

**File No. FC-I/MH-335/2023-NGP**  
**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 *ex-post facto* approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 3.064 ha Protected/ Zudpi Forest land for laying of 220 KV Umred to Nagbhid Extra High Voltage electricity transmission project in favour of EHV Project Division, MSETCL in Nagpur-Chandrapur District in the State of Maharashtra (Online No. FP/MH/TRANS/44469/2020) -regarding**

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Maharashtra's letter No. FLD-2022/CR-306/F-10 dated 16.06.2023 on the above mentioned subject, seeking prior approval of 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 Act. After careful consideration of the proposal by the Advisory Committee and with due approval of the competent authority, *in-principle* approval for the above subject proposal was granted vide this Ministry's letter of even number dated 21.03.2025, subject to fulfillment of certain conditions.

2. In this connection, I am directed to say that on the basis of the compliance report furnished by the Government of Maharashtra vide letter No. FLD-2022/CR-306/F-10 dated 06.05.2025 and letter No. FLD-2022/CR-306/F-10 dated 07.07.2025 '**Final approval**' of the Central Government is hereby accorded under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of diversion of 3.064 ha Protected/ Zudpi Forest land for laying of 220 KV Umred to Nagbhid Extra High Voltage electricity transmission project in favour of EHV Project Division, MSETCL in Nagpur-Chandrapur 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 Regional Office, Nagpur shall initiate action under section 3A/3B of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 (as applicable).*
- iii. **Compensatory Afforestation (CA)**
  - a. Compensatory Afforestation over the identified degraded forest area of 6.13 ha on Compartment no. 849, Range North Bramhapuri, District Chandrapur, Maharashtra state shall be raised at the project cost under the supervision of the State Forest Department and Afforestation works maintained thereafter in accordance with the approved CA scheme in consultation with the State Forest Department;

- b. 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;
- c. The land identified for the purpose of CA shall be clearly depicted on Survey of India toposheet map of 1:50,000 scale;
- d. *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 applicable.*
- e. *As recommended by the Regional Office in the SIR, the revised CA scheme with prevailing wage rate and provision of chain link fencing and solar borewell prepared by the State Forest Department shall be implemented.*

iv. The State Government has realized the NPV of the forest area diverted under this proposal from the User Agency in accordance with the MoEF&CC's guidelines dated 6.01.2022 read with guidelines dated 19.01.202, 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;

v. 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 PSI, before handing over forest land to the user agency;

vi. The User Agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act; 1986; if required;

vii. The State Govt. shall ensure that width of right of way for the transmission line shall be limited to 35 meter;

viii. The State Govt. shall ensure that the user agency shall install circuit breakers at suitable places besides maintain necessary ground clearance to prevent electrocution of wild animals;

ix. The State Govt. shall ensure that 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. The State Govt. shall ensure that to minimize the felling for construction of transmission line, user agency shall comply with the following guidelines :

(a) Below each conductor, width clearance of 3 meters 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

4.6 meter 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 State Govt. 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;

xii. The State Govt. shall ensure that 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;

xiii. The State Govt. shall ensure that the forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal;

xiv. The User Agency shall ensure that because of this project, no damage is caused to the wildlife available in the area;

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 cost of felling of trees shall be deposited by the User Agency with the State Forest Department;

xvii. The State Govt. shall ensure that the layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government;

xviii. The State Govt. shall ensure that 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;

xix. 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;

xx. The User Agency shall ensure that 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;

xxi. 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;

xxii. 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;

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; xxix. 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;

xxiv. 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;

xxv. The State Government and user agency shall ensure compliance to all conditions stipulated in the '*in-principle*' approval letter of even no. dated 21.03.2025 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, for the time being in force, including compliance of the Schedule Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forests Rights) Act, 2006;

xxvi. As per Sub-rule 7 of Rule 11 of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 the State Govt. after receiving the 'Final' approval of the Central Government under sub-section (1) of section 2 of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and after fulfillment and compliance of the provisions of all other Acts and rules made there under, as applicable including ensuring settlement of rights under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (2 of 2007), shall issue order for diversion of forest land.

Yours faithfully,

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.