

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

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

Dated: November, 2024

To

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

Sub: Clarification on the provisions of Rule 11(10) and Reule 16(8) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 – reg.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to Rule 11(10) and Rule 16(8) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 notified by the Central Government on 29.11.2023. Said rule came into force prospectively w.e.f. 1.12.2023.

2. It has been observed in the Ministry that in light of provisions of Rule 11(10) and Rule 16(8) of the above said rules, some of the States have requested for extension of validity of in-principle approval granted under the provisions of the erstwhile rules. The Ministry, after examination of the matter related to the validity of the 'in-principle' approval granted under the erstwhile or new rules, hereby clarifies the following:

- i. 'In-principle' approvals granted under the provisions of the erstwhile rules are valid and live, unless revoked by the Central Government, and can be considered for grant of 'final' approval on the same terms and conditions stipulated in the 'in-principle' approval by following the process as envisaged in the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023. Therefore, in cases where submission of compliance has been delayed beyond the period stipulated in the new and erstwhile rules, the State/UT may submit such cases for extension of validity of in-principle approval along with valid and cogent reasons for delay. The Central Government, after examination of the same, may consider extension for such an additional period as the Central Government may deem fit on a case to case basis.
 - ii. The Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 were notified on 29.11.2023 and only one year has passed since their implementation, therefore, still there is one year or more time to submit compliance for such cases which have been granted in-principle approval on or after 1.12.2023 under the new rules. Therefore, at this stage, there does not seem to be any need to extend the validity of 'in-principle' approval as provided in the new rules.
3. This issues with the approval of Competent Authority.

Yours faithfully,

(Charan Jeet Singh)
Scientist 'E'

Copy to:

1. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, All States Governments and Union territory Administrations
2. Dy Director General of Forests (Central) All Regional Offices of the MoEF&CC
3. Nodal Officers, dealing with the matters related to the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980, All States Governments and Union territory Administrations
4. Head, NIC, MoEFCC for uploading the same on PARIVESH and aligning the PARIVESH 2.0 as per above.
5. Gaur File.