

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bag Road, Aliganj
New Delhi - 110003.
Dated:17-09-2024

To
The Addl. Chief Secretary (Forests),
Government of Odisha,
Bhubaneswar

Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for ex-post facto approval of encroachment over an area of 0.094 ha of Revenue Forest Land in favour of M/s Mayfair Hotels & Resorts Ltd., under Bhubaneswar Tahasil of Khordha District under Chandaka Wildlife Division, Odisha -reg.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the State Government of Odisha's letter No. FE-DIV-FLD-0023-2022-6485/FE&CC dated 02.04.2022 on the above mentioned proposal for seeking ex-post facto approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and to say that the proposal was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 27.08.2024. The minutes of the meeting of the AC may kindly be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. After going through the facts of the proposal, the Advisory Committee decided that recommendation made in the proposal mentioned at agenda item no. 22 (with regard to regularization of encroachment over an area of 0.248 ha of Revenue Forest Land) placed before the Advisory Committee meeting held on 27.08.2024 will apply **mutatis mutandis** to the extant proposal and sought the following information from the State Government:

- i. The State Govt. shall provide the detailed land use plan for the proposed forest land along with the details of its present land use.
- ii. The justification given by the State Govt. that land was allotted by the site selection committee and no individual is responsible is not tenable. The decision for allotment would have been taken with the approval of the competent authority on the recommendations of the site selection committee. Therefore, the State Govt. shall examine its records in detail and provide the details of the persons responsible for violation.
- iii. The Regional Office shall carry out site inspection in the instant proposal and shall also provide the detail of ongoing activities/violation, if any.
- iv. The State Government shall provide the list of the proposals and name of the User Agency whose details are mentioned in the Hon'ble NGT order dated 26.04.2022.
- v. The State Govt. has not taken any action against the erring officials responsible for violation and it is not known whether the UA has stopped

doing the further construction / expansion of their projects in violation. In this regard a detailed report shall be submitted by the State Govt.

In view of above, the State Government is requested to provide information, as indicated above, for further consideration of the proposal in the Ministry.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-

(Suneet Bhardwaj)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. PCCF (HoFF), Department of Forests, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
2. Dy. DGF (Central), Regional Office of the MoEF&CC at Bhubaneswar **with a request to carry out site inspection and also provide the detail of ongoing activities/violation, as per observation of AC.**
3. Nodal Officer (FCA), Department of Forests, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
4. User Agency
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi for uploading on PARIVESH portal.