

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

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

To

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Government of Maharashtra,
Mantralaya Mumbai

Sub: Permitting double the degraded forest land in lieu of non-forest land for certain projects taken up by CPSU / SPSU and other government agencies - reg.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the State Government of Maharashtra's letter no. FLD-2025/CR-42/F-10 dated 25.02.2025 on the above subject seeking advise from the Ministry on the implementation of the Guidelines related to compensatory afforestation vis-à-vis directions passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in its order dated 3.02.2025. In this connection, it is to inform that after examination of the concerns of the State Government, the following is informed:

- i. As per the provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Amendment Rules, 2024, there is no requirement of certificate from the State Government certifying the non-availability of the non-forest land for the projects of Central PSU/entities and captive coal blocks of the State PSUs.
- ii. The provisions of the amendment Rules 2024, have further been clarified by the Central Government in its Guidelines issued on 17.12.2024 (copy enclosed). The same may be adhered to by the processing authorities in the State.
- iii. In light of directions contained in the Hon'ble Supreme Court's order dated 3.02.2025 and 4.03.2025, it is further to inform that no forest land should be diverted without compensatory afforestation for which land is to provided in accordance with relevant provisions provided under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 (as amended) and Guidelines issued thereunder.

This issues with the approval of the competent authority.

Yours faithfully,

(Charan Jeet Singh)
Scientist 'E'

Copy to:

1. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, State Government of Maharashtra, Nagpur
2. Dy Director General of Forests (Central), Regional Offices of the MoEF&CC at Nagpur
3. Nodal Officer (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan), O/o the PCCF, State

Government of Maharashtra, Nagpur
4. Guard File.