

File No. 11/95/2025-FC
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road,
New Delhi – 110003
Dated: March, 2025

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Sub: Clarification sought by the Regional Office on the applicability of provisions of Section 2(1)(ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 on the establishment of Forest Depots in forest areas by the forest corporations – reg.

The undersigned is directed to refer to the Regional Office of this Ministry at Lucknow's letter no. II/Misc./618/2010/UP/Part-II/1009 dated 31.01.2025 on the above subject seeking clarification whether the establishment of a Forest Depot in the forest area by the forest corporation is a non-forestry activity and falls within the purview of section 2(1)(ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. In this connection, it is to inform that after examination of the matter in light of provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and Guidelines issued thereunder, the following is clarified:

The Explanation given under section 2(1) of the Adhiniyam inter-alia provides that work relating to or ancillary to conservation, development, and management of forests and wildlife, such as silvicultural operations and regeneration operations will be considered as forestry activity. Therefore, Forest Depots, being ancillary to silvicultural operations and conservation, development and management of forests and wildlife will not be considered as non-forest purpose unless the structures made are not of permanent in nature. Moreover, as per the provisions of the para 2.8.11 of the National Working Plan Code, 2023 infrastructural support is one of the essential component of the forest management and planning. Accordingly, the Forest Depots are important infrastructure component of forest management and planning.

Provided that the depot made on forest land for ancillary activity related to silviculture and forestry should not be a permanent structure and made of eco-friendly materials.

This issue with the approval of Competent Authority of the Ministry.

(Charan Jeet Singh)
Scientist 'E'

To

The Dy Director General (Central),
Regional Office, MoEF&CC
Lucknow

Copy to:

1. PCCF & HoFF, State Forest Department, Government of Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow
2. Nodal Officer (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan), O/o of the PCCF & HoFF, State

Forest Department, Government of Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow
3. Guard File