

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi: 110003,
Dated: 26-07-2024

To

The Principal Secretary, Forests,
Forest and Environment Department,
Government of Meghalaya,
Shillong.

Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in favour of M/s. Hill Cement Company Ltd. for non-forestry use of 4.0 ha. of deemed forest land for lime stone mining at Mynkre, Jaintia Hills Forest Division, East Jaintia Hills District in the State of Meghalaya (Online Proposal No. FP/ML/MIN/42964/2019)- regarding.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Meghalaya's letter No. FOR.25/2021/73 dated 28.03.2022 submitted the proposal to the Regional Office, Shillong seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. After examination of the proposal in the Ministry, following shortcomings is observed:

- i. The State Govt. initially recommended the proposal subject to payment of 5 times of NPV plus 12 simple interest till the penalty is paid by project proponent as penalty for violating provisions of Adhiniyam, 1980. Further, State Govt. vide letter No. FOR.45/2021/147 dated 31.10.2023 requested to exempt User Agency from payment of penalty for violating Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The State Govt. is requested to offer its comments in this regard.
- ii. The State Forest Department is requested to submit action taken report against the erring officials responsible for violation.
- iii. The State Govt. has not submitted the approved copy of the land use plan. In this regard, the State Govt. is requested to submit the approved copy of land use plan clearly mentioning OB dumping site.
- iv. The State Govt is requested to offer its views on the mining activity that is visible outside the area proposed for diversion. In case Forest clearances have been issued for the said site earlier or in its surroundings, the State Government is requested to submit a copy of the same.
- v. Component wise breakup has been submitted for an area of 0.798 ha forest land. Moreover, KML files of the following components have not been uploaded online:

Sl. No.	Components	Area (Ha)
1.	Mining working area	2.87
2.	Safety Zone	0.59
3.	Waste dump area	0.195
4.	Green Belt area	0.345
	Total	4.00

- v. KML file showing the proposed routes for the transportation of the mined out mineral & involvement of forest land, if any, has not been submitted. The same needs to be submitted.
- vi. DGPS map of the proposed forest land is found varying from the KML file. Further, the State Govt. may be requested to upload the Survey of India (Sol) toposheet map indicating the proposed forest land.
- vii. Due to unavailability of the forest boundaries of the Meghalaya State over the DSS portal, the legal status of the proposed CA land cannot be ascertained. In this regard, the State Govt. is requested to submit KML file highlighting forest boundary.

In view of the above, the State Government is requested to furnish the above-mentioned information to this Ministry for further consideration of the proposal.

Yours faithfully

Sd-
(S. Sundar)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to: -

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Government of Meghalaya, Shillong.
2. The APCCF cum Nodal Officer, FCA, Government of Meghalaya, Shillong.
3. The DDGF (C) Regional Office, Shillong, MoEF&CC.
4. User Agency.
5. Monitoring Cell, of Forest Conservation Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi.