

SPEED POST

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भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय
REGIONAL OFFICE

पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
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F. No. 3 – MGC 034/2023 – SHI/ 1168

Dated: July 15th 2025

To

Inspector General of Forests
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Forest Conservation Division
Indira Paryavaran Bhavan
Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road
New Delhi – 110003

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 32.693 ha. of deemed forest land for construction of ancillary structures and for green belt at Mynkre, Jaintia Hills Territorial Division, East Jaintia Hills District in the State of Meghalaya (Online Proposal No. FP/ML/IND/150152/2021)- regarding

Ref: Government of India MoEF&CC FC Division Letter dated 21.01.2025

Sir,

With reference to the above cited subject, I am to inform you that the Site Inspection was carried out again on 04.07.2025 by AIGF RO Shillong and the revised Site Inspection report along with the recommendation is enclosed herewith as activities were carried out with all clearances prior to declaration of forest by JIT-I in 2012.

Yours Faithfully

Ms. Imtiena Ao

Deputy Director General of Forest

SITE INSPECTION REPORT

Proposal No- FP/ML/IND/150152/2021

F. No- 3-MG C 034/2023-SHI

Name of the Proposal:

Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 (I) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of **32.693 Ha** of Deemed forest land in respect to plant premises of Hill Cement Company Limited at Mynkre in East Jaintia Hills District for Captive Cement Plant.

1. Background note on the proposal:

State Government submitted the proposal for diversion of 32.693 Ha of Deemed forest land with respect to plant premises of Hill Cement Company Limited at Mynkre in East Jaintia Hills District vide letter *NO.FOR.22/2022/102* dated 31.10.2023. As per the provisions of Rule 10 (2) (v) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, the site inspection of this instant proposal was conducted earlier on 29.10.2024 and the area of violation at that time was found to be 12.12 Ha. Govt of India MoEF&CC (FC Division) vide letter dated 21.01.2025 instructed the Regional Office Shillong to revisit the area proposed for diversion and to submit the revised site inspection report. Accordingly, site inspection to the proposed area was carried out again by Shri Jiswordy Dkhar IFS, Assistant Inspector General of Forests (Central) Regional Office, Shillong on 04.07.2025 along with the following officials of the State Forest Department and representatives of User Agency: -

Sl No	Name	Designation	Department Name
1.	Shri M. Sarkar Jha IFS	DFO, Jaintia Hills (T) Division Jowai,	Forest and Environment, Meghalaya
2.	Shri T. Nongtdu FR	Range Officer, I/c Umkiang Range (T)	Forest and Environment, Meghalaya
3.	Shri Amit Kumar Mathur	Sr General Manager	M/s Hills Cement Company Limited

The User Agency has submitted the proposal for diversion of deemed forest land of 32.693 ha in possession of Hill Cement Company Limited at Mynkre in compliance to JIT-I report submitted by the Regional Office Shillong of MoEF&CC and State Forest Department, Govt. of Meghalaya in the year 2012. As per the JIT report, out of the whole area of cement plant premises of 68.313 ha, not less than 50% has been ascertained as forest land and the company was directed to apply for Forest Clearance under section 2(ii) of FCA, 1980. Hence, the proposal for the same has been submitted by the User Agency. The deemed forest land of 32.693 ha proposed is required for the Green Belt Development for the Cement Plant and other ancillary activities related to the Hills Cement Company Ltd.

Out of the proposed area of 32.693 Ha, an area of $(12.12 + 6.24) = 18.36$ Ha has already been diverted and broken prior to submission of proposal under FCA, 1980. As reported by the company, the said diversion and construction activities was carried out based on

the due clearances and No Objection Certificates (NOCs) issued by the concerned authorities, the timelines of which are as follows:

- i. U/A received No Objection Certificate from the Jaintia Hills Autonomous District Council (JHADC), Jowai for establishment of Cement Plant at Mynkre village of Khliehriat Sub-Division vide letter NO. JHADC/FOR/7/2006 dated **14th September, 2006**. (Annexure-I)
- ii. The Chief Forest Officer of the JHADC certified vide letter NO. JHADC/FOR/7/06/1552-53 dated 21st September, 2006 that the land is not recorded as Forest and cannot be classified as Forest as per its dictionary meaning. (Annexure 2) Subsequently, the PCCF, Govt. of Meghalaya vide letter dated **20th November, 2006** stated that "the tract of land on which M/s Hills Cement Company Ltd. wishes to establish its plant and building etc. would not fall under the purview of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. However, the Company should abide by all environmental and other laws in force". (Annexure 3)
- iii. The Conservator of Forests (M&E), Govt. of Meghalaya forwarded copy of Govt. approval for the "Grant of No Objection Certificate for setting up 600 TPD Cement Plant by M/s Hills Cement Company Ltd. at Mynkre Jaintia Hills" to the DFO Jaintia Hills (T) Division, Jowai vide letter dated **19th December, 2006**. (Annexure 4)
- iv. MoEF&CC vide letter No. J-11011/762/2007-IA II (I) dated **3rd June, 2009** granted Environmental Clearance (EC) to M/s Hills Cement Company Ltd for setting up of "Integrated Cement Plant and coal-based Captive Thermal Power Plant (10 Village Mynkre, P.O. Khliehriat, District Jaintia Hills Meghalaya". It is recorded in the EC that no forest land is involved. (Annexure 5)

2. Legal status of the forest land proposed for diversion.

Private Deemed Forest Land

3. Details of forest land proposed to be diverted:

Sl No	Division	Forest Land (Ha)	Non-Forest Land (Ha)
1.	Jaintia Hills	32.693	0
	Total	32.693	0

4. Component wise breakup

S.no	Component	Forest Land (Ha.)	Non-Forest Land (Ha.)
1.	Green Belt	10.00	0
2.	Ancillary Structures		
i.	Labour colony including STP & Parking area and Temple. (Reported area in last Site Inspection Report dated 29.10.2024)	12.12	0

ii. Staff Colony	5.0	0
iii. Stockyard for various materials, additives, etc (Newly detected as broken in this Site Inspection Report)	5.573	0
Total	32.693	0

Photographs enclosed.

5. Details of Previous violation(s), if any ,committed

- (a) Whether any work in violation of the Act or guidelines issued under the Act has been carried out : **Yes, but only prior to JIT-I report.**
- (b) Details of violation(s): An area of $(12.12 + 6.24) = 18.36$ Ha has been broken / diverted for Labour colony, Temple, Sewage Treatment plant , Parking area and stock area and other allied structure.
- (c) Period of Work done(year) : 15 yrs
- (d) Area of forest land involved in violation (in ha.) : $(12.12 + 6.24) = 18.36$ Ha

6. Whether proposal involves any construction of buildings (including residential) or not. If yes, details thereof.

Yes, establishment of staff colony will involve construction of residential structures. Moreover, an area of $(12.12 + 6.24) = 18.36$ Ha has already been broken for construction of Labour colony, Temple, Sewage Treatment plant, Parking area and stock area is under violation.

7. Total cost of the project at present rates.

Rs. 16925 (Lakhs)

8. Wildlife:

- (i) Details of wildlife present in and around the forest land proposed for diversion :

No wildlife census/estimate was done

- (ii) Whether forms part of national park, wildlife sanctuary, biosphere reserve, tiger reserve, elephant corridor, wildlife migration corridor etc:

No

- (iii) Whether the forest land proposed for diversion is located within eco-sensitive zone (ESZ) of the Protected Area notified under Wildlife (Protection) Act,1972 (Note: In case, ESZ of a Protected Area is not notified, then, 10kms distance from boundary of the Protected Area should be treated as ESZ):

The proposed area is located 8.7 km from (ESZ) of Narpuh Wildlife Sanctuary and 10.4 km from the boundary zone of the Narpuh Wildlife Sanctuary.

- (iv) Whether any national park, wildlife sanctuary, biosphere reserve, tiger reserve, elephant corridor, wildlife migration corridor etc., is located within 1 Km. from boundary of the forest land proposed for diversion:

No

- (v) Whether any rare/endangered/unique species of flora and fauna found in the area:
No

9. Vegetation

- (a) Total number of trees to be felled. Effect of removal of trees on the general ecosystem in the area.

380 Nos

S. No.	Scientific Name	Local Name	(0-30)cm.	(31-60)cm.	(61-90)cm.	(91-120)cm.	(121-150)cm.	(>150)cm.
1	Castanopsis Tribuloides	Dieng sohot	10	2	0	6	7	0
2	Schima Wallichii Chois	Dieng chyrngan	2	8	7	2	11	0
3	Misc. Species	Dieng khlaw	12	3	8	2	0	0
4	Bamboo	SIEH	300	0	0	0	0	0
Total			324	13	15	10	18	0

- (b) Important species:

NIL

10. Compensatory afforestation

- (a) Whether land for compensatory afforestation is suitable from plantation and management point of view or not.

Yes

- (b) Whether land for compensatory afforestation is free from encroachments/other incumbencies.

Yes

- (c) Whether land for compensatory afforestation is important from religious/ Archaeological point of view.

No

- (d) Map with details:

Maps of Compensatory Afforestation submitted. The DSS analysis of CA area is:

SI No	Shapefile Name	VDF	MDF	OF	Scrub	NF	Water	Total (Ha)
1.	Compensatory Afforestation	0	< 1 Ha	10.6	< 1 Ha	20.23	0	32.75

11. Total financial outlay of CA: ₹.31824655.00

- (a) 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.**

Aas per site inspection carried out on 04.07.2025 it was found that an area of $(12.12 + 6.24) = 18.36$ Ha is also part of 32.693 Ha and has already been diverted by UA for construction of cement plant and other ancillary structures. The said diversion has taken place prior to Joint Inspection Team (JIT-I) conducted in 2012, based on NOC, Non-Forest Land Certificate etc. issued by Competent Authority. Till date of Joint Inspection Team - I conducted in the year 2012, the status of the land on the Plant premises area i.e $(12.12\text{Ha} + 6.24\text{ Ha}) = 18.36\text{ Ha}$ was not conveyed as forest area. Based on the above facts diversion of $(12.12 + 6.24) = 18.36$ Ha may not be treated as diversion of forest area.

- (a) Details of violation: Area of $(12.12 + 6.24) = 18.36$ Ha has been broken for construction of Labour colony, Temple, Sewage Treatment Plant and Parking area, stock area and other allied structures.
(b) Period of Work done: 15 years
(c) Area of forest land involved in violation: $(12.12 + 6.24) = 18.36$ Ha
(d) Action taken against User Agency: No penalty has been imposed so far.

- (b) Whether proposal involves rehabilitation of displaced persons. If yes, whether rehabilitation plan has been prepared by the State Government or not.**

No

- (c) Details be furnished specifically if rehabilitation plan would affect any other forest area by translocating oustees in around the said forest.**

N/A

12. Reclamation plan:

Not required

13. Details on catchment and command area under the project. Catchment area treatment plan to prevent siltation of reservoir. Not required

14. Cost benefit ratio: Submitted

15. Recommendations of the Principal Chief Conservation of Forests/ State Government.

The proposal pertains to captive cement plant by M/s Hills Cement Company Ltd. at Mynkre, East Jaintia Hills District, Meghalaya. As per JIT-I report, the proposed land has been found to be a deemed forest land on inspection conducted by the Conservator of Forests T & WL, Khasi & Jaintia Hills, Shillong and the Divisional Forest officer, Jaintia Hills T Division, Jowai it was found and confirmed that an area of 12.12 ha. of land has already been broken for construction of plant activities. Since the proposed Land was broken prior to JIT- I, therefore

any decision on imposing penalty should be taken considering this fact. The proposal is recommended.

16. Recommendations of Deputy Director General of Forests (C) along with detailed reasons:

The proposed land is in the existing Cement Plant premises where an area of (12.12Ha + 6.24 Ha) = **18.36 Ha** of land has been broken for construction of various plant activities which were carried out based on the due clearances and NOCs issued by the JHADC and the Environmental and Forest Department, Govt. of Meghalaya. Further, Environmental Clearance dated 03.06.2009 was granted by MoEF&CC to the company for setting up of the Integrated Cement Plant and coal-based Captive Thermal Power Plant and it is recorded in EC that no forest land is involved. However, the Joint Inspection Team conducted site inspection in 2012 and as per the JIT-I report, the land of 32.693 HA which includes the broken area of (12.12 Ha + 6.24 Ha) = **18.36 Ha** was declared as Forest land and the Company was directed to apply for Forest Clearance under section 2 (ii) of FCA, 1980. The proposal is recommended as activities were carried out with due clearances and prior to declaration on the land as forest land by JIT.

17. Deputy Director General of Forests (C) shall give detailed comments on whether there are any alternatives routes/ alignments for locating the project on the non-forest land.

The proposal is in the existing cement plant premises part of which is already broken and set up. There is no alternative routes/alignment for locating the project on the non forest land.

18. Utility of the project.

90 Nos of persons as Permanent/ Regular Employment.

80 Nos of persons as Temporary Employment.

19. Whether land being diverted has any socio-cultural/religious value.

None

20. Whether any sacred grove or very old growth trees/forests exist in the areas proposed for diversion.

None

21. Whether the land under diversion forms part of any unique eco-system.

No

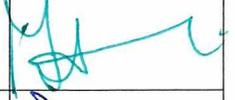
22. Situation w.r.t any PA:

8.7 km from ESZ of Narpuh Wildlife Sanctuary and 10.4 km from the boundary zone of Narpuh Wildlife Sanctuay

23. Any other information relating to the project:

None

24. Signature of the RO Officials

Sl.No	Name of Officials	Designation	Department Name	Signature
1	Ms Imtienla Ao IFS	Deputy Director General of Forest (C)	Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change	
2	Mr Jiswordy Dkhar (IFS)	Assistant Inspector General of Forest (C)	Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change	


(Mr. Jiswordy Dkhar)

असिस्टेंट इंस्पेक्टर जनरल ऑफ़ फॉरेस्ट्स (सेंट्रल)/
Assistant Inspector General of Forests (Central)