

Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)

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

To

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

Sub: Streamlining the approval process as envisaged under para 4.2 of the Consolidated Guidelines issued on 29.12.2023 and linear projects linked to mining activities - reg.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the above subject and to inform that a meeting between the Ministry of Mines and Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change was held to review the various issues pertaining to mining sector including coal mining. The issue related to general approval granted under para 4.3 of the Consolidated Guidelines issued by the Ministry on 29.12.2024 and in respect of roads projects linked to mining were also deliberated in the meeting for issuance of clarification and streamlining the processes. Based on the deliberation held in the said meeting, the Central Government, in accordance with the provisions of section 3C of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, hereby issues further the following clarifications :

- i. In cases where construction of projects, as specified under para 4.2 of the aforementioned Consolidated Guidelines, involves felling of trees within the forest land falling in the diverted RoW, the user agency shall *pay ten times* the cost of plantation of *trees marked for removal*. *The cost of plantation of trees earmarked for removal shall be calculated as per local schedule of rates for planting of all such trees. The State Forest Department shall carry out the plantation, from such payments collected from User Agencies, on degraded forest lands.*
- ii. Approach roads are an integral and ancillary feature related to mining. In such cases, single approval is invariably granted by the Ministry as per proposals submitted by the State Government. However, there may be cases wherein such approach roads may not be included in the mining leases and Mining Plan. Such cases of linear projects linked to mining and conceived subsequently by the User Agency as outlined above shall be treated as stand alone linear projects and shall be dealt and disposed off by the concerned Regional Office of the MoEF&CC in accordance with the provisions of Guidelines given at para 7.8(i)(e) of the Consolidated Guidelines.
- iii. The mining leases where single consolidated approval under the Adhiniyam for the mining lease and approach road has been granted by the Central Government, the extension of validity of such consolidated approvals along with the approach road can be granted by the State Government in accordance with the provisions of para 7.4 (i) of the Consolidated Guidelines issued on 29.12.2023. However, cases where separate approvals have been

granted for mining leases and for linear projects linked to mining leases such as road, the extension of validity of Stage II approval in such cases can be granted only for mining leases while approval granted for roads can be transferred separately in favour of the new lessee following the procedure as specified in the Consolidated Guidelines issued by the MoEF&CC on 29.12.2023.

In view of the above, the State Government and Union territory Administrations are requested to take into consideration the guidelines mentioned hereinabove while considering the proposals submitted under section 2 of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.

Yours faithfully,

(Charan Jeet Singh)
Scientist 'E'

Copy to:

1. Secretary, Ministry of Mines /Coal /Steel/ Power/ Railways/ MoRT&H/ Defence/MHA
2. Secretary, Ministry of Defence, Government of India
3. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, All States Governments and Union territory Administrations
4. Dy Director General of Forests (Central) All Regional Offices of the MoEF&CC
5. Nodal Officers, dealing with the matters related to the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, All States Governments and Union territory Administrations
6. Head, NIC, MoEFCC for aligning the PARIVESH 2.0 as per above