

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 seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 76.17 ha Forest Land of Village Malharpeth, Sonaichiwadi, Marulhaveli & Girewadi, Tal. Patan, Dist. Satara for rehabilitation of Village Kolane, Tal. Patan, Dist. Satara from Chandoli National Park of Sahyadri Tiger Reserve in the Maharashtra State (Online No. FP/MH/REHAB/149807/2021) - reg.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the APCCF & Nodal Officer, Government of Maharashtra's letter no. Desk-17/FCA-S1/PID-149807/Kolhapur/24-25/282 dated 07.05.2025 (uploaded online on 21.05.2025) on the above-cited subject forwarding the required information.

In this regard, the examination of the said information has revealed that the State Government has adopted a fragmented approach in processing and submitting forest diversion proposals for the relocation of the village, instead of submitting a consolidated and comprehensive proposal encompassing the entire rehabilitation plan. The clarification provided by the APCCF & Nodal Officer, Maharashtra — that the PAPs are being resettled in two separate districts (Satara and Sangli) and that the current proposal pertains only to PAPs being rehabilitated in Satara District — is noted. However, the same is not tenable because the vacated area will become inviolate only if the entire village is relocated. Moreover, keeping in view the guideline on the matter the area proposed to be diverted needs to be less than the area vacated. Therefore the rationale for submitting separate forest diversion proposals for the same village relocation, even if spread across divisions, remains unclear.

In this regard, the State Government is requested to furnish a comprehensive justification for the following:

- i. Why a unified and holistic proposal for the entire relocation of Village Kolane can not be submitted, considering it involves the relocation of people from the same village. The State shall also clarify as to how the disaggregated processing of diversion proposals will ensure the effectiveness of the rehabilitation process to make the entire area inviolate.

- ii. The present status of forest land diversion proposal for the families to be relocated in sangli district needs submission.
- iii. The actual area that will be vacated by the PAP families who are being relocated in Satara District be submitted.
- iv. The proposal claims to be focused on the rehabilitation of displaced communities. However as per component wise breakup in online Part-I mentions the utilization of forest land for agricultural purposes and the establishment of Gothans (livestock shelters). However there is no specific mention of the exact area of forest land that is being proposed for use of the resettlement or rehabilitation of PAPs. This needs clarification.
- v. The State Govt. has informed that that after rehabilitation of Village Kolane, a total of 485.6490 ha land will be made available to forest department. However, as per KML file submitted by the State the area is 474 ha only. Moreover, out of 485.6490 ha, an area of 108.2960 ha is Revenue land, 248.4540 ha is forest land and 128.8990 ha is other land. However, out of this, the legal status of this 128.8990 ha marked as "other land," remains unclear. The same needs to be clarified along with the submission of correct KML file

Accordingly, it is requested to furnish the above mentioned information to this Ministry for further consideration of the proposal.

Yours sincerely,

(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.