

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

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**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: Diversion of 10.3391 ha Forest land in favour of MSETCL Thane, for construction of 220 KV LILO M/C Transmission Line on 220 KV Tarapur-Borivali and Boisar-Ghodbunder Transmission Line for 400 KM Kudus substation passing through Thane District in the State of Maharashtra (Online No. FP/MH/TRANS/48321/2020)- regarding.**

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Maharashtra's letter No. FLD-1223/CR-63/F-10 dated 01.09.2023 on the above mentioned subject, seeking prior approval of Central Government under Section-2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980, and to say that the said proposal has been examined by the Advisory Committee constituted by the Central Government under Section-3 of the aforesaid Act.

After careful examination of the proposal of the State Government and on the basis of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, and with due approval of the competent authority, the Central Government hereby accords "**In-principle/Stage-I**" approval under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 for diversion of 10.3391 ha Forest land in favour of MSETCL Thane, for construction of 220 KV LILO M/C Transmission Line on 220 KV Tarapur-Borivali and Boisar-Ghodbunder Transmission Line for 400 KM Kudus substation passing through Thane District in the State of Maharashtra subject to fulfillment of the following conditions:

- i. Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged;
- ii. *The penalty for violation shall be five times the NPV for the area used in violation plus 12% simple interest from the date of raising of such demand till the deposit is made;*
- iii. *The State shall initiate action under section 3A and /or 3B of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam,1980 as may be applicable for violation of the provisions of the said Adhinyam against such person or authority or organization, prima-facie found responsible for the violation;*
- iv. *A Plan for Conservation of Wildlife shall be prepared by the user agency in consultation with the forest department, which shall be approved by the Chief Wildlife Warden. The plan so approved shall be implemented at the cost of user agency;*
- v. The User Agency shall transfer the cost of raising and maintaining the

compensatory afforestation at the prevailing wage rates as per compensatory afforestation scheme and the cost of survey, demarcation and erection of permanent pillars if required on the CA land shall be deposited in consultation with State Forest Department in the account of CAMPA of the concerned State through online portal. The CA will be maintained for 10 years. The scheme may include appropriate provision for anticipated cost increase for works scheduled for subsequent years;

- vi. The User Agency shall transfer the funds towards the cost of Net Present Value (NPV) of the forest land being diverted under this proposal in accordance with the guidelines in the matter;
- vii. At the time of payment of the Net Present Value (NPV) at the present rate, the user agency shall furnish an undertaking to pay the additional amount of NPV, if so determined, as per the final decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India;
- viii. The user agency shall install circuit breakers at suitable places besides maintain necessary ground clearance to prevent electrocution of wild animals;
- ix. No approach road shall be constructed in the forest area for transportation of steel and other material required for the transmission line. As far as possible the User Agency shall use the existing road and the proposed RoW for the transportation of the material and in the event of non-availability of such facilities, the User Agency shall transport material manually without construction of any path;
- x. To minimize the felling for construction of transmission line, user agency shall comply with the following guidelines:
  - a. Below each conductor, width clearance would be permitted for carrying the tension stringing equipment. The trees on such strips may be felled but after stringing work is completed, the natural regeneration will be allowed to come up;
  - b. One outer strip may be left clear to permit maintenance of the transmission line;
  - c. In the remaining width the right of way felling/pollarding/pruning of trees will be done with the permission of the local forest officer whenever necessary to maintain the electrical clearance, trees shall be allowed to be felled or lopped to the extent required, for preventing electrical hazards by maintaining the minimum clearance between conductors and trees. The sag and swing of the conductors are to be kept in view while working out the minimum clearance mentioned as above;
  - d. User agency in consultation with the State Forest Department prepare a detailed scheme for creation and maintenance of plantation of dwarf species (preferably medicinal plants) in right of way under the transmission line, and provide funds for execution of the said scheme to the State Forest Department; and
  - e. In case a portion of the transmission lines to be constructed is located in hilly areas, where adequate clearance is already available, trees shall not be cut;
- xi. The complete compliance of the FRA, 2006 shall be ensured by way of prescribed certificate from the concerned District Collector;
- xii. The State Government shall upload the KML files of the area under diversion and the accepted area for raising compensatory afforestation in the E-green watch portal of FSI, before handing over forest land to the user agency;
- xiii. All the funds received from the user agency under the project shall be

- transferred/deposited in CAMPA account only through e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>); Amount deposited through other mode will not be accepted as compliance of the Stage-I clearance;
- xiv. Forest land will be handed over only after required non-forest land in the project is obtained by the user agency;
  - xv. The cost of felling of trees shall be deposited by the User Agency with the State Forest Department;
  - xvi. The User Agency shall restrict the felling of trees to minimum numbers in the diverted forest land and trees shall be felled under strict supervision of the State Forest Department;
  - xvii. The user agency shall explore the possibility of translocation of maximum number of trees identified to be felled and shall ensure that any tree felling shall be done only when it is unavoidable and that too under strict supervision of the State Forest Department;
  - xviii. The R&R Plan shall be implemented as per the R&R Policy of State Government in consonance with National R&R Policy, Government of India before the commencement of the project work and implementation. The said R&R Plan will be monitored by the State Government/Regional Office of MoEF&CC along with indicators for monitoring and expected observable milestones;
  - xix. The User Agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if required;
  - xx. No labour camp shall be established on the forest land and the User Agency shall provide fuels preferably alternate fuels to the labourers and the staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the nearby forest areas;
  - xxi. The boundary of the diverted forest land, shall be demarcated on ground at the project cost, by erecting four feet high reinforced cement concrete pillars, each inscribed with its serial number, distance from pillar to pillar and GPS coordinates;
  - xxii. The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agency, department or person without prior approval of the Central Government;
  - xxiii. No damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused;
  - xxiv. The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government;
  - xxv. No additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for the execution of this project;
  - xxvi. The period of diversion under this approval shall be co-terminus with the period of lease to be granted in favour of the user agency or the project life, whichever is less;
  - xxvii. The user agency in consultation with the State Government shall create and maintain alternate habitat/home for the avifauna, whose nesting trees are to be cleared in this project. Bird's nests artificially made out of eco-friendly material shall be used in the area, including forest area and human settlements, adjoining the forest area being diverted for the project;
  - xxviii. The concerned Divisional Forest Officer, will monitor and take necessary mitigative measures to ensure that there is no adverse impact on the forests in the surrounding area;
  - xxix. The User Agency shall submit the annual self -compliance report in respect of the above stated conditions to the State Government, concerned

Integrated Regional Office and to this Ministry by the end of March every year regularly;

- xxx. The user agency shall comply all the provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, Hon'ble Court Order (s) and NGT Order (s) pertaining to this project, if any, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project;
- xxxii. Any other condition that the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change may stipulate from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife ;
- xxxiii. Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and action would be taken as prescribed in para 1.16 of consolidated guidelines and clarifications issued under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 as issued by this Ministry on dated 29.12.2023;
- xxxiii. The compliance report shall be uploaded on e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>).

After receipt of compliance report on fulfillment of the conditions mentioned above, the proposal shall be considered for final approval under Section-2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. Transfer of forest land shall not be affected till final approval is granted by the Central Government in this regard.

Signed by

Yours sincerely,

Dheeraj Mittal

Date: 08-07-2024 09:28:47

(Dr. Dheeraj Mittal)

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