

File No. **11/114/2024-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: February, 2025

To,

The Addl. Chief Secretaries of Forests/Principal Secretary (Forests),
All States Governments and Union territory Administrations

Sub: Clarification on the applicability of provisions of compensatory afforestation in respect of forest land used for construction of tunnels involved in various developmental projects -reg.

Sir,

I am directed to refer the State Government of Rajasthan's letter No.F1 (22)CEWRSE(W)/Forest General/Pt.XIII/2526 dated 24.09.2024 on the above subject seeking clarification on the applicability of provisions of compensatory afforestation in respect of forest land used for construction of tunnels in irrigation projects. In this connection, it is to inform that the issue was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 27.01.2025. The detailed minutes of the said meeting may be accessed on the website of this Ministry at <https://parivesh.nic.in>.

Based on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee and approval of the same by the Competent Authority of MoEF&CC, New Delhi, the Central Government, in accordance with the provisions of section 3C of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam,, 1980, hereby clarify that all underground works in the forest land liked to linear, irrigation, hydel and other developmental projects should be considered at par with the underground mining proposals and accordingly, applicability of the provisions of raising compensatory afforestation, Net present Value should be decided and prescribed by the processing authorities in such cases involving underground works such as construction of tunnels.

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

Yours faithfully,

(Charan Jeet Singh)
Scientist 'E'

Copy to:

1. PCCF & HoFF, all States Governments /Union territory Administrations
2. Dy Director (Central), Regional Office, MoEF&CC
3. Nodal Officers (Van Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan), O/o PCCF & HoFF, all States Governments /Union territory Administrations
4. Monitoring Cell, Forest Conservation Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi

5. Director, NIC (Technical) with a request to upload a copy of the Guidelines on PARIVESH
6. Guard File