

F. No. 3-MGC017/2022-SHI
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Aliganj, Jor Bag Road,
New Delhi- 110003.
Dated:14-05-2026

To,

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Forest and Environment Department,
Government of Meghalaya,
Shillong.

Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 in favour of Green Valley Industries Ltd. for non-forestry use of 11.09 ha of deemed forest land for Opencast Limestone Mining Project (10.71 Ha MiningArea + 0.38 ha approach road to mine) located at Madan Pyrda, Chiehruphi village in East Jaintia Hills District of Meghalaya (Online Proposal No. FP/ML/MIN/40422/2019)– regarding.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to Government of Meghalaya letter No. FOR.64/2021/91 dated 18.04.2022 on the above mentioned subject, seeking prior approval of Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980. After careful consideration of the proposal, **'in-principle'/Stage-I** approval to the proposal was granted vide this Ministry letter of even number dated 01.10.2024 subject to fulfilment of certain conditions prescribed therein. The State Government has furnished compliance report in respect of the conditions stipulated in the in-principle approval and has requested the Central Government to grant final approval.

2. In this connection, I am directed to say that on the basis of the compliance report furnished by the Government of Meghalaya on 04.02.2026 and 05.05.2026 forwarding additional information as sought by the Ministry on 01.04.2026, **'final approval/ Stage- II'** of the Central Government is hereby granted under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 in favour of Green Valley Industries Ltd. for non-forestry use of 11.09 ha of deemed forest land for Opencast Limestone Mining Project (10.71 Ha MiningArea + 0.38 ha approach road to mine) located at Madan Pyrda, Chiehruphi village in East Jaintia Hills District of Meghalaya subject to fulfilment of the following conditions:-

- i. Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged;
- ii. The State Government shall ensure that Compensatory Afforestation over 11.09 ha non forest land at Nongumiang Village of West Khasi Hills District is initiated within two years from the date of issue of Stage– II approval and maintained thereafter as per approved plan by the State Forest Department at the cost of the user agency. Further, as far as possible, a mixture of local

indigenous species shall be planted and monoculture of any species may be avoided

- iii. The State Government shall ensure compliance of following conditions in accordance with the recommendations made by the Regional Empowered Committee at the cost of User Agency:
 - a. Survey of Floral and Faunal of the area under Eco-Sensitive Zone.
 - b. Nature Interpretation Centre including all accessories, interior designing, sitting benches, approach road etc.
 - c. Creation of an Arboretum.
- v. The State Government has realized the NPV of the forest area diverted under this proposal from the User Agency, as per the orders dated 28.03.2008, 24.04.2008 and 09.05.2008 passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 202/1995 and the guidelines given under para 3 of the Chapter- 3 of the Consolidate Guidelines and Clarifications issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 published by the Ministry on 29.12.2023, 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;
- vi. The Compensatory levies to be realized from the User Agency under the project shall be transferred/ deposited, through e-challan, in to the account of National Authority, CAMPA pertaining to the State concerned through e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>);
- vii. Following activities, as per approved plan/schemes, shall be undertaken in the lease area by the User Agency under the supervision of the State Forest Department:
 - a. Mitigative measures to minimize soil erosion and choking of stream shall be implemented within a period of two year with effect from the issue of Stage-II clearance in accordance with the approved Plan in consultation with the State Forest Department;
 - b. Planting of adequate plant species and sowing of seeds, in the appropriate area within the mining lease to arrest soil erosion in accordance with the approved scheme;
 - c. Construction of check dams, retention /toe walls to arrest sliding down of the excavated material along the contour in accordance with the approved scheme;
 - d. Stabilize the overburden dumps by appropriate grading/benching, in accordance with the approved scheme, so as to ensure that angles of repose at any given place is less than 28° ; and
 - e. No damage shall be caused to the top-soil and the user agency will

follow the top soil management plan;

- viii. The following activities, at the project cost, shall be undertaken by the User Agency for management of safety zone as per relevant guidelines issued by the Ministry's guidelines:
 - a. User agency shall ensure demarcation of safety zone (7.5 meter strip all along the inner boundary of the mining lease area), and its fencing, protection and regeneration by erecting adequate number of 6 feet high RCC boundary pillars inscribed with DGPS coordinates with barbed wire fencing and deploying adequate number of watchers under the supervision of the State Forest Department;
 - b. Boundary of safety zone of the mining lease, adjacent to habitation/roads, should be properly fenced by the User Agency;
 - c. Safety zone shall be maintained as green belt along the inner boundary of mining lease and to ensure dense canopy in the area, regeneration shall be taken up in this area by the user agency at project cost under the supervision of the State Forest Department; and
 - d. The State Government and the user agency shall ensure that safety zone is maintained as per the prescribed norms;
- ix. The State Government shall ensure that trees are felled in phased manner as per the requirement in the approved Plan with prior permission of concerned DFO:
- x. The cost of felling of trees shall be deposited by the User Agency with the State Forest Department;
- xi. The State Government shall ensure that 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;
- xii. The State Government shall ensure that user agency shall undertake mining in a phased manner after taking due care for reclamation of the mined over area. The concurrent reclamation plan as per the approved mining plan shall be executed by the User Agency from the very first year, and an annual report on implementation thereof shall be submitted to the Nodal Officer, in the concerned State Government and the concerned Regional Office of the Ministry. If it is found from the annual report that the activities indicated in the concurrent reclamation plan are not being executed by the User Agency, the Nodal Officer or the concern Addl. Principle Chief Conservator of Forests (Central) may direct that the mining activities shall remain suspended till such

- time, such reclamation activities area satisfactorily executed;
- xiii. The State Government shall ensure that user agency shall surrender the mined out and reclaimed forest land in accordance with approved mining plan;
 - xiv. The rehabilitated forest area after closure of mining operations shall be handed over to the State Forest Department for sustainable forest management in the future;
 - xv. The Period of diversion of the said forest land under this approval shall be for a period co-terminus with the period of the mining lease proposed to be granted under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, as amended and the Rules framed there-under;
 - xvi. The User Agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if required;
 - xvii. The State Government shall ensure that user agency shall provide free water for forestry related activities/ projects;
 - xviii. The State Government shall ensure that 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 State Government shall ensure that no additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for transportation of construction materials for execution of the project work;
 - xx. The State Government shall ensure that 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;
 - xxi. The State Government shall ensure that layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government;
 - xxii. The State Government shall ensure that forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the project proposal;
 - xxiii. The State Government shall ensure that 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;
 - xxiv. The State Government shall ensure that no damage to the flora, fauna or the environment of the adjoining area shall be caused; Adequate measures to ensure no damage to the adjoining areas should be taken by the User Agency at the project cost;
 - xxv. The State Government shall ensure that 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;
- xxvi. The State Government shall ensure that 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;
- xxvii. 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 shall be carried with by the State Government and User Agency;
- xxviii. The State Government and user agency shall ensure compliance to all conditions stipulated in the 'in-principle' approval letter dated 08.12.2022 for which undertakings have been obtained from the user agency and also the provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations and Guidelines, relevant Hon'ble Court Order (S) and NGT Order (S), if any, or the time being in force, including compliance of the Schedule Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forests Rights) Act, 2006, before handing over the forest land to the user agency; and
- xxix. 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 issued under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 as issued by this Ministry's letter No. 5-2/2017-FC dated 29.12.2023.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-
(Charan Jeet Singh)
Scientist 'E'

Copy to: -

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Government of Meghalaya, Shillong.
2. The DDGF (C) Regional Office, Shillong, MoEF&CC.
3. The APCCF-cum-Nodal Officer, FCA, Government of Meghalaya, Shillong.
4. The Monitoring Cell, MoEF&CC, New Delhi.
5. User Agency.