

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 Maharashtra,
Mumbai.

Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for non-forestry use of 0.1305 ha of forest land in favour of Essar Steel India Ltd. sanaswadi for laying underground water pipeline for industrial use and drinking purpose in Reserve forest Gut No. 152 to 155 at Village Koregaon Bhima - Dhingrajwadi, Tal. Shirur, District Pune, Maharashtra State (Online proposal No. FP/MH/IND/20151/2016) - regarding.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Maharashtra letter no. FLD-1920/CR-153/F-10 dated 02.02.2024 received in the Ministry via email dated 31.05.2024 on the above mentioned subject. In this context while examination of the said proposal the following is observed :

- i. The State Govt. vide their letter dated 02.02.2024 has forwarded and recommended the proposal for diversion of 0.1305 ha forest land in favour of Erstwhile user agency i.e. M/s Essar Steel India Ltd. whereas the user agency in the instant proposal is M/s ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India Limited. Therefore, revised recommendation i.e. Part-II, III, IV & V along with latest SIR report by the DFO concerned in favour of present user agency shall be submitted/ uploaded.
- ii. The user agency had lodge W.P No 11426/2016, wherein Hon'ble High Court Mumbai vide dated 20/10/2016 directed to submit the proposal to the Central Govt through proper channel. This needs more clarification along with present status of court matter needs submission.
- iii. The CA scheme was prepared in the year 2018. Therefore, revised CA scheme as per current wage needs submission.
- iv. The State Govt. has reported that the in the year 1999 the Forest Department has taken the possession of Gut Nos 152 to 155 from the revenue department and at present the legal status of proposed forest land reported as Reserve Forest. Therefore, shifting in the ownership of land from one department to another needs more clarification. Whether such ownership transfer was part of any forest diversion proposal. The factual position in this regard needs justification along with the copies of RF notification by the State

Govt. needs submission.

- v. The CCF, Pune recommended the proposal subject to a condition that the user agency should raise 25 ha of Irrigated plantation under CSR through tripartite agreement. This needs clarification along with consent from the user agency to bear such cost shall be submitted.
- vi. The State Government reported that the instant proposal involves violations of Adhiniyam, 1980. Therefore, action taken by the State Govt. under section 3A4/3B of IFA 1927 on violators and along with the action taken report needs submission.
- vii. The State Govt. reported that the user agency has already established underground water pipeline 25 years ago for industrial use. However, the State Govt. has not clarified the source of water i.e. underground or River or Pond etc which has been utilizing by the user agency. The details of any NOC obtained by the user agency for such use of water from any agency/ water resource department etc. needs submission.
- viii. The variation in the Gut No. has been observed from the justification submitted by the user agency and the recommendations given by the PCCF (HoFF). This needs clarification.
- ix. Calculated area of KML file of the proposed forest land is found 0.394 ha (software calculated) instead of 0.1305 ha as per the proposal. Therefore the State Govt. shall upload the correct KML file of proposed diversion.
- x. Satellite imagery shows the presence of plantation work from where the water pipeline is passing from the proposed diversion area. This needs clarification.
- xi. The user agency has not updated the Non-forest land involved in the project on the PARIVESH and same needs to be updated.
- xii. The user agency has not uploaded the complete KML file of forest land as Non-forest land involved in the project. Therefore, the State Govt. shall provide/upload the complete KML file showing the 'To' and 'Fro' passage of pipeline.
- xiii. The DGPS map of the proposed forest land has not been uploaded on PARIVESH which needs submission.
- xiv. The KML of CA against the present proposal shall be uploaded on PARIVESH portal.

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

Yours sincerely,

(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, Department of Forest, Government of Maharashtra, Nagpur;
4. User Agency;
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi for uploading on PARIVESH portal.