

**File No: 8-08/2024-FC (E- 237323)**  
**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 Madhya Pradesh,  
Bhopal.

**Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion 49.320 ha Reserved Forest land (34.45 ha in Sendhwa Forest Division and 14.87 ha in Khargon Forest Division) in favour of Water Resource Department for the construction of Sonkhedi Tank Project under Barwani District of Madhya Pradesh State (Proposal No. FP/MP/IRRIG/155614/2022) – reg.**

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Madhya Pradesh's letter no.F-3/129/2022/10-11/10/1903 dated 02.04.2024 on the above mentioned subject, seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. The proposal was accorded '*In-Principle*' (Stage-I) approval by the Central Government vide letter dated 14.08.2025. The Government of Madhya Pradesh has reported/submitted the compliance report vide letters dated 05.01.2026 to the conditions stipulated in the '*In-Principle*' approval and requested for grant of final approval.

2. In this connection, I am directed to say that on the basis of the compliance report furnished by the Government of Madhya Pradesh vide letter dated 05.01.2026, Stage-II/Final approval of the Central Government is hereby granted under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 49.320 ha Reserved Forest land (34.45 ha in Sendhwa Forest Division and 14.87 ha in Khargon Forest Division) in favour of Water Resource Department for the construction of Sonkhedi Tank Project under Barwani District of Madhya Pradesh State subject to fulfillment of the following conditions:

- i. Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged.
- ii. The State Government shall follow all the regulations of dam safety as per Dam Safety Act, 2021.
- iii. The Compensatory Afforestation shall be raised on identified non-forest land/Degraded Forest land and the work for compensatory afforestation shall start within a period of two years from the date of issue of Final approval and maintained thereafter in accordance with the approved scheme at the cost of the user agency.
- iv. The CA will be maintained for 10 years. The scheme shall include

afforestation of indigenous species with appropriate provision for anticipated cost increase for works scheduled for subsequent years.

- v. The non-forest land transferred and mutated in favour of the State Forest Department or the revenue forest land, as the case may be, shall be notified by the State Government as Protected Forests under section 29 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 or under the relevant section(s) of the local Forest Act, before handing over the forest land to the user agency.
- vi. The User Agency shall pay the additional amount of NPV, if so determined, as per the final decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.
- vii. The State Government shall ensure that the approved Catchment Area Treatment (CAT) Plan shall be implemented.
- viii. The State Government shall upload the KML files of the area under diversion and area earmarked for CA in the e-Green watch portal of FSI, before handing over forest land to the user agency.
- ix. The User Agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance as per the provision of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if required.
- x. The user agency shall carry out muck disposal at pre-designated sites in such a manner so as to avoid its rolling down.
- xi. The dumping area for muck disposal shall be stabilized and reclaimed by planting suitable species by the user agency at the cost of project under the supervision of State Forest Department. Retaining walls and terracing shall be carried out to hold the dumping material in place.
- xii. The user agency shall provide free water for the forestry related projects.
- xiii. The felling of trees shall be restricted to FRL4 meter only. Number of trees to be removed shall be kept at barest minimum during the execution of the project.
- xiv. 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.
- xv. 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.
- xvi. 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.
- xvii. The cost of felling of trees shall be deposited by the User Agency with the State Forest Department.
- xviii. 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.
- xix. The boundary of the diverted forest land, mining lease and safety zone, as applicable, 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.

- xx. The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government and the forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal except the change in land use allowed on the forest land vide Ministry's guideline dated 26.12.2024.
- xxi. 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.
- xxii. No damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused.
- xxiii. 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.
- xxiv. 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.
- xxv. 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.
- xxvi. 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.
- xxvii. The State Government shall complete settlement of rights, in terms of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, if any, on the forest land to be diverted and submit the documentary evidence as prescribed by this Ministry in its letter No. 11-9/1998-FC (pt.) dated 03.08.2009, in support thereof.
- xxviii. The State Government after receiving the 'Final Approval' of the Central Government under subsection (1) of Section 2 of the Adhiniyam, and after fulfillment and compliance of the provisions of the all other acts and rules made thereunder, as applicable including ensuring of settlement of rights under the Scheduled Tribes or Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act. 2006 (2 of 2007), shall issue order for diversion.

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-

(Prashant Rajagopal)

Deputy Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:-

1. The PCCF (HoFF), Department of Forest, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal;
2. The Dy. DGF (Central), Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Bhopal;
3. The Nodal Officer, Department of Forest, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal;
4. User Agency;
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi for uploading on PARIVESH portal.

