. If yes, details thereof: NO.

IV. Wildlife:

Whether forest area proposed for diversion is important from wildlife point of view or not

As per the forest officials present during the inspection; due to mining activities the large wild animals, including the ungulates and leopard have moved out of the area. However, there is presence of reptiles, mangoose and porcupine.

V. Vegetation:

i. Details of total number of trees to be felled: No tree felling is proposed.

VI. Background on the proposal:

The User Agency has proposed diversion of 0.1785 ha. forest land for construction of approach access to transport the mining minerals extracted from the Khanak mine area in at vill Khanak under Forest Division and District Bhiwani, Haryana.

VII. Whether proposal involves violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 or not. If yes, a detailed report on violation including action taken against the concerned officials.

It was noted during the site inspection that the User Agency has used forest area for transportation of the mining minerals extracted from the site without prior approval of the Central Government under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. It was informed by the DFO, Bhiwani that the work was stopped and a trench was dug in the forest area with barbed wire fence to avoid future use of the forest land.

It was also noted during inspection that the User Agency is continuing the mining operations. It was found that the proposed forest area for approach has been closed by the Forest Department; however, User Agency has made new openings through strip forest to transport the material. One such opening was found during the inspection and also movement of trucks was spotted. It was informed by the Forest Department personnel that there are two such openings created by the User Agency. Google imaginary of same is follow:



It was visually evident during the inspection that the User Agency is violating the provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 since long time

and also no attempts made by the State Forest Department to stop the continuous violation by the User Agency.

The User Agency is continuously using the entire forest land proposed for diversion and dedicated approach to transport the mining minerals has been developed at multiple places, accordingly, the instant case is for post-facto approval, wherein, the forest land has been already used for non-forest purpose.

The State Government need to assess the actual requirement and place to be utilised for approach access and same area needs to be applied for post-facto approval as per prevailing provisions under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. Further, all other openings in the forest area needs to be reclaimed by the User Agency.

VIII. Whether proposal involves rehabilitation of displaced persons. If yes, whether rehabilitation plan has been prepared by the State Government or not. Details be furnished specifically if rehabilitation plan would affect any other forest area by trans-locating outstees in and around the said forest:

No.

IX. Reclamation Plan: Not Applicable

1. Details and financial allocation: Not Applicable.

X. Details on catchment and command area under the project: Not Applicable.

XI. Cost benefit ratio: Not Applicable.

XII. Recommendations of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests/ State Government: Submitted along with the proposal.

XIII. Whether land being diverted has any socio-cultural/religious value. Whether any sacred grove or very old grown trees/forests exists in areas proposed for diversion: The officials of the State Forest Department informed that the land being diverted has no socio-cultural / religious value.

XIV. Situation w.r.t. any Protected Area: There are No Protected Areas.

XV. Recommendations:

- i. The User Agency is continuously using the forest land and dedicated approach to transport the mining minerals has been developed at multiple places in direct and prolonged violation of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam,

1980. As the entire forest land proposed for diversion has been used for non-forestry purpose from a long time; accordingly, the instant case is for post-facto approval, wherein, the forest land has been already used for non-forest purpose without prior approval of the Central Government under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980.
- ii. The detailed report on violation including its extent through multiple openings, duration of violation, name and details of persons responsible both from the State Forest Department and User Agency for violation and action against them thereof needs to be submitted.
 - iii. The State Government need to assess the actual requirement and place to be utilised for approach access and same area needs to be applied for post-facto approval as per prevailing provisions under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980. Further, all other opening in the forest area needs to be reclaimed by the User Agency.



N K Dimri
Technical Officer (Gr-I)

Photographs during the site visit



The project site



Area under the violation and trench dug by Forest Department



The new opening in forest area and trucks passing during inspection

Inspecting team