

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 *ex-post facto* approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 0.34 ha. forest land for rehabilitation and upgradation of Nagpur-Katol-Warud National Highway (NH-353J) from existing Km 60+100 (End of Katol bypass) to 101+085 (Warud up to Joint Junction) to two lane with paved shoulder in Villages-Paradsinga and Bharsingi, Taluka- Katol and Narkhed, District- Nagpur in the State Maharashtra in favour of National Highways Authority of India (Online No. FP/MH/ROAD/115795/2020) - regarding.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Maharashtra letter No. FLD-3423/CR-201/F-10 dated 20.07.2023 on the above- mentioned subject, 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 has been examined by the Advisory Committee constituted by the Central Government under Section-3 of the aforesaid Adhiniyam.

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 *ex-post facto* '**in-principle**' approval under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 0.34 ha. forest land for rehabilitation and upgradation of Nagpur-Katol-Warud National Highway (NH-353J) from existing Km 60+100 (End of Katol bypass) to 101+085 (Warud up to Joint Junction) to two lane with paved shoulder in Villages-Paradsinga and Bharsingi, Taluka- Katol and Narkhed, District- Nagpur in the State Maharashtra in favour of National Highways Authority of India subject to fulfilment of the following conditions:

- i. Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged;
- ii. *Compensatory Afforestation shall be carried over identified 1.00 ha Zudpi Jungle land in Compartment No 10, Range Kondhali, Nagpur District of Maharashtra State;*

- iii. The cost of 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 advance with the Forest Department by the user agency. The CA will be maintained for 10 years. The scheme may include afforestation of indigenous species with appropriate provision for anticipated cost increase for works scheduled for subsequent years;
- iv. *The matter regarding imposition of penal CA is under consideration for the formulation of a uniform policy guideline in the matter. Keeping this in view, the imposition of penal CA (if any) shall be as per the said guideline, if issued;*
- v. 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 MoEF&CC's guidelines dated 6.01.2022 read with guidelines dated 19.01.2022;
- vi. 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;
- vii. *The penalty for violation shall be equal to NPV of forest land per hectare for each year of violation from the date of actual diversion as reported by the inspecting officer with maximum up to five (5) times the NPV plus 12 percent simple interest from the date of raising of such demand till the deposit is made;*
- viii. *The State Government shall initiate the action as applicable under section 3A/3B for the violation of the Adhiniyam;*
- ix. 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;
- x. 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;
- xi. Overburden shall not be dumped outside the width of the road. The muck generated in the earth cuttings will be disposed of at the designated dumping sites and in no case the muck/debris will be allowed to roll down the hill slopes;
- xii. The user agency will provide retaining walls, breast walls and drainage as per requirement to make the slope stable;
- xiii. The User agency will undertake comprehensive soil conservation measures at the project cost in consultation with the State Forest Department. A scheme of the same shall be submitted to the Ministry along with the in-principle compliance report;
- xiv. Wherever possible and technically feasible, the User Agency shall undertake afforestation measures along the roads within the area diverted under this approval, in consultation with the State Forest Department at the project cost;
- xv. The designing of culverts/bridges, if any, over the natural

streams/rivers/canals should be done in such a manner that it does not hamper the natural course of water, does not give rise to waterlogging, and also does not hamper movement of wild animals;

- xvi. The User Agency, if required, shall obtain the Environment Clearance under the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 issued under the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986;
- xvii. 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, forward and back bearing and distance from pillar to pillar;
- xviii. No labour camp shall be established on the forest land and the User Agency shall provide firewood 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;
- xix. The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal;
- xx. The User Agency shall ensure that because of this project, no damage is caused to the wildlife available in the area;
- xxi. 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;
- xxii. The cost of felling of trees shall be deposited by the User Agency with the State Forest Department;
- xxiii. The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government;
- xxiv. 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;
- xxv. 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;
- xxvi. The User Agency shall implement the R & R Plan, if applicable, 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;
- xxvii. The User Agency shall submit the annual self -compliance report in respect of the above stated conditions to the State Government, concerned Regional Office and to this Ministry by the end of March every year regularly;
- xxviii. 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;
- xxix. Any other condition that the concerned Regional Office of this Ministry may stipulate with the approval of competent authority in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife;

- xxx. 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 Chapter 1 of the Consolidated Guidelines and Clarifications on Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 as issued by this Ministry's letter dated 29.12.2023;
- xxxi. The compliance report shall be uploaded on e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>).

After receipt of compliance report on fulfilment 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.

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-

(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.