



भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS &
CLIMATE CHANGE

Regional Office, Ground Floor, East Wing,
New Secretariat Building Civil Lines,
Nagpur – 440001,
apccfcetral-ngp-mef@gov.in



F.No. FC-II/MH-229/2023-NGP/ 14540

Date: 31.07.2025

To,

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Revenue and Forest Department,
HutatmaRajguru Chowk
Madame Cama Marg, Mantralaya, Mumbai– 400032.

Subject: Diversion of 9.9249 ha. forest land in favour of National Highway Division, Pen- Raigad for rehabilitation and up- gradation of existing highway to 2 lane/ 4 lane with paved shoulder under configuration from Pen-Khopoli-Mahad (Km.00+000 to Km 33-328) section of NH-166 D (Pen- Khopoli-Mahad) Engineering, Procurement & Construction (EPC) Basis in Raigad district in the State of Maharashtra- regarding.

Sir,

With reference to the subject cited above, it is informed that the instant proposal was considered during the 112th meeting of the Regional Empowered Committee (REC) held on 06-02-2024. After detailed examination, the Committee decided to defer the proposal as the State Government had proposed Degraded Forest Land (DFL) for Compensatory Afforestation (CA) instead of Non-Forest Land (NFL), as required under the revised guidelines. The Committee further decided that the proposal would be reconsidered upon receipt of details of the identified Non-Forest Land along with supporting documents such as the map, CA scheme, KML file, site suitability certificate, etc., through the online portal. This decision was communicated to the State Government by the Regional Office, Nagpur, vide letter dated 14-02-2024.

Subsequently, the Nodal Officer, vide letter dated 21-07-2025, informed that as per the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Forest Conservation Division, Government of India, dated 17-03-2025, the requirement of Non-Forest Land for CA has been relaxed for Central Government projects. Accordingly, the User Agency has requested that the proposal be considered under the provision of CA over double the extent of Degraded Forest Land.

The reply from the State Government has been examined. As per

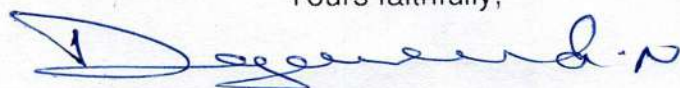
the details available in the online application and the documents submitted, the name and designation of the applicant are Executive Engineer, Office of the Executive Engineer, NH Pen Division, Pen. The legal status of the User Agency is that of a State Government entity.

As per the Ministry's guidelines dated 17-12-2024, the provision for undertaking CA over Degraded Forest Land in lieu of Non-Forest Land is applicable only to Central Government agencies and their Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), such as NHAI, MoRTH, NHIDCL, etc. No such relaxation has been extended to State Government departments or agencies, except in the case of coal mining projects implemented by State Government agencies. Therefore, the justification provided by the State Government is not found to be in order.

In light of the above, and as per the Ministry's guidelines dated 17-12-2024, the State Government is once again requested to direct the User Agency to identify suitable Non-Forest Land for Compensatory Afforestation and to submit the requisite supporting documents—namely, the map, CA scheme, KML file, and site suitability certificate—for further consideration of the proposal under the VSSA, 1980.

This issued with the approval of the competent authority.

Yours faithfully,



(Dayananda.N)

Technical Officer (Forestry) 31/07/24

Copy to:

1. The IGF (RoHQ), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jorbagh Road, Aliganj, New Delhi- 110003 for **information please**
2. The PCCF (HoFF), Government of Maharashtra, Nagpur.
3. User agency.
4. Guard file.



(Dayananda.N)

Technical Officer (Forestry) 31/07/24