



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS &
CLIMATE CHANGE
Sub-Office, Raipur
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NAYA RAIPUR, ATAL NAGAR, CHHATTISGARH -
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F.No. FC-III/IROCH-04/2022(01)/61

Date: 22.08.2025

To,

Principal Secretary (Forests),
Government of Chhattisgarh, Forest Department, Mantralaya,
Mahanadi Bhavan, Nava Raipur, Atal Nagar (Chhattisgarh).

Sub- Diversion of 228.0425 ha of forest land in favour of NHAI PIU Dhamtari for Development of economics corridors , Inter-corridors , feeder routes and coastal road to improve the efficiency of freight movement in India (Lot-03/Odisha and Jharkhand /package-2) Raipur-Vishakhapatnam (CH.0.000-ch.124.661) in the state of Chhattisgarh under Bhartmala Pariyojna (Forest proposal is for between km 42+844 to km 124.661)-reg.

Sir,

The undersigned is directed to refer to the State Government of Chhattisgarh, vide letter No. F-5-29/2021 /10-2 dated 07.01.2022 submitted by the Government of Chhattisgarh seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section-2 (1) of the **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 12.04.2022 for an area of 180.1675 and imposed few additional conditions vide letter dated 02.12.2022. and vide letter dated 04.07.2023 conveyed in principle approval for an area of 47.875 ha and vide letter dated 03.04.2025 amended few conditions. The State Government of Chhattisgarh vide letter no. F-5-29/2021/10-2 dated 25.11.2024 and letter no. F-5-29/2021/10-2 dated 18.08.2025 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 **228.0425 ha** of forest land in favour of NHAI PIU Dhamtari for Development of Economic Corridors, Inter-corridors, feeder routes and Coastal Road to improve the efficiency of freight movement in India (Lot-3/Odisha & Jharkhand/Package-2) Raipur-Vishakhapatnam (Ch. 0.000 - Ch. 124.661) in the State of Chhattisgarh under Bharatmala Pariyojana. (Forest Proposal is for between km 42+844 to Km 124.661), in Dhamtari, Kanker and Keshkal in the State of Chhattisgarh subject to the fulfilment of the following conditions:

- Legal status of the forest land shall remain unchanged;
- Compensatory afforestation shall be taken up by the Forest Department over 457 ha spread in 19 patches in 03 forest ranges in Mahasamund Forest

- Divison. Orange Forest Area in Rajnandgoan division at the cost of the user agency. As far as possible, a mixture of local indigenous species shall be planted and monoculture of any species may be avoided;
- iii. 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;
 - vi. **The 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 at the cost of the User Agency.**
 - vii. To minimise the ecological impact of the project, the State Forest Department shall undertake Assisted Natural Regeneration; (ANR) by restocking with native species in forest areas adjacent to the road alignment over an area of 223 hectares, to be identified by the Forest Department. These activities shall be carried out in accordance with the applicable working plan prescriptions from the amount which has already been realized from the User Agency, .
 - viii. **As per the plantation plan submitted by the User Agency, avenue plantation of 85,406 trees shall be undertaken within the Right of Way (RoW) across both forest and non-forest stretches of the project. The User Agency shall ensure the survival of these plantations through ensuring appropriate care including watering, watch and ward, and submit six-monthly reports on plantations be submitted to the RO and also the State Forest Department for monitoring. The User Agency shall be responsible for both plantation and maintenance.**
 - ix. The State Forest Department and the User Agency shall strictly comply with all conditions / recommendation of the SC NBWL at the cost of the User Agency.
 - x. Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan approved by Principal Chief Conservator of Forest and Chief Wildlife Warden, Government of Chhattisgarh as per the WII shall be complied with at the cost of the User Agency;
 - xi. The clearance from Project Elephant Division, may be obtained, if required;
 - xii. User Agency shall obtain Environmental Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if applicable;
 - xiii. The State Government, Chhattisgarh/ Nodal Officer (FCA), Chhattisgarh 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;
 - xiv. Strip plantations on both sides and central verge of the road as per the IRC norms shall be raised by the State Forest department by planting tall seedlings of 8-10 feet in height at the cost of User Agency, further; same shall be protected by chain linked fencing at least for initial three years of its growth. In forest patches, preference shall be given to native forest species;
 - xv. Speed regulating signage will be erected along the road at regular intervals in the Forest Areas;
 - xvi. User Agency in consultation with forest department shall prepare 26 Underpasses, one tunnel of length 2.83 km and 3 viaducts having total length 960 meter along with the following structures:

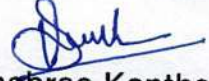
- o 29 nos. of Monkey Canopy.

- 5 nos. of Major Bridges, 37 nos. of Minor Bridges.
 - 3 nos. Viaduct, 14 nos. of VUP, 2 nos. VOP, 33 nos. of LVUP and 233 nos. of Box culverts.
- xix. The User Agency in consultation with Forest Department shall provide under/over pass for safe passage of wild animals at suitable places as per Wildlife Institute of India's manual entitled "Ecofriendly Measures to Mitigate Impacts of Linear Infrastructure on Wildlife" published in 2016;
- xx. NHAI shall develop a separate nursery at one or more places to raise at least 50,000 seedlings of forestry species along with bamboo, fruit bearing, medicinal, ornamental and indigenous/local every year. At least 50% of seedlings shall be planted by User Agency in the vicinity of project area including forest area and for better relation with local people residing in vicinity of proposed road, NHAI shall voluntarily distribute remaining 50% of seedlings to them free of cost. A compliance report including species wise details of seedlings raised, location of plantation area and details of villagers whom seedlings have been distributed need to be prepared every six month and submitted to Regional Office of MoEF&CC;
- xxi. The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without prior approval of Central Government;
- xxii. No labour camp shall be established on the forest land;
- xxiii. 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;
- xxiv. The boundary of the diverted forest land shall be suitably demarcated on ground at the project cost, as per the directions of the concerned Divisional Forest Officer;
- xxv. No additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for transportation of construction materials for execution of the project work;
- xxvi. 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;
- xxvii. The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the project proposal;
- xxviii. 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;
- xxix. 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;
- xxx. 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, MoEF&CC New Delhi for information please
- ii. The PCCF & HoFF, Government of Chhattisgarh, Sector-19, Aranya Bhavan, Atal Nagar, Naya Raipur (CG).
- iii. The Addl. PCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Chhattisgarh, Sector-19, Aranya Bhavan, Atal Nagar, Naya Raipur (CG).
- iv. User Agency.
- v. Guard File



(Vijay Sahebrao Kanthale)
AIGF (Central)

