



भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & CLIMATE CHANGE  
क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, भोपाल/ REGIONAL OFFICE, BHOPAL



Kendriya Paryavaran Bhavan, Link Road No.3, E-5, Ravi Shankar Nagar,  
BHOPAL - 462016 (M.P.)

TEL: 0755-2466525 E-mail: rowz.bpl-mef@nic.in

File No. 8-08/2024-FC/371

Dated : 07/05/2025.

To,

The Additional Director General of Forests (FC)  
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change  
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan  
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj  
New Delhi - 110 003.

Sub: Site Inspection for diversion 49.320 ha Reserved Forest land (34.45 ha in Sendhwa Forest Division and 14.87 ha in Khargon Forest Division) in favour of Water Resource Department for the construction of Sonkhedi Tank Project under Barwani District of Madhya Pradesh State. (Online No. FP/MP/IRRIG/155614/2022)

Ref: MoEF&CC, New Delhi Letter no. 8-08/2024-FC Dated- 11<sup>th</sup> December, 2024.

Sir,

With respect to the subject and reference cited above, the Site Inspection Report of Regional Office, Bhopal in respect of 49.320 ha Reserved Forest land (34.45 ha in Sendhwa Forest Division and 14.87 ha in Khargon Forest Division) in favour of Water Resource Department for the construction of Sonkhedi Tank Project under Barwani District of Madhya Pradesh State is submitted herewith for further necessary action.

Yours faithfully

Encl : As above.

(Ashok Kumar Sinha)  
Dy. Director General of Forests (C)

Copy to:

Shri Suneet Bhardwaj, AIGF, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (FC Division), Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj, New Delhi.



## **Field Inspection Report of A.K. Sinha, IFS, DDGF (C), RO Bhopal**

**Ref.-** GoI, MoEF&CC (FC Division), letter No. 8-08/2024-FC Dated- 11 December, 2024.

**Dates of Inspection:** 18/03/2025

**Officers present at the time of inspection: -**

1. A. K. Sinha, Dy. Director General of Forests (C), Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Bhopal.
2. Shri I. S. Gadaria DFO Sendhwa
3. Miss Preeti Parmar, FRO
4. Shri Shanitlal Chauhan, Dy. RO
5. Shri Paras Parmar, EE, WRD
6. Shri Devendra Verma, JE, WRD
7. Shri Arun Bagule, AE, WRD

Title of the Project:		Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion 49.320 ha Reserved Forest land (34.45 ha in Sendhwa Forest Division and 14.87 ha in Khargon Forest Division) in favour of Water Resource Department for the construction of Sonkhedi Tank Project under Barwani District of Madhya Pradesh State. (Online No. FP/MP/IRRIG/155614/2022)																												
1.	Legal status of the forest land proposed for diversion:	Sendhwa Reserved Forest: 34.45 ha Khargon(T) Reserved Forest: 14.87 ha  Total-49.32 Ha																												
2.	Item-wise break-up details of the forest land proposed for diversion:	<table><tr><td>No.</td><td>Purpose wise Breakup</td><td>Forest Division</td><td>Forest Comp. nos.</td><td>Area in (Ha)</td></tr><tr><td>1</td><td>Dam</td><td rowspan="4">Sendhwa &amp; Khargone</td><td rowspan="4">RF-416,417 418 &amp; 419 And RF-1085 &amp; 1086</td><td>2.63</td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>Submergence</td><td>41.644</td></tr><tr><td>3</td><td>Waste Weir</td><td>1.876</td></tr><tr><td>4</td><td>Canal</td><td>3.17</td></tr><tr><td colspan="4">Total</td><td>49.32</td></tr></table>					No.	Purpose wise Breakup	Forest Division	Forest Comp. nos.	Area in (Ha)	1	Dam	Sendhwa & Khargone	RF-416,417 418 & 419 And RF-1085 & 1086	2.63	2	Submergence	41.644	3	Waste Weir	1.876	4	Canal	3.17	Total				49.32
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3.	Whether proposal involves any construction of buildings (including residential) or not. If yes, details thereof:	No																												



4.	Total cost of the Project at present rates:	1609.01 Lakhs (as per online Part-I)																														
5.	Wildlife:	Nilgai, Jackals, Hares, Monkeys, etc.																														
6.	Vegetation:	Eco-Class: -3 and Canopy Density is 0.2 to 0.4. The main species found in the area are as follows: - <div><div>i.</div><div><i>Tectona grandis</i></div></div> <div><div>ii.</div><div><i>Terminalia arjuna</i></div></div> <div><div>iii.</div><div><i>Terminalia tomentosa</i></div></div> <div><div>iv.</div><div><i>Terminalia bellirica</i></div></div> <div><div>v.</div><div><i>Holoptelea integrifolia</i></div></div> <div><div>vi.</div><div><i>Mangifera indica</i></div></div> <div><div>vii.</div><div><i>Butea monosperma</i></div></div> <div><div>viii.</div><div><i>Diospyros melanoxylon</i></div></div> <div><div>ix.</div><div><i>Syzygium cumini</i></div></div> <div><div>x.</div><div><i>Schleichera oleosa</i></div></div> <div><div>xi.</div><div><i>Cassia fistula</i></div></div> <div><div>xii.</div><div><i>Anogeissus latifolia</i></div></div> <div><div>xiii.</div><div><i>Mitragyna parvifolia</i></div></div> <div><div>xiv.</div><div><i>Lannea coromandelica</i></div></div> <div><div>xv.</div><div><i>Lagerstroemia parviflora</i></div></div> <div><div>xvi.</div><div><i>Other misc. Species</i></div></div>																														
7.	Background note on the proposal:	Project is located in a very backward and remote area. The area is mostly inhabited by poor tribals. The economy is mostly dependent on agriculture. Due to scarcity of water, the agricultural production is very poor. A seasonal nala called Amba Pani flows through the area and drains into Aner nadi and ultimately drains into river Tapti. To harness the water in Amba pani stream for the benefit of local poor farmers, the project has been envisaged.																														
8.	Compensatory Afforestation:	<div>As per online/SIR<table><tr><th>S. No.</th><th>District</th><th>Tehsil/Village</th><th>Khasra No.</th><th>Proposed Area (Ha)</th></tr><tr><td>1</td><td>Barwani</td><td>Anjad/Fatypur</td><td>164</td><td>49.32</td></tr><tr><td colspan="4">Total</td><td>49.32 (25000 plants is Proposed for plantation)</td></tr></table> <table><tr><th>S. No.</th><th>Forest Division /Forest Range</th><th>Forest Block</th><th>Forest Compartment Nos.</th><th>Proposed Area (Ha)</th></tr><tr><td>1</td><td>Barwani</td><td>Mahendriyapni</td><td>RF-404</td><td>24.320</td></tr><tr><td colspan="4">Total</td><td>(25000 plants is Proposed for</td></tr></table></div>	S. No.	District	Tehsil/Village	Khasra No.	Proposed Area (Ha)	1	Barwani	Anjad/Fatypur	164	49.32	Total				49.32 (25000 plants is Proposed for plantation)	S. No.	Forest Division /Forest Range	Forest Block	Forest Compartment Nos.	Proposed Area (Ha)	1	Barwani	Mahendriyapni	RF-404	24.320	Total				(25000 plants is Proposed for
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			plantation)
9.	Whether proposal involves violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 or not. If yes, a detailed report on violation including action Taken against the concerned officials:	NO	
10.	Whether proposal involves rehabilitation of displaced persons. If yes, whether rehabilitation plan has been prepared by the State Government or not:	Yes Khargqne Division - Members of 10 Families. Sendhwa Division- Members of 12 Families  As the project is a minor irrigation project, the rehabilitation plan is not applicable.	
11.	Reclamation Plan: (If applicable, submit details and Financial allocation:	Not applicable.	
12.	Details on catchment and command area under the project:	Catchment Area- 25.03 sq km Command Area- 535.00 ha	
13.	Cost benefit ratio:	0.35: 1 (As submitted in the proposal)	
14.	Recommendations of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests/State Government:	Recommended	
15.	Utility of the Project:	Project is important for nearby villages to meet drinking water and irrigation requirement of their farm lands. The tank water will boost irrigation, agriculture development and also create employment.	



16.	Whether land being diverted has any sociocultural/religious value:	No.
17.	Situation w.r.t. Any P.A.	Proposed area is neither a part of any protected area nor it falls within 10 km of the nearest protected area.
18.	Any other information relating to the Project:	-
19.	<b>Specific comments/ observation of inspecting officer</b>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Proposed Diversion Area</u></b></p> <p><b>Date of Inspection-18/03/2025</b></p> <p><b>Forest Division-Khargone (RF-1085 &amp; 1086) Range-Sirwel, Beat-Chirmariya, Area-14.87 ha and Sendhwa (RF-416,417 418 &amp; 419); Range-Dhavali, Beat Sonkhedi, Area-34.45 ha.</b></p> <p>The Sonkhedi tank project is situated on a seasonal stream called Amba pani which drains into Aner nadi and ultimately drains into river Tapti. The main dam is proposed to be constructed in Sendha forest division of Barwani district. The submergence area due to the dam is spread into Sendhwa and Khargone forest divisions of Barwani district. The area is in Satpura mountain ranges. The seasonal nala Amba pani originates in Satpura ranges and ultimately drains into Tapti River. The average annual rainfall in the area is about 700-750 mm. Due to undulating terrain, most of the population living in the area are on hills or in valleys. Due to poor rainfall, the agricultural production for the poor tribals living in the area are very poor. Normally, the rainwater during rainy season drains through the Amba pani stream carrying a lot of silt from the catchment areas into the river Tapti without being used by local people. Therefore, to harness the rain water during rainy season, the project has been envisaged. The dam will cause impounding of water for longer duration in an year and will help in providing drinking water and irrigation for agriculture, thereby boosting the economy and standard of life for the local people.</p> <p>The proposed diversion area comprises of main dam, submergence area, Waste weir and Canal. The dam is situated between two hill ranges having open forest. The submergence area is in the valley and submerging the foot hills having open forest with very sparse vegetation. The vegetation comprises of species as shown in column no. 06 and the wildlife found in the area is as shown in column no. 05. The area is not very important from wildlife point of view as it is more than 10 kms from the nearest protected area i.e. Devgarh Sanctuary in Maharashtra and it also does not fall in any notified wildlife corridor. The water impounded due to the project would help the surrounding vegetation and also provide drinking water to wildlife and local cattle in addition to the local people. As enquired, the catchment area of the project is</p>		



spread over 25.03 sq km in the district for which CAT plan has been prepared with a cost of Rs. 1.52 crores and is under the process of approval by Forest Department. The command area is spread over 535 ha. In total 22 families are getting affected due to the project. As the project comes under minor irrigation, there is no applicability of any R&R plan. As enquired from the EE, WRD, the affected people would be given suitable compensation for their losses.

#### **Proposed CA Area**

#### **Officers present at the time of inspection: -**

1. A. K. Sinha, Dy. Director General of Forests (C), Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Bhopal.
2. Shri Ashish Bansod DFO Barwani
3. Shri Babula Muvel, Sud DFO, Barwani
4. Shri Vikas Jamre, FRO, Rajpur
5. Shri Pradeep Choudhary, FBO
6. Shri Paras Parmar, EE, WRD
7. Shri Devendra Verma, JE, WRD
8. Shri Arun Bagule, AE, WRD

**District- Barwani, Range-Rajpur, Beat-Mandwada, Tehsil-Anjarh, Village-Fatyapur, Khasra no. 164, Area-49.32 ha.**

The proposed CA area is a revenue land located on a hillock with moderate to steep gradient. The ridge portion of the hillock is having flat ground with sparse vegetation. The area near the foot hill is almost without any vegetation having shallow depth of soil and at many places, there are large rocky outcrops. The sides of hillock are having moderate to steep gradient with sparse vegetation having canopy density 0.2 to 0.3. At the top of hill, there is sparse vegetation with large area available for planting. The common vegetation found in the area are *Butea monosperma*, *Tectona grandis*, *Acacia leucophloea*, *Azadirachta indica*, etc. The area is also infested with weeds like *Lanata camara* and *Croton bonplandianum*. As enquired with the local forest staff, the wildlife in the area are Leopard, Nilgai, Hyena, Hares, Porcupines, etc.

It was observed that about 50 % of the area is either covered with natural vegetation or having rocky outcrops, hence, only about 50 % of the area is suitable for plantation. Therefore, to accommodate rest of the plants, the DFO has proposed DFL for plantation.

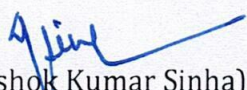
As the area is located on a hillock, a jeepable track has to be laid for transport of men and materials during plantation and its monitoring. A suitable irrigation facility with a borewell and solar pump should also be incorporated in the CA scheme for irrigating the plants. A watcher's hut cum watch tower is also suggested to be included in the CA scheme. The



boundary of the CA area should be provided with continuous contour trenching with septa at regular intervals. The dug out soil from the trench should be put 1 meter on the outer side of the trench. The mound of the dug out soil should be planted with species such as *Ceasalpinia bonduc* for effective protection. As the area is very close to habitations, the biotic pressure is very high in the area. Therefore, a suitable protection structure like chain link fence shall be erected before taking up plantation.

**Taking into consideration all the points mentioned above, the area is suitable for raising plantation with native species.**

20	Recommendations Of Regional Deputy Director General of Forests (C) along with detailed reasons:	<b>The project is recommended for approval subject to the observations as mentioned in the note above.</b>
21.	Regional Head shall give detailed comments on whether there are any alternatives routes/alignments for locating the project on the non-forest land:	Since, the project is an engineering structure and the location of the same has been decided taking into consideration, the hydrogeological studies by the engineers, the project becomes site specific project and hence there is no alternatives.

  
 (Ashok Kumar Sinha)  
 Dy. Director General of Forests (C)  
 Regional Office, Bhopal



## Field Photographs

### Inspection photographs of Diversion Area



### Inspection photographs of CA Area





