

Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bag Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi – 110003
Dated: March, 2024

To,

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Government of Maharashtra,
Mumbai.

Subject: Diversion of 263.5406 ha forest land under Adhinyam, 1980 for construction of Sambarkund Irrigation Project at Village Mahan, Taluka Alibag, District Raigad in the State of Maharashtra (Online No. FP/MH/IRRIG/142819/2021) - regarding.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Maharashtra letter no. FLD-2022/C.R-294/F-10 dated 18.11.2022 forwarding a proposal to obtain prior approval of the Central Government, in terms of the section 2 (1) (ii) of the Adhinyam, 1980 and to say that the said proposal was placed before the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 28.02.2024. The minutes of the meeting of the AC may kindly be seen at www.parivesh.nic.in. After detailed deliberation on the matter, the Committee deferred the proposal for diversion of 263.5406 ha forest land for construction of Sambarkund Irrigation Project and sought the following details:

- i. The details about the command area, irrigation potential, present cropping pattern, total population of the villages to be benefitted and the likely impact of the project on cropping pattern in future is essential for evaluating the socio-economic benefits of the project. The State shall submit a detailed report on these aspects.
- ii. The majority of the proposed Compensatory Afforestation land is not free from encumbrances and is not suitable for carrying out plantation. Therefore, the State shall submit duly certified map of 395 ha NFL earmarked for the Compensatory Afforestation clearly showing the area actually available for plantation and the area which is not available for plantation. The certificate has to be signed by an officer not below the rank of the APCCF cum Nodal Officer (VSESA).
- iii. The state shall ensure that the area proposed for CA is non-forest land and the same has been handed over to the forest department during the year 1997 for the purpose of Compensatory Afforestation only. A certificate from the State Govt./PCCF(HoFF) along with documentary evidence shall be submitted.
- iv. The Regional Office has recommended that the State Government be asked

to take necessary steps to evict encroachments claimed to be over 30 ha and notify the entire area of 395 ha NFL as RF / PF. The State shall submit an undertaking in this regard.

In view of the above, the State Government is requested to furnish the information as above for further consideration of the proposal.

Yours sincerely,

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 (FCA), Department of Forest, Government of Maharashtra, Nagpur;
4. User Agency;
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF & CC, New Delhi for uploading on PARIVESH portal.