

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 318.04 ha forest land for distribution of agriculture purpose to PAP's from 7 villages from Chandoli Wildlife Sanctuary under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in Kolhapur District of Maharashtra State (online proposal FP/MH/REHAB/151541/2022) - regarding.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Maharashtra letter no. FLD-2323/CR-338/F-10 dated 02.02.2024 on the above cited subject. In this regard following shortcomings have been observed in the information submitted by the State Govt.:-

- i. The State Govt. has submitted present proposal for diversion of 318.04 ha forest land. However, area of uploaded KML file is 340.925 ha. Further, total 22 forest patches have been proposed for diversion through instant proposal. This needs clarification and the correct KML file needs to be uploaded on PARIVESH.
- ii. The DCF, Kolhapur has furnished a certificate that no wildlife sanctuary/national park is located within 5 Km distance from the area proposed for diversion. However, as per the DSS analysis (copy enclosed), one forest patch proposed for diversion is located at a distance of 3.02 Km from the Sahyadri Tiger Reserve. The comments of chief wildlife warden in the instant proposal shall therefore be submitted.
- iii. The State Govt. has reported that total 865 number of people in 7 Villages (6 Village in Sahuwadi Taluka, District Kolhapur and 1 Village in Sangmeshwar Taluka District Ratnagiri) are affected due to relocation of these seven Villages from Chandoli Wildlife Sanctuary and total 1592.04 ha private land of these villages have been included in the Chandoli Wildlife Sanctuary. However, Village wise KML file of 1592.04 ha acquired land under Chandoli Wildlife Sanctuary has not been uploaded on PARIVESH.
- iv. Upon examination of the DGPS map of proposed forest patches for diversion, it is learnt that the proposed forest land has been identified in such a manner that bigger forest patches will be segregated into small forest patch and will be prone to future encroachment. The justification for proposing this area for

relocation in view of above shall be submitted.

- v. The State Govt. shall certify that the Village's which are proposed to be relocated located are within the core of a National Park/Wildlife Sanctuary. The details in this regard needs submission.
- vi. The State Govt shall clarify whether the 1592.04 ha private land which was acquired under the Chandoli National park has become inviolate or not and whether the said land (1592.04 ha) has been transferred and mutated in the name of the forest department and notified as protected forest/RF under the provisions of Indian Forest Act, 1927 or the State specific laws.
- vii. The State Govt. shall ensure that the proposal fulfills all the conditions laid down in the Para 12.8, Chapter-12 of the Consolidated guidelines & clarification issued by the Ministry on 29.12.2023 under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. A point-wise status/detail for each condition shall be submitted.
- viii. Breakup showing the Private, revenue land or other category of land acquired under 7 Villages comprising an area of 1592.04 ha shall be submitted.
- ix. The basis of calculation of the total area vacated within the Chandoli National Park has not been provided, which is required to be given.
- x. The State Govt. has reported that, against 1592.04 ha private land acquired under Chandoli National Park, 753.97 ha forest land is required to be allotted to 865 No. of person/ families. Further, the State Govt. had previously submitted forest diversion proposal comprising 215.42 ha & 63.091 ha respectively and instant proposal is for diversion of 318.04 ha forest land for Agriculture purpose. Therefore, details indicating Village's relocated/to be relocated, Number of person/ families rehabilitated/ to be rehabilitated, purpose of forest diversion proposal etc. in all the above mentioned proposals shall be submitted.
- xi. The State Govt. has reported that, an area of 753.97 ha forest land is required to rehabilitate 865 number of person/families for which forest diversion proposals comprising an area of 596.551 ha (215.42 ha + 63.091 ha + 318.04 ha) forest land have been submitted till now. However, reason behind submission of forest diversion proposal in piecemeal under Van (Sanrakshan evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 is not clear. A justification for the same shall be submitted.
- xii. The State Govt. has reported that 32 Villages spread over four districts namely Sangli, Kolhapur, Satara & Ratnagiri have been included in the notified area of P.A. i.e. Chandoli Wildlife Sanctuary out of which 8 villages have been submerged. Therefore, details of land required to rehabilitate and PAP's already rehabilitated under various schemes of these 8 villages shall be submitted.
- xiii. Present status of 14 villages of Sangli District and 3 villages of Satara District shall be submitted along with relevant details of area vacated and allotted to them.
- xiv. It has been mentioned that some of the villages were relocated at the time of creation/notification of the Wildlife Sanctuary/National Park, which indicates that the rights would have already been settled at that time. The justification for the present proposal in view of the same needs submission.
- xv. Some villages have been shown to be relocated due to submergence of the

area due to creation of Warana Irrigation Project. The State Govt. shall clarify whether these villages have also been shown as eligible for voluntary relocation, and if so, then justification for the same shall be submitted.

- xvi. The District Collector concerned shall furnish a certificate of non-availability of land suitable for relocation of the villages located within the Protected Area and Tiger Reserves.
- xvii. Once the villages have been relocated in the past, the detailed justification for allocating the forest land for agriculture at this stage is required to be submitted by the state.

Accordingly, it is requested to furnish the above-mentioned information to this Ministry 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.