



भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS & CLIMATE CHANGE

Regional Office, Ground Floor, East Wing,

New Secretariat Building Civil Lines, Nagpur - 440001,

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F.No. FC-II/MH-147/2021-NGP/144/14

Date: 30.06.2025

To,

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Revenue and Forest Department,
Hutatma Rajguru Chowk
Madam Cama Marg, Mantralaya, Mumbai- 400032.

Sub: Diversion of 7.332 ha forest land under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in favour of Executive Engineer, National Highway Division, Nashik for improvement and Upgradation of 2 lane paved shoulder including strengthening of Nashik-Peth section KM 11/600 to KM 65/600 of National Highway-848 in Nashik District in the State of Maharashtra- Final approval -regarding.

Sir,

The undersigned is directed to refer to the Government of Maharashtra's letter no. FLD-1521/C.R.76/F-10 dated 16.03.2021 and APCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Maharashtra letter No. Desk-17/NC/I/ID-12751/1164/20-21 dated 04.02.2021 on the above subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section-2 of **Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980**. After careful examination of the proposal of the State Government, **'in-principle'** approval was accorded by the Central Government vide its letter of even number dated 16.01.2023. The Addl. PCCF and Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Maharashtra, vide his letter no. Desk-17/Nodal/Nashik/PID-12751/701/2025-26 dated 24.06.2025 submitted compliance report and requested to grant final approval to the proposal.

After careful consideration of the proposal and compliance report, I am directed to convey the Central Government's **'final approval'** under Section- 2 of the **Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980** for diversion of 7.332 ha forest land under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in favour of Executive Engineer, National Highway Division, Nashik for improvement and Upgradation of 2 lane paved shoulder including strengthening of Nashik-Peth section KM 11/600 to KM 65/600 of National Highway-848 in Nashik District in the State of Maharashtra subject to the fulfilment of the following conditions:

- i. Legal status of the forest land shall remain unchanged;

- ii. The boundary of the diverted forest land shall be suitably demarcated on ground by the **State Forest Department at the cost of the User Agency;**
- iii. Compensatory afforestation shall be taken up by the Forest Department over **7.33 ha.** Non-Forest Land in Survey/Gut No. 70 at Village- Umbardahad, Taluka- Peth, District- Nashik from the amount which has already been realised from the User Agency. As far as possible, a mixture of local indigenous species along with 10% RET species of Nashik District shall be planted and monoculture of any species may be avoided. At least two water bodies shall be constructed in the form of tank/ stop dams etc if the same are not available in the area or in nearby vicinity. Further, if existing tanks/ stop dams are available and needs desilting/ repair; same shall be carried out to meet the water requirement of wild animals throughout the year;
- iii. **The non-forest land proposed for CA has been transferred and mutated in the name of Forest Department. The State Government shall notified CA area as RF/PF. before handing over of the forest area to the User Agency. A copy of the original notification declaring the non-forest land under Section 4 or Section 29 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927, or under the relevant section of the State Forest Act as the case may to be submitted to this office for record purpose;**
- iv. Additional amount of the NPV of the diverted forest land, if any, becoming due after finalization of the same by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India on receipt of the report from the Expert Committee, shall be charged by the State Government from the User Agency.
- v. User agency shall restrict the felling of trees to minimum number in the diverted forest land and the trees shall be felled under the strict supervision of the State Forest Department and the cost of felling of trees shall be deposited by the User Agency with the State Forest Department;
- vi. The State Government, Maharashtra/ Nodal Officer (FCA), Maharashtra shall ensure settlement of rights under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (No. 2 of 2007) before issuing an order for handing over of forest land to the User Agency as per VSS Rule;
- vii. To improve the Forest/ Tree cover and to reduce pollution in the State, as mandated in National Forest Policy, 1988 and Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986 respectively, the User Agency with involvement of Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMC's) and in consultation with local DCF shall raise at least 15,000 seedlings of forestry species along with bamboo, fruit bearing, medicinal, ornamental and indigenous/local for 10 years.

- At least 50% of seedlings shall be planted in the vicinity of project area and remaining 50% of seedlings shall be distributed among villagers as per choice of villagers. The concerned JFMC's shall maintain record of plantation/ seedling distribution to villagers;
- viii. The trees having bird nests shall not be felled without written permission from the DCF concern both in forest as well as non-forest land;
 - ix. For smooth movement of resident wildlife especially leopard and cattle the underpasses shall be constructed at all the locations identified by the DCF, West Nashik, further all hume pipes shall be converted into the box culverts of minimum 2x3 meters size;
 - x. The forest area (including Private Forest) part of old road and now left over due to realignment shall be dismantled and handed over to Forest Department and planting of local indigenous species shall be done by the State Government at the cost of User Agency;
 - xi. **The avenue plantation of 8 ft tall plants shall be carried out by the State Forest Department from the amount which has already been realised from the User Agency as per IRC norms;**
 - xii. Speed regulating signage will be erected along the road at regular intervals in the Protected Areas/ Forest Areas;
 - xiii. User Agency shall obtain Environmental Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if applicable;
 - xiv. The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without prior approval of Central Government;
 - xv. No labour camp shall be established on the forest land;
 - xvi. Sufficient firewood, preferably the alternate fuel, shall be provided by the User Agency to the labourer after purchasing the same from the State Forest Department or the Forest Development Corporation or any other legal source of alternate fuel;
 - xvii. No additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for transportation of construction materials for execution of the project work;
 - xviii. 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;
 - xix. The Forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the project proposal and **diverted forest area shall not exceed 7.332 ha;**
 - xx. The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agencies, department or person without prior approval of Govt. of India;
 - xxi. Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of **Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam 1980** and action



- would be taken as per the provision of **Adhiniyam** and rules/guidelines issued there under;
- xxii. 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;

This issues with the approval of Competent Authority, Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Nagpur.

Yours faithfully,



(Vijay Sahebrao Kanthale)
AIGF (Central)

Copy to:

- i. The IGF (RoHQ), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jorbagh Road, Aliganj, New Delhi- 110003.
- ii. The PCCF (HoFF), Government of Maharashtra, Nagpur.
- iii. The Addl. PCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Maharashtra, Nagpur.
- iv. User agency.
- v. Guard file.



(Vijay Sahebrao Kanthale)
AIGF (Central)