

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

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

Dated: September, 2024

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Sub: Clarification on the site specificity of small public utilities project vis-a-vis diversion of forest land - reg.

The undersigned is directed to refer to the Government of Himachal Pradesh' s letter No. Ft.48-66/2019 (FCA) dated 08.06.2024 on the above mentioned subject. In this connection, it is to inform that the matter relating to site specificity of small public utility projects 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 and recommendations of the Advisory Committee 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, in furtherance to guidelines incorporated under para 1.10 of Chapter-1 of the Consolidated Guidelines issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 and Rules made thereunder, hereby clarifies that legitimacy of the requirement of a public utility with no viable alternatives, make such proposals site-specific and use of forest land inescapable and accordingly, the concerned Regional Offices of the Ministry should ascertain the legitimacy of a public utility projects as non-site specific or site specific in the light of justifications provided by the State/UT. Proposals found to be site-specific for want of viable alternatives should be considered on their merits by the concerned Regional Office in accordance with the provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980.

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

(Charan Jeet Singh)
Scientist 'E'

To

The Dy Director General of Forests (Central),
All Regional Offices of MoEF&CC

Copy to:

1. Principal Secretary/Addl. Chief Secretary (Forests), All State

- Governments/Union territory Administrations
2. Principal Chief Conservator of Forest and HoFF, All State Governments/Union territory Administrations
 3. Nodal Officer (Van Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan), O/o PCCF, All State Governments/Union territory Administrations
 4. Monitoring Cell, Forest Conservation Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi
 5. Guard File