

Government of India  
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change  
(Forest Conservation Division)  
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Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,  
Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road,  
New Delhi – 110003  
Dated: September, 2024

To,  
The Principal Secretary (Forests),  
State Government of Punjab  
Chandigarh

**Sub: Effect of amended rules under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 on NHAI road projects Provision of Accredited CA land in lieu of diverted forest land for compensatory afforestation (CA) – clarification sought by the Government of Punjab on the ACA plantations – reg. (F. No. 11/159/2022-FC)**

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the State Government of Punjab's letter No. FOREST-FCAOF-1/87/2024-FCA/9006 dated 25.07.2024 on the above mentioned subject seeking clarification on the acceptance of plantations under the Accredited Compensatory Afforestation. In this connection, it is to inform that the issue was considered and deliberated by the Advisory Committee (AC), in consultation with the Regional Offices and Nodal Officers of the States, in its meeting held on 27.08.2024. The detailed minutes of the said meeting may kindly be accessed at <https://parivesh.nic.in>.

Based on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee and approval of the same by the competent authority of the MoEF&CC, New Delhi, the Central Government hereby conveys that the proposal of the State Government of Punjab, as a special case, the plantations raised by the NHAI along National Highway namely NH-54 may be accepted State as Accredited Compensatory Afforestation subject to following:

- i. The procedure for online submission and approval of proposal for the Accredited Compensatory Afforestation shall be ensured by the concerned Government entity as well by the State Government.
- ii. Similar proposals, if received from the States/UTs in near future, will be considered by the Ministry, on case to case basis.

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

Yours faithfully,

(Charan Jeet Singh)  
Scientist 'E'

Copy to:

1. The Secretary, M/o Road, Transport and Highways, Government of India,

New Delhi - 01

2. The PCCF & HoFF, State Forest Department, Government of Punjab, Chandigarh
3. The Chairman, National Highway Authority of India, Ministry of Road, Transport & Highways, NHAI, G-5&6, Sector-10, Dwarka, New Delhi - 75
4. The Dy Director General Forest (Central), Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Chandigarh
5. Nodal Officer (Van Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan), State Forest Department, O/o PCCF, Government of Punjab, Chandigarh
6. Monitoring Cell, Forest Conservation Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi
7. Guard File