



**Government of India**  
**Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**  
**Minutes of Meeting for Advisory Committee**



**MoM ID** FC/MOM/AC/454270/2025  
**Agenda ID** FC/AGENDA/AC/101679/2025  
**Title of Meeting** 11th Meeting of the Advisory Committee  
**Meeting Venue** Krishna Conference Hall  
**Meeting Mode** Physical  
**Meeting Dates & Time** Start Date : 27/10/2025  
End Date : 27/10/2025

**List of AC Members:**

S.No.	Name	Designation	Email ID
1	Shri Sushil Kumar Awasthi	DGF&SS, MoEFCC	dgfi****@nic.in
2	Shri Santosh Tewari	Additional Director General (FC)	bh15*@ifs.nic.in
3	Shri Ramesh Kumar Pandey	Additional Director General of Forest, MOEFCC	rame*****@nic.in
4	Shri R Raghu Prasad	Inspector General of Forest, MEF	ragh*****@gov.in
5	Nityanand Srivastav	AC MEMBER	nity*****@yahoo.co.in
6	Manoj Pant	AC MEMBER	mpan*****@gmail.com
7	Kr Sree Harsha	Member (EAC)	sree*****@gmail.com
8	Dr. Mehraj A. Shaikh	AC MEMBER	ac.n*****@gov.in

**Proposals considered during Meeting:**

**1. Project Name** Telangana State Mineral Development Corporation Limited : Devapur Limestone Mine - II, 588.26 hec., Raily RF, Mancherla Division, Telangana - seeking "forest clearance" under Section-2(ii) and 2(iii) of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980

**Proposal Number** FP/TG/MIN/QRY/423308/2023

**User Agency** BRV SUSHEEL KUMAR

**Forest Land and Area (Ha)** 588.26

**Division** MANCHERIAL DIVISION

**Recommendation** Accepted

**Brief Description of Project:**

The MoM of the Advisory Committee has already been approved in E-file and same is attached herewith for completing the process.

**Previous Deliberation Details:**

N/A

**Current Deliberation Details:**

The MoM of the Advisory Committee has already been approved in E-file and same is attached herewith for completing the process.

**Recommendation Remark:**

Recommended for grant of 'in-principle' approval.

<b>2. Project Name</b>	ISARDA Dausa Water Supply Project
<b>Proposal Number</b>	FP/RJ/Pipeline/413545/2023
<b>User Agency</b>	PHED
<b>Forest Land Area(Ha)</b>	10.5996
<b>Division</b>	Dausa Territorial Division
<b>Recommendation</b>	Accepted

**Brief Description of Project:**

The MoM of the Advisory Committee has already been approved in E-file and same is attached herewith for completing the process.

**Previous Deliberation Details:**

N/A

**Current Deliberation Details:**

The MoM of the Advisory Committee has already been approved in E-file and same is attached herewith for completing the process.

**Recommendation Remark:**

Recommended or grant of 'in-principle' approval.

<b>3. Project Name</b>	Sijimali Bauxite Mines
<b>Proposal Number</b>	FP/OR/MIN/QRY/470250/2024
<b>User Agency</b>	Purnendu Pandey
<b>Forest Land Area(Ha)</b>	708.204

**Division** Kalahandi South Division

**Recommendation** Raise EDS

**Brief Description of Project:**

The MoM of the Advisory Committee has already been approved in E-file and same is attached herewith for completing the process.

**Previous Deliberation Details:**

N/A

**Current Deliberation Details:**

The MoM of the Advisory Committee has already been approved in E-file and same is attached herewith for completing the process.

**Recommendation Remark:**

Deferred.

**4. Project Name**

Baitarni West Coal Mine

**Proposal Number**

FP/OR/MIN/QRY/461073/2024

**User Agency**

CHIRAG ARVINDKUMAR SHAH

**Forest Land Area(Ha)**

64.3723

**Division**

Angul Division

**Recommendation**

Accepted

**Brief Description of Project:**

The MoM of the Advisory Committee has already been approved in E-file and same is attached herewith for completing the process.

**Previous Deliberation Details:**

N/A

**Current Deliberation Details:**

The MoM of the Advisory Committee has already been approved in E-file and same is attached herewith for completing the process.

**Recommendation Remark:**

Recommended for grant of 'in-principle' approval.

**5. Project Name**

Proposed Kottameta Limestone Mine (Auctioned Block) (ML Area: 802.25 ha) with total excavation of 7.6 million TPA (Limestone Production Capacity – 3.0 Million TPA, Soil 0.5 Million TPA and Waste 4.1 Million TPA) along with 1000 TPH Crusher located at Village – Katamater, Tehsil & District – Malkangiri, Odisha by M/s. Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Ltd.

**Proposal Number**

FP/OR/MIN/QRY/445466/2023

number

**User Agency** Karthikeyan V

**Forest Land Area(Ha)** 575.16

**Division** Malkanagiri Division

**Recommendation** Raise EDS

**Brief Description of Project:**

The MoM of the Advisory Committee has already been approved in E-file and same is attached herewith for completing the process.

**Previous Deliberation Details:**

N/A

**Current Deliberation Details:**

The MoM of the Advisory Committee has already been approved in E-file and same is attached herewith for completing the process.

**Recommendation Remark:**

Deferred.

**6. Project Name**

Lumurujhala (SE) Quartz Block over 7.987 Ha for the production of 1686.9 Tons of Quartz per year at Village - Lumburujena & salepada under Boudh Tahasil, Dist. Boudh, Odisha.

**Proposal Number**

FP/OR/MIN/QRY/514821/2024

**User Agency**

SIDDHARTH SARDA

**Forest Land Area(Ha)**

2.459

**Division**

Boudh Division

**Recommendation**

Raise EDS

**Brief Description of Project:**

The MoM of the Advisory Committee has already been approved in E-file and same is attached herewith for completing the process.

**Previous Deliberation Details:**

N/A

**Current Deliberation Details:**

The MoM of the Advisory Committee has already been approved in E-file and same is attached herewith for completing the process.

**Recommendation Remark:**

Deferred.

**7. Project Name** The proposal for establishment of retail out-let petrol pump IOCL dealership on Sirwel-Pipaljopa Road in Gram-Sirwel Tehsil-Bhagwanpura District- Khargone for forest land diversion.

**Proposal Number** FP/MP/PetrolPump/440299/2023

**User Agency** YOGESH MALVIYA

**Forest Land Area(Ha)** 0.1575

**Division** Khargon(T) Division

**Recommendation** Accepted

**Brief Description of Project:**

The MoM of the Advisory Committee has already been approved in E-file and same is attached herewith for completing the process.

**Previous Deliberation Details:**

N/A

**Current Deliberation Details:**

The MoM of the Advisory Committee has already been approved in E-file and same is attached herewith for completing the process.

**Recommendation Remark:**

Recommended for grant of 'in-principle' approval.

**8. Project Name** Yettinahole Integrated Drinking Water Project

**Proposal Number** FP/KA/WATER/456606/2023

**User Agency** DEVARAMANE VENKATESH

**Forest Land Area(Ha)** 111.0277

**Division** Tumkur Division

**Recommendation** Raise EDS

**Brief Description of Project:**

The MoM of the Advisory Committee has already been approved in E-file and same is attached herewith for completing the process.

**Previous Deliberation Details:**

N/A

**Current Deliberation Details:**

The MoM of the Advisory Committee has already been approved in E-file and same is attached herewith for completing the process.

**Recommendation Remark:**

Deferred.

**9. Project Name** Sharavathy Pumped Storage Project (2000 MW)

**Proposal Number** FP/KA/HYD/IRRIG/447501/2023

**User Agency** Shilpa D Raj

**Forest Land Area(Ha)** 54.155

**Division** Shimoga Wildlife Division

**Recommendation** Raise EDS

**Brief Description of Project:**

The MoM of the Advisory Committee has already been approved in E-file and same is attached herewith for completing the process.

**Previous Deliberation Details:**

N/A

**Current Deliberation Details:**

The MoM of the Advisory Committee has already been approved in E-file and same is attached herewith for completing the process.

**Recommendation Remark:**

Deferred.

**10. Project Name** Renewal of 1.1078 hac. forest land for already established quarry & stone crusher at Pashada in favour of Om Prakash Mehta R/o VPO Khaneri Tehsil Rampur Bushahr Distt. Shimla H.P.

**Proposal Number** FP/HP/MIN/QRY/473175/2024

**User Agency** Mehta Stone Crusher at Pashada

**Forest Land Area(Ha)** 1.1078



**Division** Rampur Division

**Recommendation** Raise EDS

**Brief Description of Project:**

The MoM of the Advisory Committee has already been approved in E-file and same is attached herewith for completing the process.

**Previous Deliberation Details:**

N/A

**Current Deliberation Details:**

The MoM of the Advisory Committee has already been approved in E-file and same is attached herewith for completing the process.

**Recommendation Remark:**

Deferred.

**11. Project Name** Construction of 165.00 metre span Double Lane Bridge over Giri River on Nahan Dadahu Haripurdhar Road at RD 35/690 under Renukaji Forest Division, District Sirmour HP

**Proposal Number** FP/HP/ROAD/521935/2025

**User Agency** YASH PAL KAUSHAL

**Forest Land Area(Ha)** 0.171

**Division** Renukaji Division

**Recommendation** Raise EDS

**Brief Description of Project:**

The MoM of the Advisory Committee has already been approved in E-file and same is attached herewith for completing the process.

**Previous Deliberation Details:**

N/A

**Current Deliberation Details:**

The MoM of the Advisory Committee has already been approved in E-file and same is attached herewith for completing the process.

**Recommendation Remark:**

Deferred.

**12. Project Name** CONSTRUCTION OF OUT OF NORMS BRIDGE ON BALSAMAND SUB BRANCH RD 76450 VILLAGE SATROD TEHSIL HISAR

**Proposal Number** FP/HR/ROAD/427321/2023

**User Agency** Executive Engineer

**Forest Land Area(Ha)** 0.0232

**Division** HISSAR DIVISION

**Recommendation** Accepted

**Brief Description of Project:**

The MoM of the Advisory Committee has already been approved in E-file and same is attached herewith for completing the process.

**Previous Deliberation Details:**

N/A

**Current Deliberation Details:**

The MoM of the Advisory Committee has already been approved in E-file and same is attached herewith for completing the process.

**Recommendation Remark:**

Recommended for grant of 'in-principle' approval.

**13. Project Name** Diversion of Forest land for Shri Mandareswara Kashi Viswanatha Mandir, Mandareswar Parvath, Bounsi Tehsil, Banka District, Bihar - Renovation of the Mandir by Shri Rama Karma Bhumi Nyas, Patna, Bihar

**Proposal Number** FP/BR/ROAD/465458/2024

**User Agency** Krishnakant Ojha

**Forest Land Area(Ha)** 0.707

**Division** Banka Division

**Recommendation** Raise EDS

**Brief Description of Project:**

The MoM of the Advisory Committee has already been approved in E-file and same is attached herewith for completing the process.

**Previous Deliberation Details:**

N/A



**Current Deliberation Details:**

The MoM of the Advisory Committee has already been approved in E-file and same is attached herewith for completing the process.

**Recommendation Remark:**

Deferred.

**14. Project Name** Oil & Gas Exploration Drilling at Well Pad# 22 (FW-005) in AA-ONHP-2017/1 Block, Dist. Golaghat Assam  
**Proposal Number** FP/AS/MINOIL/472173/2024  
**User Agency** Dr. Bhoma Ram Jat  
**Forest Land Area(Ha)** 1.695  
**Division** Golaghat Division  
**Recommendation** Raise EDS

**Brief Description of Project:**

The MoM of the Advisory Committee has already been approved in E-file and same is attached herewith for completing the process.

**Previous Deliberation Details:**

N/A

**Current Deliberation Details:**

The MoM of the Advisory Committee has already been approved in E-file and same is attached herewith for completing the process.

**Recommendation Remark:**

Deferred.

**15. Project Name** Doubling Railway Project between Boddavara - Karakavalasa (From Km-33.254 to Km -84.123) in connection with the construction of Doubling between Kottavalasa - Koraput(189.278Km.) Railway Project of East Coast Railway, WAT Division, Visakhapatnam.

**Proposal Number** FP/AP/RAIL/545741/2025

**User Agency** Rajeev Kumar

**Forest Land Area(Ha)** 95.03

**Division** Paderu

**Recommendation** Accepted

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**Brief Description of Project:**

The MoM of the Advisory Committee has already been approved in E-file and same is attached herewith for completing the process.

**Previous Deliberation Details:**

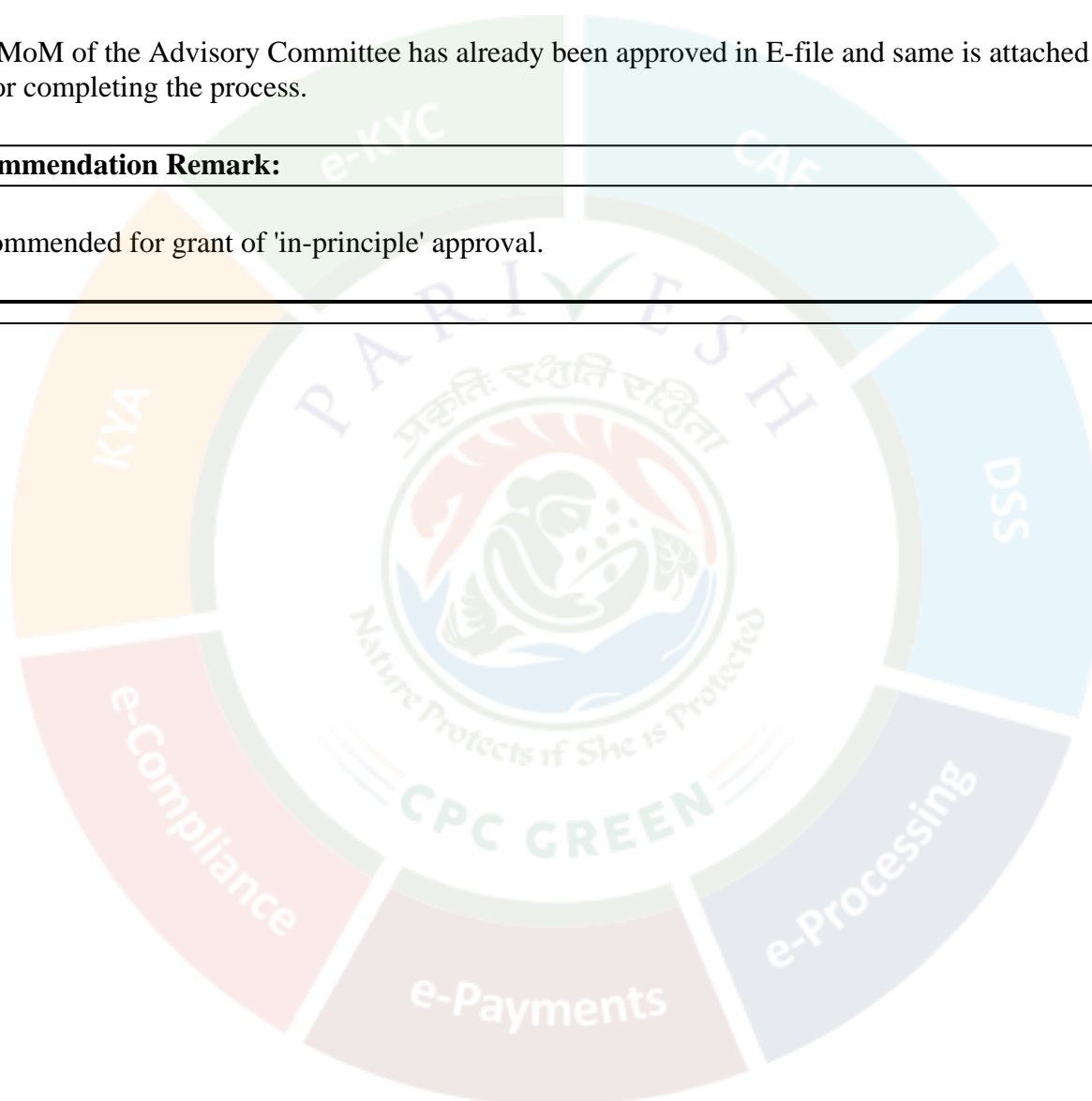
N/A

**Current Deliberation Details:**

The MoM of the Advisory Committee has already been approved in E-file and same is attached herewith for completing the process.

**Recommendation Remark:**

Recommended for grant of 'in-principle' approval.



## PARIVESH 2.0

### Minutes of the Meeting of the Advisory Committee (AC) meeting held on 27.10.2025

#### Agenda No. 1

#### Online Proposal No. FP/AP/RAIL/545741/2025

**Sub: Proposal for seeking ex-post facto approval of the Central Govt. under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 95.030 ha of forest land in comp. nos. 487, 488, 489, 491 to 497 of Ananthagiri II RF, Comp no. 338 of Sariapalli RF, Comp no. 476, 477 of Borra RF and comp. nos.22 of Sunkarametta RF combined in Ananthagiri & Araku Ranges of Paderu Division.**

1. The agenda for the above subject proposal was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 27.10.2025. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). The DDGF (Central), RO Chennai and Nodal Officer Andhra Pradesh attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee after through deliberation and discussion observed that:
  - i. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has submitted the proposal on PARIVESH 2.0 vide letter No. 334/Section-II/2025/2808515 dated 29.09.2025 on the above-mentioned subject seeking ex-post facto approval of Central Government under section-2 (1) (2) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023.
  - ii. As per the rule 10 (2) (v), of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) rules, 2023, the subject proposal needs to be processed at ministry level.
  - iii. The Doubling Railway Project between Boddavara and Karakavalasa (Km 33.254–84.123) forms a part of the Kottavalasa–Koraput Doubling Project (189.278 km) under the East Coast Railway, Waltair Division, Visakhapatnam, aimed at improving rail connectivity and capacity. This Project involves construction/Extension of 42 Nos. Major Bridges, 336 Nos. Minor Bridges, 2 Nos ROB, 5 Nos RUB, 13 Nos. LHS and 30 Nos. Tunnels, 20 Nos. Station Yard Remodeling, New Station Buildings, other service Buddings and Foot-Over Bridges.
  - iv. The Railway Board sanctioned the Kottavalasa–Koraput Doubling Project in 2015–2016 to enhance rail connectivity and transport efficiency in the region. Based on techno-economic feasibility, ground conditions, and operational requirements, the alignment for the new double line was finalized parallel to the existing Kottavalasa–Koraput line

to minimize forest land diversion. Existing infrastructure such as railway stations, approach roads, and forest areas were carefully considered during alignment planning. The chosen terrain is technically, financially, and environmentally suitable, avoiding high hills, deep valleys, and major execution challenges. The parallel alignment reduces the need for tunnels and bridges, ensuring cost-effectiveness and ease of construction. Gradients and curvatures are maintained at 1 in 60 and 8 degrees, similar to the existing line, with track centers spaced at 6.5 meters and safe distances maintained between new and existing tunnels and bridges. Geo-technical investigations by RITES, New Delhi guided the alignment's finalization. Since the area has limited road access, provisions for approach roads and dumping sites are included in the forest diversion proposal. The new alignment proposes 30 tunnels, compared to 51 in the existing line, by merging and optimizing locations. The project aims to improve transport infrastructure, industrial growth, and cargo movement, thereby reducing road traffic congestion. It will also significantly boost socio-economic development and provide employment opportunities in the Vizianagaram, Alluri Sitharama Raju (Andhra Pradesh), and Koraput (Odisha) districts during construction and operation phases.

- v. The project is located in the Alluri Sitharama Raju District of Andhra Pradesh and falls under the Railway category, requiring diversion of forest land for a total period of 99 years.
- vi. The Ministry of Railways, a Central Government agency, is the user agency responsible for implementing this infrastructure work.
- vii. The proposal involves the diversion of 95.03 hectares of reserved forest land within the Alluri Sitharama Raju Forest Division, containing forest areas of Eco-Class 1 and Eco-Class 3 with canopy densities of 0.5 and 0.2 respectively.
- viii. A total of 4,637 trees belonging to 74 species, such as *Madhuca indica*, *Dalbergia latifolia*, *Sterospermum personatum*, *Psidium guajava*, and *Buchanania lanzan*, will be felled for the execution of railway works.
- ix. The forest area has prescriptions for degraded forest improvement, watershed and biodiversity development, bamboo management, and plantation activities, as per the working plan.
- x. The terrain in Ananthagiri and Sariapalli Reserve Forests is hilly with red soils, showing minimal erosion, whereas Sunkarametta Reserve Forest has sandy soils on steep slopes, making it moderately vulnerable to top-soil erosion.
- xi. The project area lies within forest boundaries and is home to several wildlife species such as Sloth Bear, Leopard, Indian Wild Dog, Barking Deer, Jungle Cat, Indian Giant Squirrel, and Wild Boar, along with birds like Hill Myna and reptiles like Russell's Viper and Monitor Lizard.
- xii. The site is not part of any national park, wildlife sanctuary, biosphere reserve, or elephant corridor, and no protected monuments or defense establishments exist nearby. However, Schedule-I species have been reported in the vicinity, and potential impacts like habitat loss and wildlife

mortality have been addressed through a comprehensive Wildlife Mitigation Plan.

- xiii. Records indicate violations between 2023–2025, including dumping, tunnel construction, and access road development in forest areas by contractors such as KSR Pvt. Ltd., IRCON DRA, and Mehrotra Buildcon Pvt. Ltd., for which cases have been registered under the A.P. Forest Act, 1967, and the Forest Conservation Act, 1980.
- xiv. The Forest Department has identified instances of violation and registered cases against the individuals responsible. A notice was issued to the Deputy Chief Engineer (Con-I), ECoR, Visakhapatnam by the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), Paderu. A preliminary inquiry was conducted, during which statements from the concerned staff were recorded.
- xv. Preliminary findings suggest that the violations primarily stemmed from the absence of proper boundary demarcation, lack of clarity among field staff regarding procedural compliance, inaccessibility of the site due to difficult terrain, and negligence. Disciplinary proceedings against the responsible field personnel are currently underway.
- xvi. The updated status of the Offense Report (OR) cases filed against the User Agency (UA) has not been provided.
- xvii. The current proposal includes the entire area under violation for the purpose of regularization.
- xviii. In the absence of clear boundary demarcation in the hilly terrain, the railway authorities commenced tunnel excavation and debris dumping in adjacent areas from May 2023 to March 2025, resulting in the unauthorized use of approximately 15.142 hectares of forest land.
- xix. The Divisional Forest Officer, Paderu Division, conducted a site inspection and uploaded the report on the PARIVESH 2.0 Portal for verification and transparency.
- xx. The compensatory afforestation has been proposed over 34.3 hectares of non-forest land (for work proposed over ground) in Mittamanipalle Village, YSR Kadapa District, with a financial outlay of ₹4.81 crores, and includes a detailed planting and management plan approved by the competent authority.
- xxi. The Cost-Benefit Analysis reveals a ratio of 1.8019, demonstrating the project's economic viability, while the total estimated project cost stands at ₹5,99,971 lakhs.
- xxii. The project will generate substantial employment opportunities, including 9,05,000 jobs during construction and 3.62 crore jobs during the operational phase, contributing to regional economic growth.
- xxiii. The proposal does not require environmental or wildlife clearance, and no resettlement or rehabilitation is necessary as no families are affected.
- xxiv. Compliance with the Forest Rights Act, 2006 has to be ensured by the State Govt. as per the Rules 11 (7) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023.

- xxv. The project has been recommended for approval by the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF), Nodal Officer (FCA), and the State Government of Andhra Pradesh.
- xxvi. Out of the total proposed area, 60.80 hectares will be utilized for tunnel construction, while the remaining portion will be used for land excavation. Compensatory Afforestation (CA) land has been provided for the latter; however, as per the VSESR, 2023 guidelines, CA land is not mandated for underground activities.
- xxvii. It is unclear whether exemption from the Net Present Value (NPV) payment for the underground rights has been sought. Nevertheless, the User Agency has submitted an undertaking for payment of NPV for the total proposed area of 95.03 hectares.
- xxviii. Land Use Plan for proposed Forest area are as follows:

Sl · N o.	Details	No. of bits	Area in ha.	Paderu division, ASR District	
				Ananthagiri Range	Araku Range
1.	Open Cutting/Filling	29	22.81	21.99	0.82
2.	Access Road Forest	13	6.030	6.030	0
3.	Dumping Forest	17	5.39	5.39	0
4.	Tunnels Area	40	60.80	60.28	0.52
	<b>Total</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>95.03</b>	<b>93.69</b>	<b>1.34</b>

- xxix. **DSS Analysis: The KML files of the proposed forest area and CA area was examined by the DSS Cell of this Ministry, and following have been observed:**

- a. Proposed forest land for diversion falls under Vishakhapatnam district of Andhra Pradesh State and its software calculated area is found to be 94.77 ha.

Component Name	Software calculated area (ha)
Access_Path_Area	6.027
Dumping_Area	5.393
Open cutting Forest Land	22.511
Prop Tunnel Area (UG)	60.839
<b>Total forest area (proposed)</b>	<b>94.77</b>
Existing Railway Land	425.548
Existing Tunnel	25.897

- b. No protected area/ tiger reserve/ tiger corridor is located within 10 km radius of proposed forest area.
- c. Observation based on Google Earth: non forestry work such as, clearing of ground surface for dump, kachha road, cultivation land and solid structures (lat/long: 18°10'39.59"N 83° 5'19.68"E) is visible.



- d. Proposed forest area falls under Not-in High Conservation Value (HCV) Zone as per Decision Rule 1 and Decision Rule 2.

DESCRIPTION	RESULT
Total Number of Grids	52
Total no. of (1 Km X 1 Km) Grids having total score above 70	20
Final Status (based on 4 parameters)	Not in High Conservation Value Zone

- e. Compensatory afforestation has been proposed over non forest land in a single patch and its software calculated area is found 34.386 ha.
- f. Forest cover of proposed compensatory afforestation land in terms of forest classes (as per the ISFR 2021) based on the interpretation of satellite data period 2019-2020 is given below:

CA Site Name	Area (ha.)	VDF	MDF	OF	Scrub	Non Forest
Patch-1	34.386	0	20	0	6	8

xxx. **Site inspection report by AIGF (Central), SO Vijayawada:** The Sub-Office Vijayawada under RO Chennai has inspected the area proposed for diversion and CA land. The Site was inspected by the AIGF (Central) along with Shri P.V.Sandeep Reddy, IFS, DFO Paderu; Sri Rajeev Dy. Chief engineer (Con-I), E.Co. Railway and other forest and railway officials on 07.10.2025 (proposed forest land) and on 11.10.2025 (proposed CA land).

xxxi. **Recommendations of the DDGF (Central) Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Chennai:**

- a) The proposal for doubling Railway Project between Boddavara - Karakavalasa (From Km-33.254 to Km -84.123) in connection with the construction of Doubling between Kottavalasa - Koraput(189.278Km.) Railway Project of East Coast Railway, WAT Division, Visakhapatnam is received in Parivesh 2.0. The proposal involves diversion of proposed Forest land (KM.33.254 to KM.84.123) area of 95.03 ha., for construction of Boddavara–Karakavalasa Doubling Project in compartment no: 487,488,489,491,492,493,494,495,496,497 of Ananthagiri II RF, compartment no: 338 of Sariapalli RF and compartment no: 476 of Borra RF, Ananthagiri Range, Araku Sub Division, Paderu (T) Division, Paderu, ASR District, Andhra Pradesh.
- b) The site inspection of the proposed railway line was done by Sh. Balaji Kari, AIGF, Sub Regional Office, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh on 07.10.2025 and the NFL CA land on 11.10.2025. The proposal involves 99 forest bits where in the details were given in the Site Inspection Report of the AIGF. The area required is for Open Cutting of the hilly terrain, for access roads, for dumping and for tunnels. CA NFL land is suitable for gap planting and in the management of wildlife as a crucial corridor.

- c) Due to lack of boundary demarcation on hilly terrain, the railways have started tunnel digging and dumping the debris in the nearby areas starting from May 2023 and continued till March 2025 thus violating an area of 15.142 ha of forest land. The forest department have identified violations and registered cases against the persons responsible for violations. Notice was issued to the Deputy Chief Engineer (Con-I), ECoR, Visakhapatnam by DFO Paderu and Preliminary inquiry is conducted and statements of the concerned staff were recorded. Prima facie, the lapses occurred primarily due to lack of boundary demarcation and the lack of clarity to field staff on the procedures to be followed, difficulty for access to the field staff owing to terrain and negligence. The disciplinary action on the erred field staff is also under process. In the present proposal, all the area under violation is included for regularization.
  - d) Due to saturation of heavy traffic on the existing Railway line in between Kottavalasa-Koraput section, the Railway Board sanctioned for doubling of this project in 2015-2016. Ministry of Railways has announced a new South Coast Railway Zone with headquarters at Visakhapatnam in Feb'2019 as per the provisions of Andhra Pradesh re-organization Act. With setting up of new Railway Zone, more trains will be introduced to connect the Zonal HQ with other part of Odisha and Chhattisgarh so doubling of this line will definitely improve the connectivity. In addition, work of Jeypore (Odisha) to Malkangiri railway line also started which will be a branch line of this KK line and will connect the remote places of Odisha with Visakhapatnam for better medical facilities.
  - e) From tourism point of view in Andhra Pradesh, this railway line plays a vital role in tourism sector in tribal area of ASR District. Tourist Hill Station Araku and Borra caves lie over this railway line and well connected with railway network and providing employment to many tribal people who are earning their livelihood with tourism. With doubling of this railway line, more tourist trains can be introduced, resulting more development of the tribal region.
  - f) The proposal is recommended subject to appropriate action under 3A/3B of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** After thorough deliberation and discussion with DDGF (Central), RO, Chennai and Nodal Officer Andhra Pradesh and after going through the facts of the proposal, the Committee recommended the proposal for granting '*in-principle*' approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 95.030 ha of forest land in comp. nos. 487, 488, 489, 491 to 497 of Ananthagiri II RF, Comp no. 338 of Sariapalli RF, Comp no. 476, 477 of Borra RF and comp. nos.22 of Sunkarametta RF combined in Ananthagiri & Araku Ranges of Paderu Division. subject to the general, standard and following specific conditions:-

- i. The User Agency shall pay the five (5) times penal NPV for the extent of violation done plus 12 percent simple interest from the date of raising of such demand till the deposit is made by the User Agency.
- ii. The State Government will initiate disciplinary action against the official concerned for not being able to prevent use of forest land for non-forestry purpose without prior approval of Government of India.
- iii. Action under section 3A/3B of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 be initiated by Regional Office, Chennai, as applicable.
- iv. The State Government shall ensure that the layout of the project is finalized in consultation with the Chief Wildlife Warden and as per the approved Wildlife Management Plan.
- v. Ventilation shafts shall be laterally connected with existing tunnels at suitable places to ensure no fresh forest land is required for ventilation purposes.
- vi. The matter regarding imposition of penal CA is under consideration for the formulation of a uniform policy guideline in the matter. Keeping this in view, the imposition of penal CA (if any) shall be as per the said guideline, if issued.

### **Agenda No. 2**

#### **Online Proposal No. FP/AS/MINOIL/472173/2024**

**Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in f/o M/s Vedanta Limited (Division Cairn Oil & Gas) for non-forestry use of 1.695 ha Reserved Forest land for Oil & Gas Exploration Drilling at well pad#22 (FW-005) in AA-ONHP-2017/1 Block in Nambor South Reserved Forest, District- Golaghat in the State of Assam (Online Proposal No. FP/AS/MINOIL/472173/2024)- regarding.**

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 27.10.2025. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). The DDGF, Regional Office, Shillong attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC for their examination and analysis. Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation on the proposal, noted the following:
  - i. Proposal involves diversion of 1.695 ha of Reserved Forest land for Oil & Gas Exploration Drilling at well pad-22 (FW-005) in AA-ONHP-2017/1 Block in Nambor South Reserved Forest, District- Golaghat in the State of Assam.
  - ii. As per component wise details submitted in the proposal, 0.094 ha is required for approach road and 1.601 ha for well pad (Plinth).

- iii. Canopy density in the proposed area is reported to be 0.1 of Eco class I with no tree felling involved during implementation of the project.
- iv. Proposal does not fall within 10 km radius of the boundary of any PAs. No endangered, Schedule-I species, etc. have been reported in the area proposed for diversion. No protected archaeological / heritage site / defence establishment or any other important monuments is located in the area has been reported. Certificates to this effect have been submitted by DFO concerned.
- v. As per decision Rule- 1 and 2, the area does not falls into in High Conservation value Zone.
- vi. Compensatory Afforestation has been proposed over 1.6988 ha non-forest land in Ledo Namdang Gaon (Revenue Village) under Lekhapani Range of Digboi Forest Division. CA scheme with 10 years of maintenance is provided. Site suitability certificate has been furnished by the concerned DFO.
- vii. No violation of the Adhiniyam have been reported. Authorities in the State Government have recommended the proposal.
- viii. The life of mineral oil reservoir is 20 years, the mining lease was approved on 07.08.2019 for 8 years which is valid till 06.08.2027. One borehole will be drilled telescopically in following sections (diameter)- 17 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>" , 12 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>" and 8 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>" (Approx).
- ix. The Ministry, after preliminary examination of the proposal, observed shortcomings viz. approved exploration plan, number of bore hole and size involved, clarification whether the CA patch is contiguous to some RF/PF, if not, revised CA land contiguous to some RF/PF may be identified and CA details needs to be submitted, approved layout plan, CA details to be uploaded in Part- II, necessary correction in CA scheme needs to be made in Part- II, comments from State Government regarding observation of metaled road in area proposed for diversion, KML of Nambor South Reserve Forest and KML file of exploration block AA-ONHP-2017/1 (668.5 Sq. Km) etc. Additional information was requested online from the State on 25.01.2025. The Regional Office was also requested to submit an inspection report.
- x. The State Government on 21.07.2025 and 14.10.2025 submitted complete reply to the observations of Ministry inter-alia informing the following:
  - a) Non-forest land identified for raising compensatory afforestation is provided from a land parcel of 9.37 ha. Out of 9.37 ha, 4.5279 ha of land is already proposed for CA for an another proposal of the same user agency and an area of 1.6988 ha is proposed to be used as CA for the extant proposal. Remaining area of 3.1445 ha will also be used for CA in other proposal of the user agency. The DFO concerned has certified that the land is suitable for raising compensatory afforestation.

- b) Safety zone of 7.5-meter-wide strip along the inner boundary of impact areas of a drilling bore hole(s) or oil well pad shall be maintained by the user agency.
  - xi. The Regional Office has recommended the proposal with certain conditions. The Regional Office also mentioned that the area was previously broken by ONGC and the same may be taken into account for deciding the appropriate course of action under the Adhiniyam.
  - xii. The Regional Office further apprised the Committee that area is also important from the wildlife view point and human elephant conflict have been reported in the nearby areas. Accordingly, preparation of a suitable Wildlife Management Plan has been suggested by the Regional Office.
  - xiii. Prominent habitation, surrounding of the proposed site, is observed by the Committee. Committee desired that details of safety measures to ensure protection of such habitation located in the proximity of oil pad needs to be informed by the State.
  - xiv. Adequate details to ascertain whether the habitation observed in the area is within or outside the forestland is not available in the proposal or under encroachment. Committee opined that details in this regards needs to be obtained from the State Government.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation with the DDGF (Central), RO, Shillong and after going through the facts of the proposal, the Committee decided to '**defer**' the proposal with the following observations:
- i. The State Government shall submit the details of unauthorized non-forestry activities undertaken in the area previously along with action taken under the Indian Forest Act, 1927 by the State Government against the earlier user agency for undertaking the unauthorized non-forestry works in the forest area. A report on the same may be submitted to Ministry.
  - ii. Encroachments in the area proposed for diversion, if any, be removed systematically with proper plan and the same may be informed to the Ministry.
  - iii. Habitation, surrounding the area proposed for diversion, is observed by the Committee. The relevant norms enabling the exploratory drilling in such areas may be informed by the State Government along with safety measures proposed to be adopted for the protection of such habitations.
  - iv. The State Government may delineate the boundaries of habitations and forest lands and a report on the same may be submitted to the Ministry along with the details of habitation, if any, located within the forest area or otherwise.
  - v. The State Govt. shall submit Human Elephant Conflict mitigation plan and Wildlife Conservation Management Plan approved by Chief Wildlife Warden, Govt. of Assam along with detail cost of its implementation.

### Agenda No.3

**Online Proposal No.: FP/BR/ROAD/465458/2024**

**Subject: Proposal for seeking approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 0.707 (revised) (earlier proposed area 0.76ha) ha forest land in favour of Sri Ram Karmbhumi Nyas for renovation/upgradation of existing temples and development of various other facilities of Sri Mandareswar Kashi Viswanatha Mandir, Mandar in Bounsi Tehsil in Banka District of Bihar (Proposal No.: FP/BR/ROAD/465458/2024).**

1. The agenda for above subject proposal was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 27.10.2025. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). The DDGF (Central), Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Nagpur in charge of Regional Office, Ranchi attended the meeting. The Nodal Officer, Govt. of Bihar was not present in the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee after thorough deliberation and discussion observed that:
  - i. The Govt. of Bihar through their letter No 4/ वनभूमि-117/2025 346/.प०व०ज०प० dated 04.07.2025 has submitted the above mentioned online proposal on PARIVESH 2.0 to Regional Office, Ranchi to obtain approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 0.707 (revised) (earlier proposed area 0.76ha) ha forest land in favor of Sri Ram Karmbhumi Nyas for renovation/upgradation of existing temples and development of various other facilities of Sri Mandareswar Kashi Viswanatha Mandir, Mandar in Bounsi Tehsil in Banka District of Bihar.
  - ii. The total forest area under the proposal is 0.707 ha of protected forest land which is located in under Banka Forest Division, Bihar.
  - iii. The proposed forest area is protected forest land with canopy density of 0.2 (Eco Class-3) and 26 number of trees have been proposed to be felled.
  - iv. The component wise land use details submitted with the proposal is as follows:

Sl. No.	Component	Area (Sqft)
1	Renovation and upgradation of existing Shri Mandareswar Kashi Vishwanath Temple	16875
2.	Pillared hall/shed at the back of temple	11500
3.	Yoga and Meditation platform	12425
4.	Renovation and upgradation of existing ruins of	3200



	Kaamcaarni Mata Temple	
5.	Renovation and upgradation of existing ruins of Mandarnath Mahadev Temple	5175
6.	Yoga Centre	2400
7.	Renovation and upgradation of existing ruins of Bajrangbali& Shiv Mandir	800
8.	Renovation of Existing Gaushala	7600
9	Renovation and Upgradation of nearby existing ruins	4125
10	Dhyayan Kendra &Prashashnik Bhawan	12000
11.	Total	76100 or 0.707 Ha

- v. The justification of the locating the project in forest area is that the Lord Shiva incarnated in the form of "Swayambhu Lingam" on Mandar Parvat (as per Skand Puraan and Shiv Puraan) is being worshipped as Shri MandareshwarKashiVishwanath, since time immemorial. Lakhs of devotees from different parts of the Bihar state and other parts of the country visit the sacred Mandar Parvat every year and have darshan of Lord Shri MandareshwarKashiVishwanath. At present the Swayambhu Lingam is temporary housed in a very small, 8 x 6 x 6 ft dimension Mandir on top of the Mandar Parvat which is very congested (earlier a magnificent temple was destroyed by the invaders) The area is not sufficient to perform puja, abhishekam and Aarati as prescribed by shastras. The devotees are facing difficulty in having proper darshan and Pujan of the Lord as per shastras. Also there are several other temples and places of interests depicted in the Skand Puraan, shiv Puraan, shastras etc. Where devotees are not able to perform rituals and puja according to the Shastras. The Sansthan requires an area of 2.5 Acres of Land in and around the present Mandir on top of the hill to construct a suitable temple structure and create necessary facilities to the devotees. Also land is required to renovate and construct other temples and places of interest on Mandar hill (pointed and stated in the proposal) related to the ancient historical epics mentioned in our puraanas (SkandPuraan, Shiv Puraan etc.).
- vi. The Compensatory Afforestation has been proposed for 1555 trees plantation will be done against proposed forest land for diversion. CA plantation proposed in 1.1 ha degraded forest land at Mouza-KasbaWasila RF, Thana No.113, Khesra No.09, 10 in Banka Range. The total financial outlay for CA scheme is Rs.22,18,953/.
- vii. As per DSS analysis, the proposed forest area for diversion falls under Banka district of Bihar. The Calculated area of Shape file/ KML file of Forest land proposed for diversion is found 0.70 ha. As per DSS, there is No wildlife sanctuary, national park, tiger reserve and tiger corridor is located within 10 km distance from the proposed forest land for diversion. The Compensatory afforestation has been proposed in a single patch over the forest land (NFL).The Calculated area of the KML file of proposed CA land is found 1.50 ha.

- viii. The State Government originally submitted the proposal to Regional Office, Ranchi. The proposal was examined by the RO, Ranchi. The RO, Ranchi vide EDS dated 09.07.2025 has sought certain additional information from the State Government which include ownership details of the temple and the comments or No Objection Certificates (NOC) from the State Endowment Department and the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) for renovation and construction of new structures and the component-wise land-use details and KML file indicates the presence of certain structures within the proposed diversion area, as well as near to it, therefore, the State Government requested to submit information regarding the year of construction and approvals obtained from the competent authority.
- ix. The State Government vide letter dated 28.07.2025 informed that as per the User Agency, Mandareshwar Kashi Vishwanath Mandir is of significant cultural and religious importance to the local community and is considered to be very ancient. However, the temple does not fall under the list of protected monuments notified by the archaeological Survey of India (ASI). Moreover, it also does not fall under the list of registered or unregistered temples under Bihar State Board of Religious Trusts (Bihar Rajya Dharmik Nyas Parishad). The existing Shivling along with Sh. Mandareshwar Kashi Vishwanath Mandir is situated on a small platform of 40x40 feet. This temple is claimed to be of ancient origins and it is proposed to renovate it and those situated in its environs. This temple is neither under the ASI nor under Bihar State Board of Religious Trusts. It is being looked after by Ram Karmbhumi Nyas Since long. As this temple is currently situated on forest land, therefor, proposal is submitted.
- x. The State Government has also submitted the component wise land use details. The State Government has also informed that as per the list of registered temples under Bihar State Board of Religious Trusts (Bihar Rajya Dharmik Nyas Parishad), the earlier included "existing ruins of Narsingh Temple and Caves", has been removed from the proposal by the user agency. Hence, the area of protected forest being proposed for diversion is now 0.707 Ha.
- xi. The reply submitted by the State Government was examined by RO and the RO vide EDS dated 20.8.2025 requested the State Government to submit the additional information which include details of the existing structures along with the approvals obtained for the same, as claimed by the State Forest Department (SFD), some structures are ancient and were established prior to the promulgation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 (FCA, 1980), these may still fall under the category of encroachment and would require regularization in accordance with the rules in force. If any component of such existing works require regularization, the scenario of the application may be accordingly be modified to send the application directly to Ministry HQ. RO further observed that the proposal appears to have been submitted by a User Agency that does not own the land. The State Government requested to clarify the provisions under the applicable rules that permit transfer of forest land to any non-government institutions for carrying out non-essential, non-site-specific activities that otherwise easily be shifted to non-forest areas.

- xii. The Government of Bihar vide their letter dated 29.08.2025 informed that other structures found on the hill include a ropeway, with three stations, located at the bottom, mid and top of the hill. These constructions were undertaken by the Bihar State Tourism Development Corporation. Due approval for this construction has been obtained under VSSA, 1980. Another set of structures, including toilet blocks, and rain shelters, constructed by Bihar State Tourism Development Corporation. In-principal approval (Stage I clearance) for these structures has been accorded by MOEFCC. However, no supporting documents submitted by the State Government in this regard.
- xiii. The State Government also informed that the temples and other structures at Mandar site are old historical religious structure, established prior to the promulgation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. As such, the temple's existence on notified Protected Forest land (vide Notification No. C/PF-10165/52-5850) does not constitute a violation or unauthorized encroachment under Section 2 of the Act, since the restriction on use of forest land for non-forest purposes came into effect only after 25.10.1980. The temples & other old ruins of ancient origin on forest land is a pre-existing condition predating the FCA, 1980 and hence does not amount to violation. For other structures the then user agency (BSTDC) has already obtained requisite approvals for other tourism-related structures post-1980. Accordingly, the case may be processed on this basis and need not be categorized as encroachment regularization under Rule 10(2)(v).
- xiv. The State Government further informed that in the context of the non-site specific structures proposed as part of the proposal, the User Agency has clarified that a Yoga Centre, a Meditation Centre and an Administrative Block cum Dharmashala are proposed to be constructed. It has been stated that these structures would create a healthy ecosystem for the devotees, and also serve as places of rest and halt for patrolling parties of the Forest Department. This justification may be accepted.
- xv. The reply submitted by State Government was examined by RO, Ranchi. DDGF, RO, Ranchi observed that the proposal also includes certain activities which are not site-specific but have been indicated by the User Agency as part of the project. Considering the existing nature of the structures, the Regional Office is of the view that the proposal may be considered for regularization. At the same time, some ambiguity persists regarding the components of the project. In view of the above, RO, Ranchi has referred the proposal to the Ministry (Hq) in accordance with Chapter 4, Paragraph 1.10 (ii) of the Consolidated Guidelines and Rule 10.2 (v) of the VSSA Rules, 2023, for consideration of regularization and site-specificity issues.
- xvi. The proposal was examined in the Ministry and the Ministry observed the following:-
  - (a) As per rule 1.10 (ii) In case of any ambiguity regarding non-specificity of a particular project, the same shall be referred to the Ministry for decision. Further, the Regional Offices/Sub-Offices shall ensure that non-site specific proposals, which have been recommended by the Regional Empowered Committee (REC) or Regional Office, need to be submitted to the MoEF&CC, New Delhi for decision on case to case basis. Proposals which

have been rejected by the REC or Regional Office/Sub-Office should not be submitted to the MoEF&CC, New Delhi. Therefore, Regional Empowered Committee (REC) or Regional Office, Ranchi shall submit the clear cut recommendation regarding the above proposal.

- (b) RO, Ranchi shall clearly specified whether the proposal involved regularization of encroachment (Rule 10.2 iv) or ex-post facto approval involving violation of the provisions of the Adhiniyam (Rule 10.2 v). The State Government shall also modified the proposal accordingly.
- (c) As per Rule 10 (4) of VSESA, Site inspection report shall be prepared for proposals specified in sub-rule (2) by the Regional Office and the same shall be submitted to the Central Government for consideration by the Advisory Committee. Accordingly, RO, Ranchi shall submit the Site Inspection Report along with the proposal.
- (d) As per DSS analysis, the State Govt. has uploaded multiple KML files of land proposed for CA of different locations and therefore, in the present analysis, KML file of CA for which DGPS map has been uploaded is used for DSS analysis. Hence, the State Govt. may be requested to uploaded the correct KML file along with map of CA land.

Accordingly, the proposal was returned to RO, Ranchi with a request to take necessary action regarding the above observations.

- xvii. The proposal was again submitted by the Regional Office, Ranchi to the Ministry with the reply that the proposal was re-examined in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Guidelines and the VSESA Rules. A site inspection was conducted on 19-09-2025 by the DIGF, Regional Office, Ranchi, and the Site Inspection Report (SIR) has been uploaded on the Parivesh portal. The State Government was requested to address the deficiencies pointed out by the MoEF&CC, which have since been complied with. Based on the site inspection report and the applicable rule provisions, the proposal is found to be non-site-specific and pertains to the regularization of existing structures on forest land, including the additional area required for their renovation. In view of its non-site-specific nature and regularization component, the proposal falls under the competence of the MoEF&CC, New Delhi, in accordance with Rule 10.2 (iv).
- xviii. The Site Inspection of the instant proposal was carried out by DIGF, RO Ranchi. As per SIR, the MandarParbat is a unique site of mythological, religious and archaeological importance located in forest area. It is therefore vital to preserve this cultural heritage. Hence, the proposal limited to renovation of existing structures can be considered for recommendation provided the associated natural heritage is preserved and protected by ensuring the following:
  - a) Portions of proposal, like construction of Study center, Administrative Blocks, Dharmshala etc., that seek to construct new structures in forest area shall be shifted to non-forest area available in vicinity.
  - b) Non-forest works, not connected to extant proposal but done post 1980 (like steps, transmission lines, rest areas, Jain temple related ancillary works etc.), shall be accounted by the concerned DFO and a separate

proposal for their regularization shall be pursued by the state government.

- c) As project proponent are not duly mandated for temple maintenance, the state government shall, by statue, authorize the agency (preferably Forest Management Committee) to take care of the mandir/hill related management affairs. Such agency must be appropriately represented by District Forest department.
  - d) The recommendations of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) including one related to preserving the original structure of the hill by way of minimum interference, shall be complied with.
  - e) The entire hill forest boundary shall be delineated by boundary pillars and state shall endeavor to get protected status to the entire hill.
  - f) The proposed CA scheme corresponding to the diversion includes only 8 years of maintenance, it must have a provision for 20 years of plantation maintenance as per the Consolidated Guidelines of ministry.
- xix. DDGF (Central) , RO, Ranchi recommended the proposal for consideration only for renovation of existing structures, subject to the following conditions:
- (a) All proposed new constructions mentioned in the proposal, such as the Study Centre, Administrative Blocks, and Dharmshala, shall be relocated to non-forest land available nearby.
  - (b) The State shall comply with the recommendations of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and shall ensure that all works are executed with the prior approval of the ASI, as required under the applicable rules.
  - (c) The State Government shall authorise an appropriate agency to manage the project site. This agency shall execute the works in consultation with the State Forest Department (SFD).
  - (d) Since the proposed Compensatory Afforestation (CA) scheme provides for only 8 years of maintenance, it shall be revised to ensure 20 years of plantation maintenance, in line with the Consolidated Guidelines issued by the MoEF&CC.
  - (e) Regarding non-forest works not connected with this proposal but observed during the site inspection, such as steps, transmission lines, rest areas, and ancillary works of the Jain temple, the State Government shall ascertain the year of construction of these facilities and take appropriate action under the VSSA, 1980.
- xx. The Advisory Committee observed that the existing Shivling along with Sh. MandareshwarKashiVishwanathMandir is situated on a small platform of 40x40 feet. This temple is claimed to be of ancient origins and it is proposed to renovate it and those situated in its environs. This temple is neither under the ASI nor under Bihar State Board of Religious Trusts. It is being looked after by Ram Karmbhumi Nyas. As per SIR by Regional Office, the visiting team asked the members of Dharmik Nyas about the authorization letter by which they are bestowed with the responsibility to take care of the temples and Mandar hill area. They could not show any such document. The inspection team asked the DFO about any order that might have been

issued by State Government for allowing the Nyas towards the temples & hill management. The DFO replied in negative. He informed that local Pandas (priests) have been doing puja related works in these temples traditionally. As per SIR, non-forest works, not connected to extant proposal but done post 1980 (like steps, transmission lines, rest areas, Jain temple related ancillary works etc.), shall be accounted by the concerned DFO and a separate proposal for their regularization shall be pursued by the state government.

- xxi. The Advisory Committee also observed that the Regional Office forwarded the proposal with the observation:- "*In view of its non-site-specific nature and regularization component, the proposal falls under the competence of the MoEF&CC, New Delhi, in accordance with Rule 10.2 (iv).*" However, State Government has proposed that case need not be categorized as encroachment regularization under Rule 10(2)(v).
- xxii. The committee observed that the certain issues have still not been clarified in the proposal, e.g. the details of violations have not been obtained by the Regional Office. Moreover, the decision on the renovation of existing pre-1980 structures could be taken by the Regional Office and there seems to be no justification to send the proposal to the Ministry for the renovation of pre-1980 structures.

**4. Decision of Advisory Committee:** The Committee after thorough deliberation and discussion with DDGF (Central), RO, Ranchi and after going through the facts of the proposal, '**deferred**' the proposal for want of following information:-

- i. The State Government shall clearly bring out the locus standi of the User Agency on the proposed land along with legal status of user agency and documentary evidence in this regard, as mentioned in SIR.
- ii. The Regional Office Ranchi shall clarify the basis for referring the proposal for consideration of FAC and also inform whether there is any violation of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam 1980 and rules thereunder in the instant proposal and submit its recommendations accordingly.
- iii. In a reply to EDS by Regional Office, Ranchi, the State Government informed that a set of structures, including toilet blocks, and rain shelters, constructed by Bihar State Tourism Development Corporation. In-principal approval (Stage I clearance) for these structures has been accorded by MOEFCC. However, no supporting documents submitted by the State Government in this regard. The State Government shall submit a copy of the approvals.

**Agenda No. 4**

**Online Proposal No. FP/HR/ROAD/427321/2023**

**Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in favour of Executive Engineer, Department of Irrigation for non-forestry use of 0.0232 ha of Protected Forest land for construction of out of norms bridge on Balsamand sub branch RD 76450 Village- Satrod, Tehsil- Hisar, District- Hisar in the State of Haryana (Proposal No. FP/HR/ROAD/427321/2023)- regarding.**



1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 27.10.2025. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in).
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC for their examination and analysis. Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Chandigarh and Officials from the Government of Haryana attended the meeting. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:
  - i. The proposal is for diversion of 0.0232 ha. Protected forest for construction of out of norms bridge on Balsamand sub branch RD 76450 Village- Satrod, Tehsil- Hisar, District- Hisar in the State of Haryana.
  - ii. Component wise break up are as under:

Sl. No.	Component	Forest Land (ha.)	Non-Forest Land (ha.)	Total Land (ha.)
1.	Construction of out of norms bridge on Balsamand sub branch (RD 76450)	0.0232	0.0563	0.0795
2.	Other Components	0	0	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>0.0232</b>	<b>0.0563</b>	<b>0.0795</b>

- iii. Canopy density in the proposed area is reported to be 0.1 of Eco class III with no tree feeling proposed to be felled during implementation of the project.
- iv. Proposal does not fall within 10 km radius of the boundary of any PAs. No endangered, Schedule-I species, etc. have been reported in the area proposed for diversion. No protected archaeological / heritage site / defence establishment or any other important monuments is located in the area has been reported. Certificates to this effect have been submitted by DFO concerned.
- v. As per decision Rule- 1 and 2, the area does not falls into in High Conservation value Zone.
- vi. Compensatory Afforestation has been proposed over 0.1 ha degraded forest land in Site Name- Khoka Minor RD 15-16 L and R Side, Compartment/ Khasra No. H43P16, Survey No. H43P16, Village- Niyana, Tehsil- Hisar, Range- Hisar, Division- Hisar, District- Hisar. CA scheme with 10 years of maintenance is provided. Site suitability certificate has been furnished by the concerned DFO.
- vii. The Committee was informed that the proposal involves violation, the State Government has mentioned in their reply dated 30.09.2025 that Divisional Forest Officer, Hisar has reported that violation of IFA, 1927 has been done by Shri Sarwan Kumar Langyan, Executive Engineer, Water Services Division, Hisar over an area of 0.023225 ha. in the year 2024. Further, it is also mentioned in violation report that DR No.

006/0769 dated 19.07.2024 has been issued and an amount of ₹1,16,125/- has been raised. The Committee was further informed that no information regarding action taken against the official concerned for not being able to prevent use of forest land for non-forestry purpose has been submitted by the State Government.

Regional Office, Chandigarh has mentioned in their inspection report that the proposal was submitted online by the User Agency in PARIVESH 2.0 Portal on 03.05.2023 and the violation by constructing the bridge over 0.023225 ha of forest land was done on 19.07.2024, Hence, it falls under the case, where the proposal is under consideration and forest land is diverted before grant of FC under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, as per the para 1.16 (ii) of the Consolidated Guidelines and clarifications issued under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023. Hence, out of proposed 0.0232 ha proposed for seeking ex-post facto approval, total 0.0232 ha of forest land falls under violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. The proposal may be considered for the consideration for ex-post facto approval as per provisions of Rules/guidelines under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam 1980.

- viii. The Committee was further informed that Ministry, after scrutiny of the proposal, observed shortcomings viz. Detailed violation report and Action taken against the official concerned etc. Additional information was requested online from the State on 26.08.2025.
- ix. The State Government submitted its reply online on 30.09.2025 and informed following:
  - a) It is mentioned that in Part- II DFO, Hisar has mentioned in Part- II that violation of IFA, 1927 has been done by Shri Sarwan Kumar Langyan, Executive Engineer, Water Services Division, Hisar over an area of 0.023225 ha. in the year 2024. Further, it is also mentioned in violation report that DR No. 006/0769 dated 19.07.2024 has been issued and an amount of ₹1,16,125/- has been raised
  - b) It is mentioned that DIGF (Central), Regional Office, Chandigarh has inspected the site.
- x. Further, the Committee was also informed that the site inspection of the instant proposal was conducted by Regional Office, Chandigarh on 27.08.2025. The SIR has also been recommended by DDGF (C) of RO, Chandigarh. Summary of the same are as under:
  - (1) **Background of the proposal:** This proposal is for diversion of 0.0232 ha of forest land for construction of out of norms bridge on Balsamand sub branch (RD 76450) at village Satrod, under Forest Division & District Hisar, Haryana.
  - (2) **Whether proposal involves violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam 1980 or not. If yes, a detailed report on violation including action taken against the concerned officials.**

The proposal involves violation of Indian Forest Act, 1927 as reported by DFO in Part-II of Parivesh 2.0 portal.

- Details of Violation: Balsamand sub branch (RD 76450), R/Side
- Area involved in violation: 0.023225 ha
- Person responsible for violation: Sh. Sarwan Kumar Langyan, Executive Engineer, Water Services Division Hisar, Haryana.
- Action taken: DR has been chalked against violator vide F.O.R. No 006/0769 dated 19/07/2024 and Project Proponent (violator) has submitted a fine of Rs. 1,16,125/- through E-Challan dated 12/03/2025.

(3) **Whether land being diverted has any socio-cultural/religious value. Whether any sacred grove or very old grown trees/forests exists in areas proposed for diversion:** As per record, the land being diverted has no socio- cultural / religious value.

(4) **Situation w.r.t. any Protected Area:** As per record, the instant proposal is not falling in or around any protected area.

(5) **Field observations/Actionable Points/recommendations:-**

1. The proposal was submitted by the User Agency online in Parivesh Portal on 18.08.2021 and Damage Report was issued on 04.05.2022. Therefore, the violation was committed after the User Agency submitted application for seeking prior approval. Hence, this appears a case of violation under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam 1980. The work of violation is still in progress and User Agency is using the approach access for organizing various functions.
2. The Proposal may be considered for ex post facto approval as per the Rules and guidelines issued under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

(6) **Recommendations of the DDGF (C) of Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Chandigarh:**

The proposal is for approach access to private property of the User Agency and has been recommended by the State Government, accordingly same is recommended for consideration in the Advisory Committee as per the extant Rules and Guidelines issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation with the DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Chandigarh and officials from Government of Haryana, recommended the proposal for grant of '*in-principle*' approval for diversion of 0.0232 ha. of Protected Forest land for construction of out of norms bridge on Balsamand sub branch RD 76450 Village- Satrod, Tehsil- Hisar, District- Hisar in the State of Haryana subject to the general, standard and following specific conditions:

- i. The User Agency shall pay the five (5) times penal NPV for the extent of violation done plus 12 percent simple interest from the date of raising of such demand till the deposit is made by the User Agency.

- ii. Action under section 3A/3B of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 be initiated by Regional Office, Chandigarh, as applicable.
- iii. The matter regarding imposition of penal CA is under consideration for the formulation of a uniform policy guideline in the matter. Keeping this in view, the imposition of penal CA (if any) shall be as per the said guideline, if issued.

### **Agenda No. 7**

#### **Online Proposal No. FP/HP/ROAD/521935/2025**

**Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in favour of Executive Engineer, Himachal Pradesh Public Works Department for non-forestry use of 0.171 ha of forest land for construction of 165.00 mtr span double land bridge over Giri River on Nahan Dadahu Haripurdhar road at RD 35/690 in Sirmour District in the State of Himachal Pradesh (Proposal No. FP/HP/ROAD/521935/2025)- regarding.**

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 27.10.2025. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in).
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC for their examination and analysis. Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Chandigarh and officials from the Government of Himachal Pradesh attended the meeting. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:
  - i. The proposal is for diversion of 0.171 ha of forest land for construction of 165.00 mtr span double land bridge over Giri River on Nahan Dadahu Haripurdhar road at RD 35/690 in Sirmour District in the State of Himachal Pradesh.
  - ii. Component wise break up are as under:

Sl. No.	Component	Forest Land (ha.)	Non- Forest Land (ha.)
1.	Bridge	0.171	0.0795
2.	Dumping	0.00	0.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>0.171</b>	<b>0.0795</b>

- iii. Canopy density in the proposed area is reported to be 0 of Eco class V with no tree feeling proposed to be felled during implementation of the project.
- iv. Proposal forest land is located at an approx. aerial distance of 0.07 Km from Renukaji Wildlife Sanctuary.
- v. DFO, Renuka Ji has mentioned in Part-II that 121 flora species, 14 mammal, including common Leopard and Hlmalyan Black Bear which are listed under schedule 1 of the WPA (Amendment) 2022 and

Vulnerable" in the IUCN red list alongwith 200 bird species. Additioanal, Renukaji Lake located within the Sanctuary, close to the diversion area, is home to Indian soft-shell turtle (Endangered" as per IUNCN Red list) and "Vulnerable" Indian Roofed Turtle along with other turtle species. Further, it is mentioned that already a very old bridge existed on the site of Giri River which connecting to Nahan, Dadahu with upper area of Distt. Sirmour and particularly Renukaji. The new proposed site of bridge is just adjoining to that old bridge. Therefore, no impact on the Wildlife sanctuary area. There is no record of Wild animal using existing bridge as corridor. However, wild animals are seen using river bed under the bridge as corridor for movement. It is also mentioned that The project is unlikely to have any adverse impact on the endangered Indian soft-shell turtle which has its habitat in the Renukaji lake, which although close to the diversion area, is not directly connected.

- vi. No protected archaeological / heritage site / defence establishment or any other important monuments is located in the area has been reported. Certificate to this effect have been submitted by DFO concerned.
- vii. The instant proposal falls under Not-in High Conservation Value (HCV) Zone as per Decision Rule 2. However, as per Decision Rule 1, the proposed area falls in Giri river.
- viii. Compensatory Afforestation has been proposed over 0.342 ha degraded forest land in Site Name/Compartment/Block RF Manal C-3, Compartment No. C-3, Survey No. H43L10 in Village- Loja Manal (188), Tehsil- Ronhat/Shillai, District- Sirmaur, Renukaji Forest Division. CA scheme with 10 years of maintenance is provided. Site suitability certificate has been furnished by the concerned DFO.
- ix. The Committee was informed that the proposal involves violation, DFO, Renuka Ji has mentioned in Part- II that user agency i.e. Executive Engineer, HPPWD has violated provisions of IFA, 1927 over an area of 0.171 ha in the year 2020 by raising bridge pillar. Penalty for ₹3,36,000/- was imposed U.S 68 of IFA and user agency has deposited the amount vide E-Challan No. B24A103498 dated 03.01.2024.

Regional Office, Chandigarh has mentioned in their inspection report that as per DFO report in para 8 of Part II, the proposal involves violation. However, as per timeline in PARIVESH portal, the proposal was submitted on 29.02.2024 and violation was committed in 2020 which is before the date of making application. Hence, the violation committed is of IFA, not of VSSA. 1980. The area was inspected by the undersigned along with officials of forest department and user agency. At the spot, construction of two pillars is noticed in the river area which had been constructed without any prior approval. In view of the above, this is a case of violation of the IFA 1927 and a penalty of ₹3,36,000/- has been imposed by forest department under IFA 1927 and the same has been deposited by the user agency.

- x. The Committee was further informed that Ministry, after scrutiny of the proposal, observed shortcomings viz. reason for submitting new

proposal Without submitting reply to the observations of the Ministry in earlier proposal, detailed violation report mentioning extent and nature of violation and action taken against the officers responsible for violation, comments from PCCF (Wildlife)/CWLW from conservation point of view along with Wildlife Conservation Plan and KML file of compartment boundary of area proposed for diversion and area proposed for CA etc. Additional information was requested online from the State on 25.06.2025.

- xi. The State Government submitted its reply online on 30.09.2025 and informed following:
  - a) Earlier the proposal was uploaded under user id:- hppwdraj76@gmail.com which was not on govt. domain (i.e., gov. or nic.) and the access of this ID was with the officer who got retired from the services and it was getting difficult to access the same on g-mail and Online Portal. Due to this reason the new user ID with govt. domain was obtained from NIC Cell and the case was uploaded on this user Id for future access to obtain necessary permission under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
  - b) DFO concerned has submitted that the as per Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, Rules 2023, Para 1.16 (i) (a). The diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes without the prior approval of the competent authority in the State will be dealt under the provisions of IFA,1927 and other State Act dealing with the conservation of Forests by the State Government. The land in question will not be considered as diverted under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and the status of the land shall continue to be forest. Further, DFO concerned has submitted that the penalty amounting to ₹3,36,000/- has been imposed under Section 68 of IFA. The concerned user agency has deposited the said amount through Challan on 03.01.2024.
  - c) existing bridge over Giri River, which is about 50 years old, plays a vital role in connecting the district headquarters Sirmour, Nahan, Dadahu, Renukaji, Sangdah and Haripurdhar to the upper reaches of Sirmour district by road. A new bridge is proposed to be constructed near the existing bridge. The location has been selected to ensure that there is no direct impact on the nearby wildlife sanctuary area. There is no documentary evidence that the existing bridge serves as a wildlife movement corridor. However, field observations confirm that the river bed below the bridge is used by wild animals as a movement corridor.
  - d) KML file of compartment boundary of area proposed for diversion and area proposed for CA is submitted.
- xii. Further, the Committee was also informed that the site inspection of the instant proposal was conducted by Regional Office, Chandigarh. The SIR has also been recommended by DDGF (C) of RO, Chandigarh. Summary of the same are as under:

**I. Background on the proposal:**



The Government of Himachal Pradesh vide dated 02.08.2024 submitted the fresh proposal to obtain approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 0.171 ha. of forest land in favour of HPPWD for the construction of 165.00 metre span Double Lane Bridge over Giri River on Nahan Dadahu Haripurdhar Road at RD 35/690 under Renukaji Forest Division, District Sirmour Himachal Pradesh (Online Proposal No. FP/HP/Road/521935/2024).

**II. Whether proposal involves violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 or not. If yes, a detailed report on violation including action taken against the concerned officials.**

As per DFO report in para 8 of Part II, the proposal involves violation. However, as per timeline in PARIVESH portal, the proposal was submitted on 29.02.2024 and violation was committed in 2020 which is before the date of making application. Hence, the violation committed is of IFA, not of VSSA, 1980. The area was inspected by the undersigned along with officials of forest department and user agency. At the spot, construction of two pillars is noticed in the river area which had been constructed without any prior approval.

In view of the above, this is a case of violation of the IFA 1927 and a penalty of ₹ 3,36,000/- has been imposed by forest department under IFA 1927 and the same has been deposited by the user agency

**III. Whether proposal involves rehabilitation of displaced persons. If yes, whether rehabilitation plan has been prepared by the State Government or not. Details be furnished specifically if rehabilitation plan would affect any other forest area by translocating outstees in and around the said forest:**

As per record, no displacement of any person/Household was found.

**IV. Whether land being diverted has any socio-cultural/religious value. Whether any sacred grove or very old grown trees/forests exists in areas proposed for diversion:**

As per record, the land being diverted has no socio-cultural/religious value.

**Situation w.r.t. any Protected Area:**

As per record, the area is outside Renuka Ji wildlife Sanctuary but adjoining to the boundary.

**V. Field observations/ Actionable Points/recommendations:**

- 1) Two pillars were found constructed (One up to riverbed level and the other approximately 10 feet above the riverbed) (photo 1 & 2).
- 2) Cutting of approach road was also noticed but the same falls in non forest land.
- 3) The proposal involves 0.171 ha forest land and 0.0795 ha non forest land.
- 4) In this case there is violation of the IFA 1927 and not of VSSA, 1980

- 5) Rolling down of muck noticed in the river area due to earlier construction of approach road. At present, no construction is going on in the proposed area. User agency may be directed to remove all the muck from river area

#### **VI. Recommendations of the Deputy Director General of Forests (Central):**

The proposal is for public utility and has been recommended by the State Government, accordingly same is recommended for consideration in the Advisory Committee as per the extant Rules and Guidelines issued under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

- xiii. The Committee observed that the legal status of the roads connecting the bridge proposed to be built over forest land is not clear and requires clarification from the State Government.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation with the DDGF (Central), RO, Chandigarh and officials from the Government of Himachal Pradesh and after going through the facts of the proposal, the Committee decided to '**defer**' the proposal with the following observations:
  - i. The State Government shall clarify the legal status of the roads connecting the bridge proposed to be built over forest land.

#### **Agenda No. 8**

#### **Online Proposal No. FP/HP/MIN/QRY/473175/2024**

**Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for renewal of 1.1078 ha. Protected Forest land for already established quarry & stone crusher at Pashada in favour of Om Prakash Mehta R/o VPO Khaneri Tehsil- Rampur Bushahr, District- Shimla in the State of Himachal Pradesh (Online No. FP/HP/MIN/QRY/473175/2024)- regarding.**

1. The agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 27.10.2025. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in).
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC for their examination and analysis. Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Chandigarh and Officials from the Government of Himachal Pradesh attended the meeting. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:
  - i. Proposal involves diversion of 1.1078 ha. Protected Forest land for already established quarry & stone crusher at Pashada in favour of Om Prakash Mehta R/o VPO Khaneri Tehsil- Rampur Bushahr, District- Shimla in the State of Himachal Pradesh.
  - ii. Component wise break up are as under:

Component	Forest Land (ha.)	Non-forest land (ha.)	Software calculated area (ha)
Approach Road	0.1504	0	0.15
Stone crusher	0.3038	0	0.304
Dumping site	0.2036	0	0.203
Quarry site	0.45		0.45
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.1078</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1.107</b>

- iii. Canopy density in the proposed area is reported to be 0.4 of Eco class VI with no tree feeling proposed to be felled during implementation of the project.
- iv. Proposal does not fall within 10 km radius of the boundary of any PAs. No endangered, Schedule-I species, etc. have been reported in the area proposed for diversion. No protected archaeological / heritage site / defence establishment or any other important monuments is located in the area has been reported. Certificates to this effect have been submitted by DFO concerned.
- v. Proposed forest area falls under Not-in High Conservation Value (HCV) Zone as per Decision Rule 2. However, as per Decision Rule 1, the proposed area falls within 250 buffer of Satluj River.
- vi. Since area proposed for renewal of already diverted area, Compensatory Afforestation has not been proposed.
- vii. No violation of the Adhiniyam have been reported. Authorities in the State Government have recommended the proposal. However, from examination of the proposal it is observed that land in the Southern side of the proposed area seems to have been broken up.
- viii. The Ministry, after preliminary examination of the proposal, observed shortcomings viz. land use map for the proposal with exact extent of area sought for diversion for each of the components, mine closure and reclamation plan, KML file of safety zone, comments from PCCF (Wildlife) required, if any, from conservation point of view, compliance report of Stage- II approval, status of Compensatory Afforestation carried out in lieu of the previous diversion, action taken by the State Government for breaking of land on Southern side, status of safety zone maintained in lieu of the earlier diversion and Letter of Intent etc. Additional information was requested online from the State on 01.07.2025. The Regional Office was also requested to submit an inspection report.
- ix. The State Government submitted its reply online on 23.08.2025. Examination of the same revealed that information regarding KML file of, safety zone marked is not as per para 7.9 (i) of consolidated guidelines, revised mining plan duly incorporating the Mine Closure and Reclamation Plan, Valid Letter of Intent and comments from the State Government on the recommendations of DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Chandigarh were not submitted. The same was communicated to the State Government on 06.09.2025.

- x. The State Government submitted its reply online on 10.10.2025 and informed following:
- a) It is mentioned that KML file highlighting safety zone has been uploaded.
  - b) It is mentioned that revised mining plan duly incorporating the Mine Closure and Reclamation Plan has been prepared and uploaded by the user agency under the appropriate column in Part-I as well as under the Additional Information section of Part-I.
  - c) It is mentioned that the Lol in this case has already culminated into execution of a valid mining lease deed over the applied area in favour of the project proponent for a period of 15 years w.e.f. 04.02.2012 to 03.02.2027, as clarified by the State Geologist, Department of Industries, Government of Himachal Pradesh vide letter dated 09.07.2025; hence, submission of a separate valid Lol does not arise.
  - d) It is mentioned that broken part of forest land as seen and verified by DDGF (Central) R.O. Chandigarh is a land slide during the heavy rainfall in the years of 2023 and well before this year. However, the than DFO has also issued damage report to the damage caused due to heavy rain and not maintaining proper safety measures by UA during mining operation. Damage report is already uploaded against additional information detail in Part- I & in document detail.
- It is also very true that DFO still checking the forest area with revenue authority to analysis the actual area broken during the year of 2023 due to heavy rainfall and due to negligence of the PP for not maintaining the proper measurement during the mining operation.
- Further, it is also informed that Patch No. 1 having an area of 0.2036 ha is proposed for dumping of muck. Patch No. 2 & 4 are proposed for Stone Crusher having an area of 0.3038 hectare & Patch No. 3 having an area of 0.45 ha is for Quarry Site. There is no violation because the proposed area is already diverted by the Govt. of India in the year of 2002(copy of approval attached). Now due to expiry of mining lease area & FCA approval, this proposal is processed for renewal of mining lease in view of the provision contain in Van Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan Adhiniyam, 1980 & rules amended thereof in 2023.
- It is mentioned that the lease area does not fall in any notified fragile or landslide-prone zone and remains stable as per records of competent authorities; the minor slope breakages noticed earlier were only due to heavy rainfall and do not prove inherent erosion-prone conditions, hence continuance of regulated mining will not cause damage beyond recovery.
- xi. Further, the Committee was also informed that the site inspection of the instant proposal was conducted by Regional Office, Chandigarh on 10.06.2025. The SIR has been recommended by DDGF (C) of RO, Chandigarh with following observations:

1. Forest land adjoining to the proposed area has been found broken. However, the User Agency has claimed this broken area due to landslide. The concerned DFO informed that the Forest Department is checking the used area with the help of Revenue Department; and the same is under process. Further, the whole landscape was also cross-checked with the help of Google earth imagery and the report is enclosed at Annexure 1. As per google earth findings, 1.06 ha area other than proposed area is in use by the project proponent, which is marked as site 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 in DSS report. Further, the User Agency has reported the site 1 as landslide, but site 2, 3, 4 & 5 appears in violation which is outside the proposed area KML file uploaded online.
  2. In view of the above, it is recommended that Forest Department may be directed to get the area cross-checked properly with the help of Revenue Department as per boundary pillars etc. and other relevant records; and submit the details of area in use based upon ground demarcation.
  3. Since the whole landscape, where the proposed renewal of mining is located, appears to be fragile and prone to landslide, hence, continuance of the mining activity could potentially damage the area beyond recovery.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation with the DDGF (Central), RO, Chandigarh and Officials from the Government of Himachal Pradesh and after going through the facts of the proposal, the Committee decided to '**defer**' the proposal with the following observations:
- i. The State Government shall provide a copy of previous Stage-II approvals granted in the instant project and a compliance report of the same.
  - ii. As per site inspection report submitted by Regional Office, it is observed that excess land has been broken up. The Legal status of area under site 1, 2,3,4 & 5, as identified in the SIR of RO Chandigarh may be ascertained by State Government and violation, if any, may be reported along with detailed violation report and action taken therein.
  - iii. The State Government shall clearly bring out the details of the total area in use based on ground demarcation with the help of Revenue authorities as per boundary pillars and relevant records.
  - iv. Examination of KML file of safety zone uploaded on PARIVESH portal revealed that width of safety zone is less than 2 mtrs. The State Government shall submit revised proposal with modified KML file as per Ministry's guidelines.
  - v. State Geologist, Department of Industries, Government of Himachal Pradesh vide letter dated 09.07.2025 has informed that validity of mining lease is for 15 years w.e.f. 04.02.2012 to 03.02.2027. However, copy of Lol has not been submitted. The State Government shall submit the same.

## **Agenda No. 10**

### **Online Proposal No. FP/KA/HYD/IRRIG/447501/2023**

**Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 54.155 ha of forest land in various villages of Sagar, Shivamogga Wildlife and Honnavara Divisions for construction of Hydroelectric project- Sharavathy Pumped Storage-2000 MW power generation in favour of the Chief engineer, Karnataka Power Corporation Limited (KPCI), Bengaluru**

1. The above stated agenda item was considered by the Advisory Committee in its meeting held on 27.10.2025. The DDGF (Central), Regional Office, MoEFCC, Bengaluru and Nodal Officer, Government of Karnataka attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the Advisory Committee. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee after through deliberation and discussion observed that:
  - i. The Govt. of Karnataka has submitted the proposal on the above mentioned subject vide letter no. FEE 67 FLL 2025(e) dated 20.03.2025 seeking approval of the Central Government under section-2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam for construction of Hydroelectric project- Sharavathy Pumped Storage-2000 MW power generation in favour of the Chief engineer, Karnataka Power Corporation Limited (KPCL), Bengaluru.
  - ii. The proposal is for diversion of 54.155 ha of forest land for construction of Pumped Storage Scheme of 2000 MW which will provide peaking benefits utilizing the existing reservoir at Talakalale as the upper reservoir and Gerusoppa as the lower reservoir. In this proposal, no new reservoir has been proposed. Both the reservoirs are proposed to be connected with a water conductor system (PCC/steel lined) which will act as HRT and TRT. An underground powerhouse cavern with 8 units of 250 MW reversible Francis pump turbine, will be constructed between the two reservoirs and connected with the tunnels.
  - iii. The State clarified that no new dams or submergence are involved, as existing reservoirs are used. Most project components are underground or along existing infrastructure, minimizing surface impact. The site was selected due to its technical suitability and efficiency. The project supports renewable energy integration, reduces carbon emissions, and provides socio-economic benefits while incorporating ecological safeguards.
  - iv. The proposed land falls within the Honavar Division, Shimoga Wildlife Division and Sagar Division and type of forest is reserve forest and others.

- v. The project is located in the state of Karnataka, specifically within the Bengaluru Urban District. It is classified under the Hydel/Irrigation category, and forest land is proposed to be diverted for a duration of 99 years.
- vi. The user agency responsible for implementing the project is Karnataka Power Corporation Limited (KPCL), which is a State Public Sector Undertaking (PSU).
- vii. The project involves diversion of forest land across three forest divisions—Honavar Division (27.928 ha), Shimoga Wildlife Division (14.582 ha), and Sagar Division (11.645 ha), totaling 54.155 hectares.
- viii. The legal status of the land in Honavar Division is Reserved Forest (RF), while the other two divisions include forest types classified under other categories. All three divisions fall under Eco-Class I, indicating high ecological sensitivity. Vegetation density is relatively high, ranging from 1.0 in Honavar and Shimoga, to 0.3–0.7 in Sagar.
- ix. The project will utilize a total of 54.155 ha of forest land and 88.608 ha of non-forest land. The land will be used for infrastructure such as the penstock, power house, tunnels (head race, tail race), access roads, transformer cavern, surge chambers, batching plants, contractor's offices, fabrication yards, dumping sites, and labor camps, among others.
- x. A total of 16,041 trees are proposed to be felled for the project—13,756 trees in Honavar Division, 1,540 trees in Shimoga Wildlife Division, and 745 trees in Sagar Division. Tree enumeration also identified 11 to 57 species in each division, depending on location.
- xi. There are no existing working plan prescriptions for the forest land proposed for diversion in any of the three divisions. This indicates that the forest areas are not currently under any structured forest management plan.
- xii. All project components fall within Seismic Zone 3, making the area moderately prone to earthquakes. Construction activities such as road widening (over 20 km), slope cutting (up to 60°), and tunneling (up to 3.2 km in length and 500 m depth) are expected to cause significant soil erosion, habitat fragmentation, and disturbance to forest ecosystems. Blasting activities and regular vehicle movement may further increase environmental degradation.
- xiii. The proposed project site lies entirely within the forest, i.e., the distance from the forest boundary is 0 km.
- xiv. The forests in all three divisions support a rich variety of wildlife including several rare and endangered species. Notable species include the Lion-Tailed Macaque, Tiger, Leopard, Sloth Bear, Wild Dogs, King Cobra, Malabar Giant Squirrel, and many others. These animals are highly sensitive to habitat disturbances.
- xv. Both Honavar and Shimoga Wildlife Divisions fall within protected areas such as wildlife sanctuaries or eco-sensitive zones. The project is likely to cause habitat fragmentation, increased pollution, disruption of animal

movement, and loss of biodiversity, particularly affecting arboreal species like the Lion-Tailed Macaque. The Sagar Division, however, is not within a protected area.

- xvi. Impact on Rare and Endangered Species: Yes, all three divisions are home to rare, endemic, and endangered species. Project implementation is expected to lead to canopy opening, habitat discontinuity, and behavioural changes in wildlife, particularly in sensitive species. Continuous human activity during construction and operational phases may result in reduced biodiversity and long-term ecological disturbance.
- xvii. There are no protected archaeological monuments, heritage sites, defence establishments, or important historical landmarks within the project area across any of the three forest divisions.
- xviii. The forest land proposed for diversion has been assessed and found to be unavoidable and minimal, necessary for the successful implementation of the project.
- xix. There is no record of any work in violation of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 within the project area.
- xx. Site inspections have been completed and documented by the respective Deputy Conservators of Forests (DCFs) for all three divisions. The reports were submitted in January 2025.
- xxi. **Compensatory Afforestation (CA):** Compensatory afforestation is proposed in Chikkamagaluru District (Melugiri Village) for both Shimoga and Sagar divisions, covering 54.155 ha. Honavar Division has not proposed any CA land. A CA suitability certificate has been issued, though the date mentioned (06.12.2025) appears to be erroneous. The total cost for the CA scheme is approximately ₹9.94 crore and includes detailed plans, mapping, and agency responsibilities. The CA land details are as given below:

TABLE-I for Non- Forest land					
District, Taluk & Hobli	Village	Survey No.	Extent in A-G (ha)	Plants/ha proposed to be planted	Remarks about the adjacent of the proposed land parcel to a notified forest
Chikkamagaluru Chikkamagaluru Jagara	Melugiri	5	54.155	-	Proposed non-forest land is adjacent to the Bhadra Tiger reserve
<b>Total</b>			<b>54.155</b>		

- xxii. The DCF Chikkamagaluru Division has issued the topo Map, Geo-referenced Map along with GPS readings of all corners, CA Suitability Certificate & CA Scheme and stated that the said land has Shola growth and adjoining to the Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary. Hence, planting has to be taken up in degraded forest land.



<b>TABLE-2 (Degraded Forest land proposed to be planted in consonance with the working plan prescriptions).</b>					
Forest Division	Name of Forest & Block	District, Taluk & Hobli	Village	Survey No	Extent in (ha)
Chikkamagaluru	Yemmedoddi Reserved Forest	Chikkamagaluru (D) & (T) Biruru Hobli	Yemmedoddi Kaval	70,72 & 73	30.00
	Churchegudda Reserved Forest	Chikkamagaluru (D) & (T) lakya Hobli	Churchegudda Kaval	1	24,155
<b>Total</b>					<b>54.155 ha</b>

- xxiii. The cost-benefit ratio has been assessed at 1:2643.25, indicating very high economic benefits compared to environmental costs. The total estimated cost of the project is ₹8,64,400 lakh, which is equivalent to ₹8,644 crore.
- xxiv. No specific catchment area treatment has been proposed; the treatment area is recorded as 0 hectares.
- xxv. The project also requires wildlife clearance, given its overlap with protected areas and ecologically sensitive zones.
- xxvi. A total of 130 families are expected to be affected by the project. The rehabilitation plan has been acknowledged but is yet to be implemented.
- xxvii. Compliance with the Forest Rights Act, 2006 is not required in this case, as per Rule 11(7) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023.
- xxviii. As part of Environment Clearance, the Terms of Reference (ToR) has been received for the Sharavathy PSP during Dec 2023 from MoEF&CC. The EIA studies for three seasons as per the approved ToR has been completed and the draft report is prepared and as on date the EIA report has been submitted to KSPCB for conducting a public hearing meeting.
- xxix. The Component-wise breakup of the forest land requirement for the project is given below:

S. No.	Component	Forest Land Proposed for Diversion (ha)	Non-forest Land (ha)
1.	Penstock	1.466	0
0.	Power House	0.68	0
0.	Transformer cavern	0.496	0
0.	Down Stream Surge Chamber	0.33	0
0.	Extended Draft tube	0.464	0
0.	Adit	0.032	0
0.	Tail Race Tunnel	7.629	0
0.	Adit to TRT	0.805	0
0.	Main access tunnel	1.786	0
0.	Cable access tunnel	1.513	0

0.	Portal to CAT	0.206	0
0.	Pot head yard	1.328	0
0.	Batching plant	0	0.5
0.	Contractor office	0	4.279
0.	Aggregate processing plant	0	4.309
0.	Labour camp	0	7.006
0.	Sand Quarry	0	0.5
0.	Portal to MAT	0.786	0
0.	Portal to Adit to TRT	0.322	0
0.	Upstream Surge	2.722	0
0.	Fabrication Yard	0	19.502
0.	Existing road widening along with drain	12.824	1.388
0.	Adit to Upstream surge	0.604	0.1
0.	Portal of Adit to US surge	0.33	0
0.	Power Evacuation	1.645	0
0.	Head Race Tunnel	4.177	0
0.	Out let Structure	2.504	0
0.	New Road along with Drain	2.586	0.763
0.	Intake Structure	8.92	5.541
0.	Dump Yard	0	44.72
		<b>54.155</b>	<b>88.608</b>

- xxx. The Talakalale dam along with the Linganamakki Dam was constructed during 1960 and was commissioned during 1964. The Gerusoppa Dam was commissioned during 2000. The details regarding the forest diversion are enclosed.
- xxxi. The cumulative Impact Assessment study and Carrying Capacity study is a prerequisite for grant of 'in-principle' approval under the Adhiniyam and Environment Clearance under the EIA notification 2006. The reply and the documents submitted by the User Agency are verified. The report submitted is with respect to overall safety of the dams. It does not highlight the cumulative impact of the projects existing and upcoming hydro-power projects in the basin and carrying capacity of the river basin. So, the User Agency may be directed to take up both the studies as part of the EIA report.
- xxxii. The State Dam Safety Organisation (SDSO) has furnished its recommendations to Karnataka Power Corporation Limited (KPCL) regarding the necessary remedial measures to be undertaken to ensure the safety and structural integrity of the Talakalale and Gerusoppa dams. A copy of these recommendations was also forwarded to the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) for information. However, as the NDSA has not raised any observations or additional recommendations concerning the SDSO's report, the recommendations provided by the SDSO are deemed acceptable and valid.
- xxxiii. The State Dam Safety Organisation (SDSO) has reviewed the condition of both the dams and furnished its observations regarding the structural health and performance of the dam components. The SDSO has also recommended specific remedial measures and maintenance activities to

be undertaken to ensure continued structural integrity and safe operation of the dams.

- xxxiv. The State has informed that there is no requirement of approval of NDSA and SDSO.
- xxxv. Regarding submission of CAT plan the State has informed that the reports submitted by the User Agency obtained from Central Water Commission have recommended both structural and non-structural intervention in the watershed/ catchment area of both the reservoirs. As per the report the User Agency may be directed to prepare Catchment Area Treatment Plan in consultation with the relevant line departments as well as provide necessary funding for its implementation.
- xxxvi. The State has informed that the User Agency has submitted the draft EIA/EMP report prepared by M/s WAPCOS is verified. In that particular report the impacts of the project on aquatic flora & fauna is deliberated. But in the report, the impacts are not discussed in detail. Since there is a possibility of adverse impact on terrestrial and aquatic flora and fauna, both during construction and operational phase, the User Agency may be directed to prepare a mitigation plan and implement the mitigation measures in consultation with the Forest Department. Further, the 19th State Board for Wildlife committee meeting was held on 28-01-2025 and recommended for the approval of the standing committee of the National Board for Wildlife. This proposal is presently under consideration of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India.
- xxxvii. The User Agency is required to pay the Net Present Value (NPV) of forest land proposed for diversion as per para 3.1 to 3.4 of the FC guidelines communicated by Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, New Delhi vide F.No. 5-3/2011-FC (Vol-I) dated 06.01.2022 and 23.03.2022. The user agency has submitted an undertaking agreeing to pay the Net Present Value (NPV) of the forest land proposed for diversion.
- xxxviii. The State Government has submitted that as per the User Agency, evacuation of the power generated is proposed through an existing transmission line from Gerusoppa to Talagoppa. However, as per the SIR of the RO, records of whether FC approval has been accorded for the said transmission line is neither available with the Forest Department nor with the User Agency. Prima facie, the transmission line erected from Gerusoppa to Talagoppa (which is within the sanctuary limits) appears to be a violation of FC Act, 1980.
- xxxix. The committee noted the SIR has been carried out by the DIGF (Central), RO Bengaluru and has not recommended the proposal due to following reasons:
  - a. The proposed forest area falls inside the Sharavathi Valley Lion Tailed Macaque Wildlife Sanctuary, which is located in the central regions of the Western ghats.

- b. The Western Ghats constitute one of the 34 global biodiversity hotspots on account of its exceptional level of floral and faunal endemism (Conservation International, 2005).
- c. "The flora of the Western Ghats comprises more than 12,000 species, of which, more than 4000 species are flowering plants and 1500 species are endemic to the Western Ghats (Nayar, 1996). The proposal involves the felling of more than 15,000 trees, many of which are endemic to the Western Ghats. Construction of new road, widening of roads, construction of the surge shaft, adits, pot head yards, power evacuation etc would result in complete destruction of the wet evergreen forests of canopy density ranging from 0.7 to 1.
- d. Similarly, the Western Ghats is rich in its faunal diversity (Daniels, 2003; Sreekantha et al, 2007) and harbors rare, endangered and highly endemic faunal species, many of which feature in the IUCN red list. It accounts for more than 120 species of mammals (12% of which are endemic), 508 species of birds (4% of which are endemic), 156 species of reptiles (62% endemic), 157 species of amphibians (85% endemic) and 289 species of fishes (41% of which are endemic to Western ghats).
- e. This landscape also harbors a number of flagship mammals like the Asian Elephant, Gaur and Tiger. It is also one of the last remaining habitats for the Lion-Tailed Macaque (*Macaca Silenus*), Malabar pied horn bill (*Anthracoceros coronatus*) and King Cobra (*Ophiophagus hannah*). The 2022-23 census of the Lion Tailed Macaque, jointly carried out by the Karnataka Forest Department and SACON, Coimbatore estimated that the single largest population of Lion Tailed Macaque (730 individuals) is found in the Sharavathi Valley Lion-tailed Macaque Sanctuary (Copy of the report attached)
- f. Lion-Tailed Macaque's (LTM) are primarily arboreal and their distribution is heavily influenced by the distribution of plant species diversity, which in turn is determined by the regional climate and topography. LTMs are found exclusively in wet-evergreen forests, where they have evolved to feed on certain rainforest plant species, such as the fruits of *Cullenia exarillata*, *Ficus* sps, *Artocarpus* sps etc found in these forests. The continuous degradation of rainforest habitats has created isolated populations that form islands, which in turn limits the resources for the LTM and constrains them from dispersing, which is an inherent natural history trait. As the proposed project involves felling of more than 15,000 trees, opening up of forests of very high canopy densities, widening and formation of roads, it would result in further fragmentation and creation of isolated populations of the Lion Tailed Macaque and other endemic species which may eventually lead to its extinction. Alternate CA land proposed, being a shola grassland, will not be able to compensate for the loss of habitat of the Lion Tailed Macaque.
- g. The proposed area consists of climax forests of tropical wet evergreen, semi-evergreen and shola grasslands, with very high canopy densities varying from 0.7 to 1.0. under Eco class 1. They are

highly vulnerable and complex ecosystems, which, if destroyed, cannot be restored back to their original state. The proposed project, if implemented, would lead to irreplaceable damage to these forests.

- h. Geologically, the Western Ghats are composed primarily of Precambrian rock formations, including gneiss, schist, and charnockite, which are over a billion years old. The region also features laterite soil, which is prone to erosion, especially when vegetation cover is removed (Subramanian, 1993). Amphibolite a metamorphic rock, found in the proposed area, when exposed to the environment, can contribute to landslides. Thus, these geological formations are unstable, particularly in areas that have been subjected to human activities such deforestation, tunnelling etc. As the project involves steep slope cutting of up to 60 as degrees for formation of new roads, widening of existing roads, felling of over 15,000 trees, and blasting of subsurface rocks, high rainfall coupled with exposure of steep slopes and the soil, would make the region particularly vulnerable to landslides.
- i. As per the Geological Survey of India, the Western Ghats falls within the Seismic Zone 3. Studies show an increase in the frequency of earthquakes, due to the impoundment of reservoirs built for hydroelectric power generation. (Simpson, 1976, McGarr and Simpson, 1997, Gupta, 1992). Out of 28 reservoirs in the Western Ghat escarpment region, 15 are reported to be associated with earthquakes (Guha, 2000, Rastogi, 2003). It has been suggested that induced stresses and pore pressure due to the reservoir water load may cause triggering of earthquakes in the region. As the project involves two reservoirs, and the drilling and blasting for construction of under ground tunnels of diameter up to 9mts, length up to 3.2 kms and depth ranging to 500 mts below, it can be disastrous not only to ecology of the area, but also to human habitations in the area.
- j. "The Western Ghats also forms an important watershed for the entire peninsular India, being the source of 37 west flowing rivers and 3 major east flowing rivers. The central Western Ghats of Karnataka (where the project is located) is extremely important both agriculturally and horticulturally with rice, coffee, tea, cardamom, pepper, ginger, arecanut being the notable crops. No studies have been undertaken to determine the effect of such projects on the watershed of these areas.
- k. Implementation of this project would result in regular movement of vehicles, heavy machineries and personnel during construction, operation and maintenance of the project during its 20-year lease period, which would completely and permanently alter the ecology of the area negatively.
- l. The project does not clearly state the modus operandi of power evacuation. As per the User Agency, the existing transmission line from Gerusoppa to Talagoppa would be used by increasing its capacity. Whether increasing the capacity would further result in felling of additional trees is not known. Moreover, records of whether

FC approval has been accorded for the said transmission line is neither available with the Forest Department nor with the User Agency. Prima facie, the transmission line erected from Gerusoppa to Talagoppa (which is within the sanctuary limits) appears to be a violation of FC Act, 1980.

- m. The economic feasibility of the project is questionable. As per the User Agency, the power generated through this project is 2000 MW, while the power that would be required to pump water upstream is 2500 MW.
- n. As per the CWLW's report, more than 18000 ha of forest land has been leased out in the past to this User Agency (Karnataka Power Corporation limited) for various projects across rivers in the Uttara Kannada District. Implementation of this project in Sharavathi Valley Lion Tailed Macaque Sanctuary can cause enormous damage to the flora and fauna of the landscape. (Copy of the report attached).
- o. As the ecological fallout far outweighs the economic benefits that may be accrued by commissioning this project, it is recommended that the project should not be approved.
- p. Above information on Western Ghats is based on the research paper namely "Exploring biodiversity and ecology of Central Western Ghats" by Ramachandra et al, ENVIS Technical Report 39, March 2012, Energy and Wetlands Research Group, Centre for Ecological Studies, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru.
- xl. However, the DDGF (Central), RO Bengaluru has recommended the proposal subject to the following
  - a. The objective is to generate 2000 MW of hydroelectric power by linking the existing Talakalale Dam (as the upper reservoir) with the Gerusoppa Dam (as the lower reservoir) through the construction of penstocks, a powerhouse, tunnels, roads, and other infrastructure. A detailed site inspection was conducted by the Deputy Inspector General of Forests (DIGF) from the Regional Office in Bangalore, and the inspection report is attached.
  - b. The forest area proposed for diversion lies in the Western Ghats and is characterized by dense vegetation with a canopy density exceeding 0.7. The project would result in the felling of over 15,000 trees, many of which are endemic to this ecologically sensitive region. The area is also home to significant endemic wildlife species, including the Lion-Tailed Macaque (LTM) and the Malabar Pied Hornbill, both of which rely on tall, undisturbed canopy forests. There is no alternative alignment as the project depends on utilizing existing reservoirs and gravity for hydroelectricity production.
  - c. The non-Forest land proposed for compensatory afforestation (CA), is a 54.155 hectares land in the Chikmagalur Forest Division which is a Gomala Land (grazing land for livestock). The proposed NFL has Shola vegetation and is adjacent to Bhadra Tiger Reserve. An additional 54.155 hectares of degraded forest land has also been proposed for CA in two patches of 30 ha and 24.155 ha respectively.

These two additional sites are reported to be well stocked and not degraded.

- d. The proposed project site lies within the Sharavathi Valley Lion-Tailed Macaque Wildlife Sanctuary, which harbors the largest known population (730 individuals) of LTM as per the 2022-23 wildlife census. A separate proposal (WP/KA/HYD/507286/2024) has been submitted for wildlife clearance, which is currently pending. The Chief Wildlife Warden (CWLW) has recommended modifications to the design, including adopting underground structures, and minimizing surface openings to avoid felling approximately 518 trees in the Surge Tank area and by constructing an underground road from Nagar Basti Kere to Bagodi to preserve approximately 12,000 out of the 13,756 trees marked for removal. Building an overground road would disrupt the free movement of canopy-dependent species such as the LTM. Revision in the design to minimize tree felling and protect the ecological integrity of the area may be considered. The proposal is recommended.
- xli. The Standing Committee of the National Board of Wildlife in its 84<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 26.06.2025 recommended the proposal for use of 42.51 ha of forest land and 60.534 ha non-forest land from Sharavathi Valley Lion Tailed Macaque Wildlife Sanctuary and 11.645 ha forest land and 28.074 ha non-forest land from eco-sensitive zone around the sanctuary for construction of Sharavathy Pumped Storage Project (2000 MW) in favour of Karnataka Power Corporation Limited in Shivmogga and Uttara Kannada Districts '*in-principle*' with the following conditions, as inter alia below:
- a. The project proposal shall be placed before the Standing Committee for its appraisal upon its approval under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
  - b. The project involves removal of trees for two main purposes namely construction of surge tank and widening of approach road of 12.3 km from Nagar basti kere to Begodi village from where the underground road commences.
  - c. Most of the 518 trees of Surge tank area can be saved if an alternate underground structure is constructed with a narrow opening for air outlet is designed.
  - d. More than 12000 trees out of 13756 trees enumerated to be felled for 12.3 km road from Nagar basti kere to Begodi can be saved if the road that is proposed underground till pump house can be extended from Nagar basti kere to base of pump house. This will also help the flagship species of the sanctuary i.e. Lion Tailed Macaque to have free ranging canopy which would be otherwise broken due to widening of road. The road length in case of going underground would also reduce from 12.3 km to about 8 km. Maximum attempts should be made to take this road underground even if in part segments.

- e. Since there is construction of new dam is not involved in the proposal, the User Agency claims that this is not a regular hydroelectric project. The clarification submitted by the User Agency that the proposed project does not fall under the category of Hydroelectric project is not satisfactory. Therefore, clarification may be submitted by User Agency obtained from competent authority in this regard.
  - f. The component of power evacuation from the power house is not included in the project proposal. However, the User Agency stated that the existing power transmission lines would be upgraded and used for power evacuation. Since, the upgradation of the existing transmission lines requires installation of new towers, this involves breaking up of the soil which is not permissible in the existing provisions. This point needs to be considered while processing the proposal at a higher level.
- xlii. The Committee noted that the State Government shall provide its comments on the suggestions of the Standing Committee of the National Board of Wildlife in its 84<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 26.06.2025.
- xliii. Further, the committee noted that the proposal has not been recommended by the Inspecting Officer, due to aforementioned reasons. However, DDGF(Central) RO Bengaluru has recommended the proposal. In this regard, the Regional Office shall provide its comments on the issues highlighted in the SIR as well as the issues highlighted in the Minutes of the SC-NBWL.
- xliv. The above facts were considered in the last AC meeting held on 30.07.2025. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Karnataka, the Committee deferred the proposal and sought clarification/information on the following for further consideration in the matter:
  - a. *The State Government shall provide the status of compliance of point no.3 & point no. 4 of the recommendations of the Standing Committee of the National Board of Wildlife in its 84th meeting held on 26.06.2025 regarding the instant project.*
  - b. *The State Government shall provide its comments on the issues raised in the SIR of the Regional Office.*
  - c. *The Regional Office shall provide its comments on the issues highlighted in the Inspection report of DIGF, RO Bengaluru regarding the instant project.*
- xlvi. The above decision of the AC was communicated to the State Govt. through PARIVESH Portal 2.0 on dated 07.08.2025. In this reference, the State Government of Karnataka submitted the reply vide Letter No. FEE 67 FLL 2025 (e) dated 20.09.2025.
- xlvii. Regrading condition no. 3 of the approval of the SCNBWL the State has informed that Most of the 1,518 trees in the surge tank area could be preserved if an alternate underground structure with a narrow air outlet is designed. Further investigations will be conducted to assess the



xlvi. Regrading condition no. 3 of the approval of the ACNBWL the State has informed that the claim that over 12,000 of 13,756 trees could be saved by constructing an underground road between Nagarabasthikere and Begodi is factually incorrect. The actual number of trees enumerated for felling is **9,756**, comprising **4,074** trees along the Nagarabasthikere–Begodi road and **5,682** trees across five associated project components.

xlvi. The proposed road widening involves upgrading an existing **9.2 km village/forest road** (not 12.3 km) from **3.5 m to 5.5 m width**. This brownfield corridor passes through three villages. All trees within the **9–15 m corridor** were enumerated, but **only those directly obstructing the carriageway will be removed**, as clarified and approved by the State Board for Wildlife (SBWL).

xlix. The **Public Works Department (PWD), Karnataka**, has separately proposed the **Kalkatte Bridge and connecting road (0.802 ha)**, which forms part of this alignment and has already been **recommended in the 84th SC-NBWL meeting**.

i. If the road were to be taken underground, the alignment would need to traverse an undisturbed green corridor, resulting in significantly higher ecological and structural impacts. The tunnel option would involve:

- **Length:** 6.8 km (2.4 km shorter than surface road)
- **Four portal openings** requiring 3.2 ha of forest land
- **Cut-and-cover segments (1.6 km total)** requiring an additional 8 ha
- **Total disturbed forest area:** ~11.2 ha, compared to 6.38 ha for the surface road

ii. Given these factors, the **tunnel option is not environmentally or technically viable**. The **proposed surface road widening**, with minimal tree removal and suitable mitigation measures, presents the **most feasible and least ecologically disruptive** alternative, ensuring continued connectivity for both local communities and wildlife, including the Lion-Tailed Macaque.

iii. The committee noted the comments provided by the State and DDGF (Central) regarding observations made by DIGF (Central) in the SIR.

liii. The DDGF (Central) has recommended the proposal and mentioned that:

- The 0.541 sq. km (54.155 ha) forest area proposed for diversion under the Sharavathy Pumped Storage Project (PSP) lies within the Sharavathy Valley Lion-Tailed Macaque Sanctuary, a part of the Western Ghats. The Western Ghats of the Indian peninsula constitute one of the global biodiversity hotspots. Felling of trees, opening up of canopy especially endemic ones in evergreen forests of canopy density ranging 0.7 to 1 without a silviculturally

sound regeneration plan are capable of causing permanent gaps. It is advisable to avoid felling altogether or reduce it to a bare minimum.

- Lion-Tailed Macaques (LTMs), restricted to wet-evergreen forests, depend on specific rainforest plants such as *Cullenia exariliata*, *Ficus* spp., and *Artocarpus* spp. Continuous habitat degradation has already fragmented their populations into isolated patches, restricting resources and dispersal. The proposed project involves large-scale tree felling and forest clearing, would intensify this fragmentation, posing a serious risk to the survival of LTMs without a scientifically designed wildlife mitigation plan. The compensatory land given is a shola grassland addresses compensatory afforestation requirement under Adhiniyam, 1980 and is not a habitat for LTM.
  - Wet evergreen forests are complex ecosystem and is quite difficult to replicate. Any activity that causes irreplaceable damage to the ecosystem should be mitigated by scientifically designed mitigation plan.
  - The Western Ghats are indeed composed of ancient Precambrian formations such as gneiss, schist, charnockite, and amphibolite, these rock types are generally regarded as geologically stable and structurally competent when left undisturbed. Amphibolite, in particular, is a hard, dense, and erosion-resistant metamorphic rock, and by itself does not inherently predispose slopes to instability. Anthropogenic disturbances (e.g., unscientific slope cutting, deforestation, and road construction without adequate stabilization measures) combined with intense monsoonal rainfall leads to landslides. Scientifically designed engineering solutions and stringent environmental safeguards alone can address the risks of slope failure and landslides.
  - The power evacuation plan using the existing line is not sufficiently justified. Whether the evacuation corridor will remain the same or requires expansion has not been submitted by the User.
  - The ecological fallout of the project in the western ghats which is a complex ecosystem is quite high and requires. Adoption of minimally invasive engineering options which does not alter the biodiversity both underground and over ground coupled with scientifically designed mitigation plans.
  - Revision in the design to minimize tree felling and to protect the ecological integrity of the area may be considered.
- liv. The State Government in its reply to the issues raised by RO stated that the Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF), Government of India, vide Letter No. 8-19/86-FC dated 08.11.1993, accorded forest clearance for a total of 700 hectares of forest land for the construction and commissioning of the Sharavathy Tail Race Hydro-Electric Project (Gerusoppa). Under this approval, one of the sanctioned components

included the diversion of 53 hectares of forest land specifically for the establishment of a 220 kV transmission line from Gerusoppa to Talguppa. In view of this prior approval, the use of Forest land for the transmission line is fully compliant with the conditions of the previously sanctioned project. Therefore, there is no violation or unauthorized use of forest land, as the activity falls within the scope of the original clearance accorded by MOEF. The Committee noted the same.

- iv. Further, the Committee noted that the proposed road widening involves upgrading an existing 9.2 km village/forest road (not 12.3 km) from 3.5 m to 5.5 m width. This brownfield corridor passes through three villages. All trees within the 9–15 m corridor were enumerated, but only those directly obstructing the carriageway will be removed, as clarified and approved by the State Board for Wildlife (SBWL). However, the Committee noted that the State Government re-examine the alternatives to the underground road and submit a comprehensive reply with clear recommendations.
- lvi. The Committee also noted that the Wildlife Clearance of the instant project was considered in the 85th Meeting of the Standing Committee of the National Board of Wildlife held on 19.08.2025. Decision taken therein is under:-

*After due deliberations the committee decided to confirm the minutes of the 84th meeting. Regarding Sharavati pumped storage project it was reiterated that the proposal has been given in-principal clearance and the proposal will be reconsidered after the decision regarding Forest Clearance, which is still under consideration. The Chairman also directed that a committee composed of Dr H.S.Singh, Dr.Raman Sukumar and a nominee of the Ministry may visit the site and submit a report to the SC-NBWL.*

Accordingly, the Advisory Committee stated that the report of the Committee of Dr H.S.Singh, Dr.Raman Sukumar and a nominee of the Ministry may be tabled in the Advisory Committee meeting for a decision on the Forest Clearance of the instant proposal.

4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bengaluru and Nodal Officer, Government of Karnataka. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Karnataka, the Committee '**deferred**' the proposal and sought clarification/information on the following for further consideration in the matter:
  - i. The State Government shall explore the alternatives to the underground road and submit a comprehensive reply with clear recommendations.
  - ii. The State Government shall submit a copy of the report of the Committee constituted as per the 85<sup>th</sup> SCNBWL meeting in the instant project and the recommendations made, thereof, for consideration of FAC.
  - iii. The State Government shall submit a copy of the approved Wildlife Mitigation plan for the instant project and the commitment for funding.

#### **Agenda No. 11**

**Online Proposal No. FP/KA/WATER/456606/2023**

**Subject: Proposal for seeking ex-post facto approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in favour of Executive Engineer, Visvesvaraya Jala Nigam Limited (VJNL), Bengaluru for diversion of 111.0277 ha (originally proposed area is 173.3105 Ha) of forest land from CH 000+00 to 261.690 Km in Hassan and Tumkur District for the construction of Gravity Canal under Yettinahole Drinking Water Project from Visvesvaraya Jala Nigam Limited in Karnataka State- regarding.**

1. The above stated agenda item was considered by the Advisory Committee in its meeting held on 27.10.2025. The DDGF (Central), Regional Office, MoEFCC, Bengaluru and Nodal Officer, Government of Karnataka attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the Advisory Committee. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee after through deliberation and discussion observed that:
  - i. The Government of Karnataka vide their letter no. FEE 89 FLL 2025(e) dated 17.03.2025 (uploaded on the Parivesh portal on 18.03.2025) has submitted the proposal on the above-mentioned subject seeking approval of Central Government under section-2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sarankshan Evam Sambardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
  - ii. Being a linear proposal it was being dealt at RO level however, the proposal involving violation of the Adhiniyam which needs to be processed at ministry level, as per the Rule 10 (2) (v), of van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023. Accordingly, the State Govt. has submitted this proposal directly to the Ministry.
  - iii. It is pertinent to mentioned here that earlier proposal was submitted by the State Govt. for 173.3105 ha and after the EDS of the Ministry the proposed area to 111.0277 Ha. (Area for dumping has been reduced from 103.5359 Ha to 38.2104 Ha).
  - iv. The Executive Engineer, VJNL, Yettinahole Project, Division-3, Arasikere has applied for diversion 19.2630 ha of forest land for construction of Gravity Canal under Yettinahole Drinking Water Project in Sy. No. 02 of Bennehallada kaval village, Sy. No. 30 of Kanchiganhalli village, Sy. No. 34, 35 & 36 of Yallapura village, Nittur Hobli, Gubbi Taluk and Sy. No. 88, 91 of Bommanahalli village, Kora Hobli, Tumakuru Taluk, Tumkur District, Karnataka state.
  - v. The project is expected to address the drinking water woes of the people in the seven drought-prone districts of Kolar, Chickballapur, Bengaluru Rural, Ramanagara, Hassan, Tumakuru, and Chikkamagaluru and water

to be used to fill 527 tanks and supply drinking water to 75 lakh people in 6,657 villages and 38 towns.

- vi. **Location details breakup of forest land:** The location details of forest land required for the project are as under:

District & Division	Hobli & Taluk	Village	Sy No	Forest extent proposed for diversion (ha)	Legal status of land
Tumakuru	<b>Tumakuru Division</b>				Reserved Forest
	Gubbi(T)	Kanchiganahalli	30	4.7192	
	Nittur(H)	Yellapura	34,35 & 36	5.4185	
	Tumakuru(T)	Bommanahalli	88 & 91	1.5647	
	Kora(H)	<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>11.7024</b>	
Hassan	<b>Hassan Division</b>				Reserved Forest & Protected Forest
	Belur(T)	Aidahalla Kaval	1,72,81,90,92 & 45 other Sy No's	35.3157	
	Halebeedu(H)				
	Belur(T)	Kumarihalli	17	1.3156	
	Madihalli(H)	Ramadevanahalli Kaval	1	1.1762	
<b>Grand Total</b>				<b>111.0277 ha</b>	

- vii. Component-wise breakup of the forest land and non-forest land involved in the proposal is given below:

S. No.	Component	Forest Land Proposed for Diversion (ha)	Non-forest Land (ha)
1	Aqueduct	0.9702	84.7799
2	Canal	50.3512	589.2491
3	Dowel Bund Left	1.8782	28.5901
4	Dowel Bund Right	2.136	28.513
5	Earthen Drainage Left	2.0285	35.5412
6	Earthen Drainage Right	2.1662	35.2009
7	Inspection Path	6.1219	106.7132
8	Muck Dump Area	38.2104	1064.0647
9	Service Road	6.4555	106.0942
10	Tunnel	0.7096	9.0743
11	Cut and Cross	0	2.0644
12	Receiving Chamber	0	1.8766
13	Starting Point (DC 4)	0	0.2115
	<b>Total</b>	<b>111.0277 ha</b>	<b>2091.9731 ha</b>

- viii. The proposed forest land is involving two Forest Divisions namely Tumkur and Hassan. As per the DFO Tumkur site inspection report dated 01-02-2025 following have been reported in respect of the proposed forest land:
- a. The forest area proposed for diversion has accelerated soil erosion and formation of gullies due to excessive grazing, fire incidences and poor green cover.
  - b. The forest land proposed for diversion is in general landscape of Eco- class II with 0.3 Canopy density.
  - c. There are 4043 trees on the forest land proposed for diversion.
  - d. Main wild animals reported in and around the project area Leopard, Bear, Peacock, Wild pig, Spotted Deer, Fox, Hare etc.
  - e. The forest land proposed for diversion does not form part of any National Park/ Wildlife Sanctuary/ Biosphere Reserve/ Tiger Reserve/ Elephant Corridor/ Wildlife Migration Corridor, etc.
  - f. There are no other rare / endangered / unique species of flora and fauna reported in and around the forest land proposed for diversion.
  - g. There are no Protected/ Archaeological/ Heritage sites or Defense establishments or important monuments in the area.
  - h. There is no violation reported under the V(SES) Adhiniyam Act, 1980.
  - i. The requirement of forest land for the project is bare minimum and unavoidable.
- ix. As per the DFO Hassan site inspection report dated 23-01-2025, 27-01-2025, 11-02-2025 & 30-05-2025 in respect of the proposed forest land:
- a. The forest area proposed for diversion as leads mildly prone to erosion. Strong post project mitigation measures (including canal bank planting) are mandatory to reduce vulnerability of forest area to erosion.
  - b. The forest land proposed for diversion is in general landscape of Eco-class III with 0.2 Canopy density.
  - c. There are 1218 trees on the forest land proposed for diversion.
  - d. Main wild animals reported in and around the project area Leopard, wild boar, elephants (seasonal movement), herbivores etc. Further, Wildlife mitigation plan has been submitted by the User agency.
  - e. The forest land proposed for diversion does not form part of any National Park/ Wildlife Sanctuary/ Biosphere Reserve/ Tiger Reserve/ Elephant Corridor/ Wildlife Migration Corridor, etc.
  - f. There are no other rare / endangered / unique species of flora and fauna reported in and around the forest land proposed for diversion.

- g. There are no Protected/ Archaeological/ Heritage sites or Defense establishments or important monuments in the area.
  - h. There is a violation reported under the V(SES) Adhiniyam Act, 1980.
  - i. The requirement of forest land for the project is bare minimum and unavoidable.
- x. The DCF, Hassan has reported that there is a violation in 107.97 ha of proposed forest area. The User Agency has violated the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 by starting construction of canal before the approval. Accordingly, the Forest Department has also filed a First Information Report (FIR) on forest offence case No.: 01/2019-20 Dated 02-02-2019 under the Karnataka Forest Act 1963.
- xi. The User Agency is required to pay the Net Present Value (NPV) of forest land proposed for diversion as per para 3.1 to 3.4 of the FC guidelines communicated by Government of India, Ministry of Environment, 01-2022 and 23-03-2022. The user agency has submitted an undertaking agreeing to pay the Net Present Value (NPV) of the forest land proposed for diversion.
- xii. The DFO Hassan has recommended the proposal and mentioned that Overall, project is recommended for diversion, as it is a drinking water Supply Project envisaging the diversion of west-flowing river water to meet the drinking water needs of seven parched districts in the South Karnataka region. As per user agency, the project is expected to address the drinking water woes of the people in the seven drought-prone districts of Kolar, Chickballapur, Bengaluru Rural, Ramanagara, Hassan, Tumakuru, and Chikkamagaluru and water to be used to fill 527 tanks and supply drinking water to 75 lakh people in 6,657 villages and 38 towns. Hence, the project is overall recommended for diversion (complete area of 99.3252 Ha for diversion in Hassan division is recommended), along with penal provision as per Adhiniyam, for the non-forestry work already started in the forest patches of Hassan Division.
- xiii. The DFO Tumkur has recommended the proposal and mentioned that Executive Engineer, VJNL, Yettinahole Project, Division-3, Arasikere has applied for diversion 11.7024 ha of forest land for construction of Gravity Canal under Yettinahole Drinking Water Project in Sy. No. 34, 35, 36 of Yallapura village, Sy. No. 30 of Kanchiganhalli Village, Nittur Hobli, Gubbi Taluk and Sy. No. 88, 91 of Bammanahalli village, Kora Hobli, Tumakuru Taluk, Tumkur District Karnataka state. The subject envisages the use of forest land for construction of Gravity Canal under Yettinahole Drinking Water Project is submitted for further consideration.
- xiv. State authorities have been recommended the proposal.
- xv. The KML file of the proposed forest land for diversion falls under Tumkar and Hassan districts of Karnataka State and its software calculated area is found to be 111.07 ha.

Name	Software calculated area (ha)
Forest Area	111.07
Non Forest Area	2092.546
Total	2203.616

- xvi. No protected area/ tiger reserve/ tiger corridor is located within 10 km radius of proposed forest area.
- xvii. Observation based on Google Earth: non-forestry work such as construction of canal is visible in the proposed forest patches for diversion.
- xviii. Proposed forest area falls under Not-in High Conservation Value (HCV) Zone as per Decision Rule 1 and Decision Rule 2.
- xix. Compensatory afforestation has been proposed over non forest land in 13 patches and its software calculated area is found 207.54 ha.
- xx. Forest cover of proposed compensatory afforestation land in terms of forest classes (as per the ISFR 2021) based on the interpretation of satellite data period 2019-2020 is given below:

S.No.	CA Site Name	Area (ha)	Software Calculated Area (ha)	VDF	MDF	OF	Scrub	Non Forest
1	D M Kurke - Sy. No.116	20.4594	13.702	0	0	14	0	0
2	D M Kurke - Sy. No.116		6.763	0	0	6	0	1
3	Ghattadahalli - Sy. No.347 - Block - I	65.5591	31.887	0	0	0	0	32
4	Ghattadahalli - Sy. No.347 - Block - II		33.721	0	0	0	0	34
5	J C Pura - Sy. No.234	56.7289	22.55	0	0	0	9	13
6	J C Pura - Sy. No.234		23.588	0	0	21	3	0
7	J C Pura - Sy. No.176		6.61	0	0	4	2	0
8	J C Pura - Sy. No.234		3.996	0	0	0	1	3
9	Ramenahalli - Sy.No.38	6.4756	7.142	0	0	3	4	0
10	Siddapura - Sy. No.55	19.02	19.182	0	0	8	0	11
11	SVY4-Karadikallu-Site-1	12.1405	10.124	0	0	5	0	5
12	SVY4-Karadikallu-Site-2		1.971	0	0	1	0	1



13	Sy 44, Merenadue	26.3046	26.304	0	0	17	0	10
Total		206.6881	207.54	0	0	79	19	110

xxi. Observation based on Google Earth: some CA sites are located on hillocks

xxii. Additional compensatory afforestation has been proposed over degraded forest land in a single patch and its software calculated area is found 11.96 ha. Forest cover of proposed compensatory afforestation land in terms of forest classes (as per the ISFR 2021) based on the interpretation of satellite data period 2019-2020 is given below:

S. No.	CA Site Name	Area (ha)	Software Calculated Area (ha)	VDF	MDF	OF	Scrub	Non Forest
1	CA-DFL	12	11.96	0	0	3	0	9

xxiii. The site inspection was carried out by the RO Bengaluru from 7/4/25 to 9/4/25. During the Site visit the inspecting officer has made following observations:

- a. The User Agency has failed to submit a consolidated proposal. In its justification, it mentions catering to the districts of Bengaluru rural, detailed proposal only mentions Tumkur and Hassan districts.
- b. The instant proposal is a part of the earlier diversion of 13.93 ha of forest land in Sakleshpura taluk of Hassan District wherein, eight different weirs were constructed on various streams in the Western Ghats, to divert 24.01 TMC of water. The Stage-II for the project was granted on 15/9/2016, subject to thirty-three conditions. During site inspection, it has been observed that most of the conditions have not been complied with. The Monitoring Committee constituted in compliance of the NGT order dated 24/5/2019, has in its report mentioned the occurrence of landslides and soil erosion, which was witnessed during the site inspection also. Sufficient mitigation measures were not found in place. Prima facie, there seems to be deviation, shifts and extra usage of forest land than what has been approved. A detailed DGPS survey of the diverted area is essential. Blasting of rocks has resulted in damage to houses in the vicinity of the project. Compensation to the affected has not been provided yet. Updated information on the cumulative ecological impacts of the project on the western ghats is not in place. Other compliances of the monitoring committee's directions dated 23/6/23 have largely not been fulfilled. Hence, the fresh diversion proposal may be considered only after all the previous compliances (both stage II and monitoring committee's) are satisfactorily fulfilled by the User Agency.
- c. It is not clear if it is a drinking water project or a combination of irrigation and drinking water project. The User Agency in its justification mentions the filling of irrigation tanks also.

- d. Out of the total 173.3078 ha proposed for diversion, 108 ha of forest land in Hassan Division has already been utilized for construction of the canal, in violation of the VSESA, 1980. As per the Karnataka Forest department's letter no. KFD/HoFF/A5-2 (GFL)/42/2022-FC dated 15/3/25, the DCF, Hassan has filed an FIR on the forest offense case No. 01/2019-20 dated 2/2/2019 under the Karnataka Forest act, 1963 against the Executive Engineer, VJNL. However, there has been no further developments after the FIR was lodged. Scrutiny of the satellite imageries before and after 2/2/2019 (year of lodging FIR) revealed that majority of the violations happened after the forest offense was booked. (Copy of the imageries during the year 2019, 2021 and 2022 are attached as Annexure III). Prima facie, it seems that the local forest authorities did not take necessary steps to stop the violation. Hence, a detailed report needs to be submitted by the State Government.
- e. The two alternate alignments submitted by the User Agency is only from the perspective of cutting project costs and not from the point of view of conserving forests.
- f. Out of the total 173.3078 ha proposed for diversion, a total of 103.5359 ha of forest area is for dumping of muck. Hence, more than 60% of the forest area proposed for diversion is only for dumping of the muck generated. This is a non-site specific activity. Moreover, the Karnataka Forest Department has recommended the proposal subject to the condition that "all waste/debris generated shall be scientifically disposed off outside the forest area" (condition no.9, Annexure A). (Copy attached as Annexure V). Effectively, the forest area required for canal construction is only 69.3 ha. Hence, necessary revision of the project proposal is a must, to reduce the area to the minimum required. Also, the muck already generated in areas where violation has occurred needs to be disposed off outside the forest areas.
- g. The project mentions the construction of a tunnel (0.7069 ha) in the forest area of Hassan. Site inspection revealed that the area is rocky and blasting in the forest area might be required for construction of the tunnel. As the forests area proposed in Hassan are predominantly rocky, blasting may be required in other areas also besides the tunnel. The User Agency has not yet obtained Environmental Clearance for the project. Hence, EC may be required for the project.
- h. Majority of the forest area (12.84 ha) proposed for diversion in Tumkur Division, passes through Marashettihalli Reserve Forest which is a contiguous patch of deciduous forest, rich in important tree species like Santalum album, Dalbergia latifolia, Pterocarpus santalinus, Pterocarpus marsupium, Tectona grandis, Anogeissus latifolia, etc and wild life. The proposal involves felling of more than 7500 trees and dividing the contiguous patch into two halves.

(Copy of the satellite imagery attached as Annexure VI). Moreover, the muck generated would further deteriorate the forests. Hence, the User Agency may be asked to explore construction of underground tunnel or pipeline in this area, without destroying the forests above.

- i. The DCF's in their inspection report have mentioned the area as prone to erosion. Site inspection of the areas where the work has been carried out, in violation, revealed that deep vertical cuts varying from 2mts to 18 mts in height have been created to construct the canal. The cement lining of the canal is only 5.5 mts in height. Hence, a major portion of the vertical cut is left exposed, which could result in soil erosion. Hence, robust soil erosion control measures (both mechanical and vegetative) are mandatory. A soil erosion control plan in consultation with the local forest authorities which includes both mechanical and vegetative measures needs to be submitted and implemented.
- j. The project can severely affect wildlife movement in the forests, especially elephants, which are abundant in Hassan. The top width of the canal varies from 28 mts to 60 mts and height varies from 2 mts to 18 mts. As the proposal does not include fencing of the canal, it could result in injury/death of wild animals by falling into the canals. Based on the elephant corridor map prepared by the local forest authorities, necessary fencing on both sides of the canal with cross overs at regular interval is a prerequisite for this project.
- k. A detailed wild life mitigation plan prepared in consultation with a reputed scientific organization, vetted by the Chief Wild Life Warden needs to be submitted and implemented.
- l. As per the satellite imagery, a part of the CA land proposed in Tumkur (Karadikallu Village, Area: 12.1405 ha) lies inside the Tirthampura Reserve Forest. The same needs to be clarified/rectified.
- m. Vide letter No. 4-KRC1486/2024-BAN dated 7/8/2024, the RO, Bengaluru has asked a number of clarifications pertaining to the consolidated Yettinahole Drinking Water Project. One of them being the feasibility of the project. There are complaints that the phase I of this project has led to massive landslides and destruction of the ecologically sensitive Western Ghats without the capability of supplying drinking water to the districts claimed by the user agency. The compliance to the clarification sought has not yet been submitted.

xxiv. **Recommendation of DDGF (Central) Regional office, MoEF&CC, Bengaluru:** The Site inspection of the area reveals that out of the total 173.3078 ha proposed for diversion, 108 ha of forestland in Hassan Division has already been utilized for construction of the canal, in violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam 1980. The proposal is part of earlier diversion of 13.93 ha of forest land in

Sakleshpura taluk of Hassan District and it is noted from the Site inspection report that the compliance conditions for the earlier diversion of 13.93 ha have not been complied with which also amounts to violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam 1980. The User Agency has explored the alternative alignment from the perspective of cutting project costs and not from the point of view of minimum utilization/diversion of forestland. Majority of the forestland sought for diversion is for muck disposal, which is a non-site specific activity even though the proposal involves more than 2000 ha of non-forest land for its execution. Further the construction of such long and deep, unprotected canal in the forest area can severely affect the movement of the wildlife. Hence, a detailed wild life mitigation plan shall also be insisted upon. The DDGF (Central) RO Bengaluru is in agreement with detailed comments made by the inspecting officer in Site inspection report and it is recommended to consider the proposal only after all the objections / clarifications / observations / justifications observed by the inspecting officer are satisfactorily justified by the State Government, Appropriate action and penalty may also be imposed as per Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam 1980 and Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules 2023 against the violators.

- xxv. The State Government has informed that the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Hassan Division, has issued a letter to the user agency requesting the name of the authority responsible for the violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 [V(S) Adhiniyam 1980], so that appropriate action can be initiated as per the applicable Acts and Rules. In response, the user agency has stated that the construction activities in Shivapurakavalu, Nayakanakerekavalu, Mududi, and Aidahallakavalu—areas now being classified as forest land—were carried out after conducting a Joint Measurement Certificate (JMC) with the consent of relevant departments, including Forest, Horticulture, Water Supply, and Public Works. These activities were undertaken based on the consent of existing landowners and after the completion of the land acquisition process. The work was halted once these areas were identified as forest land. The user agency has therefore clarified that the construction carried out in these areas, now considered a violation under the Forest Act, was neither intentional nor willful.
- xxvi. The State Government has been informed that the documents related to the allotment of CA (Compensatory Afforestation) land by the District Collector are in the regional language. It was requested that a true translated copy in Hindi or English be provided. In response, the State has clarified that all CA land documents issued by the District Collector have been translated into English, duly notarized, and the same have been enclosed and uploaded on the PARIVESH portal.
- xxvii. The Yettinahole Integrated Drinking Water Project involves the construction of a gravity-based canal system, necessitating extensive excavation, particularly in hilly terrain where significant earthwork is required to maintain the gravity flow of water. During the construction process, large volumes of soil and rock are excavated. It is standard

practice to dump this excavated material along both sides of the canal route.

- xxviii. To facilitate maintenance of the gravity canal, a service road has been constructed on one side and an inspection path on the other. Additional land has also been acquired adjacent to the canal alignment for dumping the rubble and stone material generated during excavation.
- xxix. This muck dumping process is standard across canal projects, and accordingly, a forest clearance proposal was submitted to the Forest Department, taking into account the requirement for muck dumping. Equivalent Compensatory Afforestation (CA) land has already been provided to the Forest Department.
- xxx. Under the current proposal, 16.17 km of the canal alignment passes through forest areas, out of which construction of 10.13 km has been completed. This completed stretch has generated approximately 42.30 lakh cubic meters of muck, which has been stored over an area of 210 acres and 5 guntas.
- xxxi. For the remaining 6.03 km of canal construction, an estimated 10.77 lakh cubic meters of muck is expected to be generated, requiring 45 acres and 24 guntas of land for storage at an average height of 6.00 meters.
- xxxii. Should non-forest land be proposed for muck dumping, an estimated cost of ₹300.00 crores would be incurred for land acquisition, loading, unloading, transportation, and dumping of the excavated material. Moreover, relocating the muck to other locations may lead to objections from nearby villagers, potentially resulting in social issues and significant delays in the execution of the project.
- xxxiii. The Yettinahole Integrated Drinking Water Project is a key initiative of the Government of Karnataka, being implemented by the Water Resources Department, aimed at providing drinking water to drought-prone districts such as Kolar, Chikkaballapura, Tumakuru, Bengaluru Rural, Ramanagara, Hassan, and Chikkamagaluru. The State Government, in its Budget for 2025–26, has announced that water has already been lifted from the gravity canal and supplied up to the 32.5 km chainage. It has further committed to lifting and supplying water from all eight weirs up to the 241.00 km chainage within the current year, with a target to complete the project by 31.03.2027.
- xxxiv. Following detailed discussions with the Forest Department, a revised muck dumping plan has been finalized. This plan significantly reduces the requirement of forest land for muck dumping from 103.50 hectares to 38.21 hectares. The revised plan is summarized below:
  - a. **Tackled Portion:**
    - **Original Requirement:** 55.62 hectares
    - **Modifications:**
      - o Part of the already utilized forest land will be relinquished.
      - o **Revised Requirement:** 38.21 hectares

**b. Untackled Portion:**● **Original Requirement: 47.88 hectares**● **Modifications:**

- o Design changes introduced to adopt a cut-and-cover structure.
- o A portion of the muck relocated to an abandoned quarry located 24–30 km away.
- o These modifications entail an additional financial burden of approximately ₹170.00 crores on the Nigam.
- o Revised Requirement: Nil (No forest land required for muck dumping)

It is pertinent to mention that earlier proposal was submitted by the State Govt. for 173.3105 ha and after the EDS of the Ministry the proposed area to 111.0277 Ha. (Area for dumping has been reduced from 103.5359 Ha to 38.2104 Ha).

xxxv. The above facts were considered in the last AC meeting held on 24.06.2025. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Karnataka, the Committee deferred the proposal and sought clarification/information on the following for further consideration in the matter:

- a. As per the SIR from RO, a majority of the violation happened after the forest offense was booked. The State Government has reported a violation of 107.87 Ha. Therefore, the State Government shall initiate action under section 3A/3B of the Adhiniyam, 1980, as applicable.
- b. The State Government shall initiate disciplinary action against the officials concerned for not being able to prevent use of forest land for non-forestry purposes without prior approval of Government of India and submit an action taken report.
- c. KML files for the extent of violation in the instant proposal may be submitted by the State Government. Extent of violation in the proposal may be revised, as applicable.
- d. KML file providing component wise breakup of forest land sought for diversion may be submitted by the State Government.
- e. The project involves an earlier diversion of 13.93 ha of forest land in Sakleshpura taluk of Hassan District. It is noted from the Monitoring report of the Regional Office that the compliance of conditions for diversion of 13.93 ha have not been done. In this regard, the State Govt. shall provide a point-wise reply to the Monitoring report.
- f. The project may affect the movement of wildlife in the area, especially elephants, which are abundant in Hassan. The top width of the canal varies from 28 mts to 60 mts and height varies from 2 mts to 18 mts. As the proposal does not include fencing of the canal, it could result in injury/death of wild animals by falling into the canals. Based on the elephant corridor map prepared by

the local forest authorities, necessary fencing on both sides of the canal with cross overs at regular intervals may be proposed by the State Government. A detailed wildlife mitigation plan approved by the CWLW, Karnataka shall be provided.

- g. As per the satellite imagery, a part of the CA land proposed in Tumkur (Karadikallu Village, Area: 12.1405 ha) lies inside the Tirthampura Reserve Forest. The same needs to be clarified/rectified.
  - h. The RO Bengaluru vide letter No. 4-KRC1486/2024-BAN dated 7/8/2024, the RO, has asked for a number of clarifications pertaining to the consolidated Yettinahole Drinking Water Project. The reply to the clarification sought has not yet been submitted. The same may be submitted to the RO with a copy to the Ministry.
  - i. The State Government shall clarify if the proposal is a drinking water project or a combination of irrigation and drinking water project.
  - j. As per the SIR, Majority of the forest area (12.84 ha) proposed for diversion in Tumkur Division, passes through Marashettihalli Reserve Forest which is a contiguous patch of deciduous forest, rich in important tree species like *Santalum album*, *Dalbergia latifolia*, *Pterocarpus santalinus*, *Pterocarpus marsupium*, *Tectona grandis*, *Anogeissus latifolia*, etc. and wildlife. The proposal involves felling of more than 7500 trees and dividing the contiguous patch into two halves. Moreover, the muck generated would further deteriorate the forests. Hence, the State Govt. shall explore construction of underground tunnel or pipeline in this area, without destroying the forests above.
  - k. The DCF in their inspection report has mentioned that the area is prone to erosion. Site inspection of the areas where the work has been carried out, in violation, revealed that deep vertical cuts varying from 2mts to 18 mts in height have been created to construct the canal. The cement lining of the canal is only 5.5 mts in height. Hence, a major portion of the vertical cut is left exposed, which could result in soil erosion. Hence, robust soil erosion control measures (both mechanical and vegetative) are mandatory. An approved soil erosion control plan in consultation with the local forest authorities which includes both mechanical and vegetative measures needs to be submitted.
- xxxvi. The above decision of the AC was communicated to the State Govt. on 05.07.2025 and the State Govt has replied on has submitted the reply on 08.10.2025.
- xxxvii. The State Govt. has reported that the exact violation is 86.292 (instead of 107.97 ha). However, the DFO Hassan in Part-II has not updated the area of the violation. However, Additional violation area of 21.578 had to be re-handled and surrendered back to the forest department.

- xxxviii. The user agency has submitted a Wildlife mitigation plan to the PCCF (WL) on 17-09-2025. However, the approved Wildlife mitigation plan is required.
- xxxix. The State has informed that in order to minimize the environmental impact on Marashettihalli Reserve Forest which is a contiguous patch of deciduous forest and land usage as suggested in SIR of RO, extreme care has been taken to reduce the forest land usage by changing the scope of open canal design has been redesigned as a Cut & Cover structure for which the canal width is minimized and number of trees that are to be cut are minimized to 4043.
- xl. The State has informed that underground tunneling is not feasible for this project due to the poor strata conditions encountered during geotechnical investigation.
- xli. User agency (VJNL) submitted point wise reply to the Monitoring report of the Regional Office in respect of the approval 13.95 ha. Point wise compliance submitted by the user agency was reviewed by the Committee. The committee in the meeting noted that 35 conditions out of 53 conditions were complied and instructed the user agency to follow up the 5 ongoing conditions and to comply with the balance 13 conditions at the earliest.
- xlii. The State Government informed that the reported violation of 107.87 hectares primarily arose due to discrepancies between field conditions and outdated or incomplete revenue records, where lands under cultivation and in possession of farmers (with valid land documents) were not reflected as forest land at the time of execution. Only one instance of unauthorized work—measuring 0.04 hectares in Ramdevarhalla forest—was identified, for which an FIR was filed on 02.04.2019, and work was immediately halted thereafter. No further work was carried out in that area post-FIR. The remaining areas were worked upon based on prevailing land records, and ex gratia compensation has been processed or approved for affected farmers. Following observations from the Technical Cell in 2023, no further activity was undertaken without proper forest clearance, and a comprehensive proposal was submitted through the PARIVESH portal with suitable compensatory afforestation provisions. In light of these facts, it was informed that the violations were not wilful but rather due to administrative and record-related issues, and therefore, action under Sections 3A/3B of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 may not be warranted against any individual or department. The Committee noted the same.
- xlili. The Committee observed that even though the violation of 107.87 Ha was done in the instant proposal, FIR has been booked for 0.04 Ha only. Therefore, the Regional Office Bangalore may be asked to verify if the violation of 107.87 Ha is attributable to the User Agency.



- xliv. The committee further observed that the Wildlife Management plan is still under submission. Accordingly, the State Government may consult with the Wildlife Institute of India and get the Wildlife Management Plan vetted by WII.

**4. Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bengaluru and Nodal Officer, Government of Karnataka. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Karnataka, the Committee '**deferred**' the proposal and sought clarification/information on the following for further consideration in the matter:

- i. The Committee observed that as per site inspection report, there is violation of 107.87 ha in the instant proposal. However, FIR has been booked for 0.04 ha only. Therefore, the Regional Office, Bengaluru and the State Forest Department shall submit a joint report based on documents, referred by Nodal Officer during the meeting, whether the violation of 107.87 ha is attributable to the User Agency. The report should be conclusive about the violation and the responsible agencies. In case, the RO Bengaluru, opts for an independent report, he shall be at liberty to do so.
- ii. The committee further observed that the Wildlife Management plan is still under submission. Accordingly, the State Government may consult with the Wildlife Institute of India and get the Wildlife Management Plan vetted by WII, besides the approval of CWLW.
- iii. The State Government shall clearly bring out the extent of forest land used in the proposal for diversion of 13.93 Ha in Sakleshpura taluk of Hassan District wherein the Ministry had granted Stage-II approval on 15.09.2016.

### **Agenda No. 13**

#### **Proposal No: FP/MP/PetrolPump/440299/2023**

**Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 0.1575 ha Reserved Forest land for the establishment of retail outlet of Indian Oil Corporation Limited petrol pump by Shri Yogesh Malviya on Sirwel-Pipaljopa Road in Gram-Sirwel Tehsil-Bhagwanpura District Khargone of the Madhya Pradesh State (Online No. FP/MP/PetrolPump/440299/2023)-regarding.**

1. The above stated agenda item was considered by the AC in its meeting held on 27.10.2025. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). The Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bhopal and Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh were present in the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.

3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:
- i. The Govt. of Madhya Pradesh vide their File No R-1615238/2023/10-3 dated 14.11.2023 (uploaded on PARIVESH) submitted a proposal to obtain prior approval of the Central Government, in terms of Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 to the Regional Office, Bhopal.
  - ii. The instant proposal is for establishment of retail out-let petrol pump dealership on Sirwel-Pipaljopa Road in Gram-Sirwel TehsilBhagwanpura District- Khargone for which 0.1575 ha Reserved forest land is required.
  - iii. Canopy density of the proposed area is reported as 0.2 having Eco Class 3 and no tree felling involved.
  - iv. There is no tree felling involved and the area proposed for diversion being less than one hectare, only 100 trees need be planted by way of CA in any degraded forest land as per the working plan prescription.
  - v. The State Government has informed that there is no petrol pump available within 42 km from the proposed petrol pump. It is further stated that the area is a tribal area and establishment of a petrol pump is very essential in order to fulfil the basic needs of the resident population in the area. There is no revenue land available for the said purpose. Further, the DFO Khargone stated that the proposed location is rechecked and it is found that it is about 5 meter away from a metallic road and revised KML file is uploaded. The aerial distance is about 8.77 km from the nearest Yawal WLS (Maharashtra) and the proposed area does not fall in its Eco-Sensitive Zone.
  - vi. The State Government has further informed that a technical study has been carried out for feasibility of establishment of the petrol pump in the proposed area and it is clarified that the requirement of fuel is about 3.9 KLD. The proposed Indian Oil Petrol pump would cater to the requirements of about 1,20,000 tribal population in the area. It is also evident that the nearest petrol pump at present is about 45 km away from the area.
  - vii. The Advisory Committee noted that the proposal is forwarded by RO, Bhopal in context of Para 1.10 (ii) of Consolidated guidelines and clarifications issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 which states that In case of any ambiguity regarding non-specificity of a particular project, the same shall be referred to the Ministry for decision. Further, the Regional Offices/Sub-Offices shall ensure that non-site specific proposals, which has been recommended by the Regional Empowered Committee (REC) or Regional Office, need to be submitted to the MoEF&CC, New Delhi for decision on case-to-case basis. Proposals which have been rejected by the REC or Regional Office/Sub-Office should not be submitted to the MoEF&CC, New Delhi.
  - viii. The Advisory Committee further noted that the proposal was placed before the Regional Empowered Committee of Regional Office, Bhopal wherein after detailed discussion; the REC opined that most of the inhabitants of the proposed area are tribal living remotely and are

dependent primarily on farming for their livelihood. In this way the fuel consumption is an essential element in their day to day life and in order to make their living, currently they have to travel around 90 Km to and fro for getting the necessary fuel for their farm machineries and vehicles. Further, there is no revenue land in the nearby area. So, the proposal shows its legitimacy as a requirement of a public utility with no other viable alternatives, making this proposal a site-specific and use of forest land inescapable.

- ix. The proposal then placed before the Regional Empowered Committee (REC) in its 12th Meeting held on dated 31.12.2024 at RO, Bhopal wherein after detailed discussion, the committee opined that most of the inhabitants of the proposed area are tribals living remotely and are dependent primarily on farming for their livelihood. In this way the fuel consumption is an essential element in their day to day life and in order to make their living, currently they have to travel around 90 Km to and fro for getting the necessary fuel for their farm machineries and vehicles. Further, there is no revenue land in the area for around 70.000 ha. So, the proposal shows its legitimacy of requirement of a public utility with no other viable alternatives, making this proposal a site-specific and use of forest land inescapable. Further, there is no tree felling involved and area proposed for diversion being less than one hectare, only 100 trees need be planted by way of CA in any degraded forest land as per the working plan prescription for which plantation scheme, name and KML of the designated degraded forest land shall be required. Taking into consideration, the above mentioned facts and larger public interest, the Regional Empowered Committee decided to recommend the proposal for approval and forward it to MOEF&CC New Delhi for further necessary action.
- x. On the basis of the recommendation of REC, the RO, Bhopal had forwarded the instant proposal through online PARIVESH to the Ministry, New Delhi on 17.02.2025.
- xi. The proposal was considered in the Advisory Committee meeting held on 16.04.2025 and the committee after detailed discussion and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bhopal and Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh '*deferred*' the proposal for the following shortcomings:
  - a) The proposal is not site specific in its extant form. The state has not submitted any cogent reason as to why the project is to be located at the given location within a Reserve forest. The State has also not submitted any valid justification as to why the project cannot be located over non-forest land. Hence, the State Government has to make further efforts to identify and explore availability of non-forest land for the establishment of the petrol pump. In case it is unavoidable a cogent justification shall be submitted.
  - b) The State Govt. shall inform as to how the Lol/ permission for establishment retail outlet on forest land has been accorded. The copy of the said order/Lol shall be submitted.

- xii. The committee observed that the State Government vide letter dated 10.10.2025 submitted that the problem of filling station (petrol and diesel) is a major issue in Sirvel area. The nearest filling station from Sirvel towards Khargone (Madhya Pradesh) is in Bistan and Bhagwanpura, which is located at a distance of about 42 kms. Due to which the villagers of Sirvel area lose both time and money. It has also submitted that no non-forest land is available for this purpose near the proposed project. The applicant has received a non-availability certificate of the non forest land from the Collector, District Khargone. The nearest non-forest land is in the village of Kadwali in Bhagwanpura tehsil, approximately 30 kilometers from the proposed site. Establishing a petrol pump there would not meet the immediate needs of the 32 surrounding villages, with a population of approximately 1.2 lakh, most of whom are Scheduled Tribes. Villagers would still have to travel long distances for fuel. Given the above circumstances, site-specific planning is essential for the proposed project.
  - xiii. The State has also informed that LoI will be issued only after receiving in-principle approval, as per IOCL procedures and further processing will be initiated only after the land diversion/allotment is confirmed. Draw of lots have been selected through advertisement.
  - xiv. The state has informed that due to the growing population in this area and the need for smooth transportation and basic amenities such as emergency medical services (MCU), fire extinguishers, agriculture, schools, social and economic development projects, and other reasons, the establishment of a petrol pump is necessary to meet the basic needs of the residents. Approximately 4718 forest rights pattas have been distributed in the proposed area, covering 10,297.125 hectares of agricultural land, which produces cotton, soybeans, maize, sorghum, millet, wheat, pigeon pea, and other crops, on which the forest dwellers depend.
  - xv. The Committee observed that keeping in view the submission of the State Government and the recommendations of the REC/Regional Office there is no other suitable land available for the project and the site specificity of the project is justifiable.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation with the DDGF (Central), RO Bhopal and Nodal Officer, Government of Madhya Pradesh, after going through the facts of the proposal, and keeping in view the provisions contained in Para 1.10 (ii) of Consolidated guidelines and clarifications issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, observed that the site specificity of the project is justifiable. The Committee therefore **recommended** that the Regional Office shall consider the proposal and issue “**Stage-1/ ‘In-principle’**” approval for diversion of 0.1575 ha Reserved Forest land for the establishment of retail out-let of Indian Oil Corporation Limited petrol pump by Shri Yogesh Malviya on Sirwel-Pipaljopa Road in Gram-Sirwel Tehsil-Bhagwanpura District Khargone of the Madhya Pradesh State subject to appropriate general, standard and the following specific conditions:

- i. The State Government shall ensure that there shall not be any encroachment around the forest land proposed for diversion for the establishment of the petrol pump.

### **Agenda No.15**

#### **Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/QRY/514821/2024**

**Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of Central Government under Section 2 (1) ii) of Van (SanrakshanEvamSamvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 2.459 ha of Revenue Forest Land within the block area of 7.987 ha of Lumurajhala (SE) Quartz Block allotted to M/s. Flux Minerals in village Lumurjena and Salepara under Boudh Forest Division in Boudh District (Online Proposal No.FP/OR/MIN/QRY/514821/2024)-reg.**

1. The agenda item was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 27.10.2025. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). The DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Bhubaneswar and APCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Odisha attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:
  - i. The State Government of Odisha vide their letter No. FE-DIV-FLD-0031-2025-13836/FE&CC dated 06.06.2025 submitted above subject proposal on PARIVESH portal seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 of the Van (SanrakshanEvamSamvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
  - ii. The proposed 2.459 ha of forest land within the lease block area of 7.987 ha of Lumurajhala (SE) Quartz Block is located at Lumurjena and salepara village under BoudhTahasil of Boudh District at a distance of about 30 Kms. from the district headquarters, Boudh.
  - iii. The proposed forest area is Sabik Forest with canopy density of 0.1 (Eco Class-3) and 1709 nos of trees have been proposed to be felled.
  - iv. The component wise break-up of the total forest land proposed for diversion is given below:

S No	Component	Forest Land (In Ha)	Non-Forest Land (In Ha)	Total Land (In Ha)
1.	Mining Road	0.688	1.749	2.437
2.	Waste Dump	0.000	0.592	0.592
3.	Minerals Storage/Stacking Yard	0.000	0.292	0.292
4.	Road	0.081	0.106	0.187
5.	Infrastructure	0.000	0.087	0.087
6.	Top Soil		0.173	0.173
7.	Green Belt	1.185	0.000	1.185

8.	Safety Zone	0.505	0.372	0.877
9.	Entry and exit within safety zone area	0.000	0.005	0.005
10.	Undisturbed Area	0.000	2.152	2.152
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2.459</b>	<b>5.528</b>	<b>7.987</b>

- v. The State Govt. has informed that pursuant to the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and the Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015, the e-auction process was conducted in accordance with the Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015. The Govt. of Odisha issued the notice inviting tender dated 22.08.2022 for the said mineral block and M/s Flux Minerals was declared as the successful bidder under sub clause (c) of Sub-Rule (6) of Rule & of the auction rule. Accordingly, the Government of Odisha, through its Steel & Mines Department, issued the Letter of intent (LoI) vide Letter No.11845/SM-MC3-ML-0043-2022/S&M, Bhubaneswar, dated 19.12.2022 to M/s Flux Minerals for grant of mining lease for Lumurajhala (SE) Quartz Block over an area of 7.987 ha near Lumurjena and Salepara village, Boudh Tahasil of Boudh District of Odisha for a period of 30 years.
- vi. In the justification for location of the proposal in forest area, the State Government has informed that mining is inherently a site-specific activity as it depends on the occurrence of mineral deposits. The Government of Odisha has allocated the Lumurajhala (SE) Quartz Block through an e-auction process to facilitate mining operations for the extraction of Quartz ore. M/s Flux Minerals has been declared the preferred bidder for the grant of a mining lease for the Lumurajhala (SE) Quartz Block. The Government of Odisha, Steel & Mines Department issued the Letter of intent (LoI) on dated 19.12.2022. As per the data provided by the Directorate of Mines, Steel & Mines Department, Government of Odisha, the total DGPS-surveyed mining lease area is 7.987 Ha. The approved mining plan targets at production of 1686 Tons/Annum of run-of-mine (ROM/) and the total mineable reserves of 166739 tons are available within the lease.
- vii. As the significant reserve is within the forest area, judicious exploitation is critical for systematic and scientific mining. To facilitate mining operations, it is essential to obtain approval for the diversion of 2.459 Ha of forest land under Section-2 (1) (ii) of the Van (sanrakshan Evam samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. This approval is necessary for the execution of the mining lease and associated ancillary activities in the Lumurajhala (SE) Quartz Block. This will ensure the optimal utilization of resources to meet the growing demand for high purity raw materials in Battery grade silicon manufacturing, Solar glass manufacturing, Engineered slab etc. Although this is a small project, but will generate significant socio-economic benefits for the local communities and the region as a whole. The mining operations are expected to create direct and indirect employment opportunities, with a focus on hiring local workers.
- viii. The details of forest and non-forest land involved in the project are furnished below:

S No.	Name of the	Name of the	Khata	Plot	Forest land	Non-Forest	Total land	Kissam
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	Tahasil	Village	No.	No.	in Ha.	land in Ha.	in Ha.	
1	Boudh	Lumurjena	49	653/p	0.875	0.000	0.875	Bada Jungle
2		Lumurjena	49	655/p	0.000	5.528	5.528	Unsurve y
3		Salepada	34	9/p	1.584	0.000	1.584	Patra Jungle
<b>Total</b>					<b>2.459</b>	<b>5.528</b>	<b>7.987</b>	

- ix. An area of 0.877 ha (0.505 ha forest land and 0.372 ha non-forest land) within the mining lease is earmarked for Safety Zone.
- x. The Mining Plan was approved by the Directorate of Mines and Geology, Government of Odisha vide letter dated 6.10.2023, for the Plan Period five years.
- xi. No violation has been committed by the user agency on the forest area proposed for diversion as per Van (SanrakshanEvamSamvardhan) Adhiniyam 1980.
- xii. The selected area does not form part of any protected area like National park Midlife Sanctuary/ Biosphere Reserve/ Tiger Reserve/ Elephant Reserve or Elephant corridor and Eco-sensitive Zone. The applied area also does not include the place of Archaeological importance.
- xiii. In lieu of diversion of 2.459 ha forest land, 2.459 ha Govt. non-forest land has been identified in village Udbilika under Boudh Tahasil of Boudh district in Boudh Forest division in a single patch. The site specific Compensatory Afforestation scheme over 2.459 ha Govt. non-forest land has been approved by the Nodal Officer for Rs.43,97,700/-.
- xiv. The User Agency has applied to the Collector & District Magistrate, Boudh for issue of necessary certificate under Forest Rights Act 2006 and the BDO Boudh has directed the Sarpanch, Gundulia Gram Panchayat for convening the Gram Sabha for the project vide letter No. 3109 dated 05.09.2023. The user agency has submitted an undertaking duly counter signed by DFO, Boudh Forest Division to furnish Forest Right Act Certificate before the final approval.
- xv. As per DSS analysis, the proposed forest land for diversion falls under Boudh district of Odisha State and its area (software-calculated) is found 2.455 ha. No Protected Area/ Tiger Reserve/ Tiger Corridor is located within 10 km radius of proposed project location. The compensatory afforestation land has been proposed in a single patch over non-forest land and its software- calculated area is found 2.527 ha. No encroachment is visible in the proposed CA site.
- xvi. After examination of the proposal, Ministry vide its online EDS dated 20.07.2025 requested the State Government to submit additional

information on certain points which include copy of approval and the approved mining plan, component wise KML file of Lumurjhala (SE) Quartz Block, justification for opening new mine in the forest area along with the brief company profile, details/ mineral evacuation plan and as to how the requirement of the electricity and water will be met, proposed land use plan is commensurate with the land use given in the approved mining plan, the legal status of the non-forest land involved in the proposal and a valid letter of intent in the instant case.

- xvii. In this reference, the State Government vide letter vide letter no. 17347/9F (MG)-321/2025 dated 18.08.2025 uploaded online PARIVESH portal on 25.08.2025 submitted information as sought vide Ministry EDS dated 20.07.2025. The State Government has provided a copy of approval and the approved mining plan and component wise KML file of Lumurjhala (SE) Quartz Block.
- xviii. The justification submitted by the Flux Minerals for opening new mines in the forest area is furnished as under:
- The Government of Odisha has allocated the Lumurajhala. (SE) Quartz Block through an e-auction process to facilitate mining operations for the extraction of Quartz ore.
  - There are two small quartz mines namely Manikeswari Minerals & M/s L K Das are working mines in Odisha. Both the mines are in non-forest land and production is very less.
  - Quartz and Quartzite are strategic minerals used in ferroalloys, refractories, silicon metal. solar PV manufacturing, semiconductors, and advanced ceramics, all of which are critical to India's infrastructure, green energy, and Atmanirbhar Bharat vision.
  - Quartz (silica) is used as a flux during the smelting of iron ore in blast furnaces and electric arc furnaces (EAF). Usually 20-30KG require to produce 1 ton of steel.
  - Quartz is a major raw material in producing ferro- silicon, silico-manganese, and silicon metal.
  - High-grade quartz (also known as high-purity quartz or HPQ) is a rare, highly sought-after raw material due to its exceptional physical and chemical properties. It contains very low levels of impurities (typically less than 50 ppm of metallic impurities), making it suitable for specialized and high-technology applications.
  - India is expanding its semiconductor and solar manufacturing capabilities (under Make in India. PLI schemes) and hence requires quartz/quartzite for Quartz crucibles for solar-grade polysilicon ingot production, High-purity silica for integrated circuits (IC) and optical fibre manufacturing & Indigenous sources to reduce dependence on imports from countries like Norway, the USA, and China.
- xix. The State government has reported that the existing road infrastructure is more than adequate to handle this level of traffic, and no additional road construction or widening is necessary. Furthermore, the company has reported that this is a semi-mechanised mining operation. Water



requirements will be met by transporting water via tankers, and a small generator will be installed to meet the basic electricity needs. Accordingly, any additional forest land for water sourcing, power supply, or transportation facilities is not required.

- xx. The State Government reported that the User Agency informed that total annual production of minerals is 1,686 tonnes per annum, which translates to approximately 5.62 tonnes per day. This implies that only one or two truckloads will be transported twice a week to various industries within and outside the State. The mine site is located about 20 km from the major road (SH57) and this distance will be traversed via a kacha and pucca public road. The User Agency has stated that the limited frequency of transportation and the low volume of material will place minimal strain on the local village roads. However, during site visit by RO, the User Agency also assured that they will upgrade the connecting road as per their operational requirement, after obtaining approval from the concerned competent authority for the use of the public road. The State government has informed that the DFO, Boudh Forest Division has reported that the land use plan is commensurate with the land use given in the approved mining plan.
- xxi. The State Government also informed that Lol was issued by the Govt. of Odisha, Steel and Mines Department vide letter dated 19.12.2022 wherein it has been mentioned under Para 4 that this Letter of Intent is valid for a period of 2 (two) years from the date of its issuance, within which time all the above conditions must be fulfilled and the Mining Lease deed must be executed between the Flux Minerals and the Government of Odisha. In case there is a delay in execution of Mining Lease deed due to reasons beyond the control of the Successful Bidder, then it may submit an application to Government of Odisha, requesting for further extension. The Lol has been extended vide letter dated 15.01.2025 which is valid up to 18.12.2025.
- xxii. The Regional Office, Bhubaneswar has carried out site inspection of the area and uploaded Site Inspection Report (SIR) on PARIVESH portal. The DDG (Central), Regional Office, Bhubaneswar has recommended the Proposal subject to the following conditions:
  - a. The User Agency shall maintain the prescribed green belt and safety zone in accordance with applicable norms for dust containment and shall adopt adequate dust suppression measures to minimize air pollution from mining operations.
  - b. As the Bagh River flows at a distance of approximately 140 metres from the southern boundary of the mining lease area, the State Government shall ensure that the User Agency takes effective measures to prevent the discharge of excavated material or mine wastewater into the river.
  - c. The User Agency shall submit a plan for concurrent and progressive reclamation, including a restoration schedule and a timeline for surrendering forest land, as required under Standard Condition 2(1).

- d. As the proposed mining area is not connected to a regular electricity supply, the User Agency shall explore the installation of a solar power system to meet the project's electricity requirements and thereby reduce air pollution.
  - xxiii. The Advisory Committee noted that as per SIR by Regional Office, Bhubaneswar, a small river named Bagh River flows approximately 140 meters from the mining boundary. Bagh River is a tributary of River Mahanadi, joining it at Baunsuni. However, nodal officer informed that distance of the Bagh River is more than 140 meters from the mining lease boundary. The Committee observed that the Regional Office should verify the facts and inform the correct distance of the river from the mining lease.
  - xxiv. The Advisory Committee also observed that Quartz mining can generate fine silica dust, which may disperse into the surrounding forest area. Additionally, adequate dust suppression measures must be implemented by the User Agency throughout the mining operations to minimize the dust pollution.
  - xxv. The Committee observed that the non-forest land involved has a very good density of trees and is better stocked than the forest land proposed for diversion. Therefore, the legal status of this land needs to be properly examined. In view of this, the State Government may be requested to submit detailed information regarding the legal status of the entire area within, as well as in the surroundings of, the mining lease boundary.
4. **Decision of the Advisory the Advisory Committee:** The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bhubaneswar and APCCF and Nodal Officer, Government of Odisha. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Odisha, the Committee '**deferred**' the proposal and sought clarification/information on the following for further consideration in the matter:
- i. The non-forest land given in the proposal has a very good density of trees and appears to be better stocked than the forest land proposed for diversion. In view of this, the State Government shall submit detailed information regarding the legal status of the entire area within, as well as in the surroundings of, the mining lease boundary.
  - ii. The Quartz mining can generate fine silica dust, which may disperse into the surrounding forest area. The State Government shall submit its comments regarding the effect of mining on Bagh river water.
  - iii. The Regional Office, Bhubaneswar shall verify the distance of the mining lease boundary from the Bagh river and intimate the correct distance.

### **Agenda No.16**

**Online Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/QRY/445466/2023**

**Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of Central Government under Section 2 (1) ii) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 575.16 ha forest land for mining of Limestone Block in Katamater village by Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Limited in Malkangiri Tahasil of Malkangiri District**

**under Malkangiri Forest Division, Odisha (Online Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/QRY/445466/2023)-reg.**

1. The agenda item was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 27.10.2025. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). The DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Bhubaneswar and APCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Odisha attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:
  - i. The State Government of Odisha vide their letter No. FE-DIV-FLD-0045-2025-17122/FE&CC dated 11.07.2025 submitted above subject proposal seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 of the Van (SanrakshanEvamSamvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
  - ii. The State Govt. has granted the mining lease for Limestone in respect of Kottameta Limestone Block over 802.25 ha under Malkangiri District for a period of 50 years in favour of M/s Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Limited as a "Successful Bidder vide Govt. Proceeding No.5388/SM dt.25.05.2023.
  - iii. The said lease was executed and registered on 26.05.2023. The Mining Lease Deed has been executed on 26.05.2023 with a validity period of 50 years by the Collector, Malkangiri District.
  - iv. As per section 8A of Amendment MMDR Act, 2015 mining lease is valid for a period of 50 years i.e. upto 25.05.2073.
  - v. Total Mining Lease Area is 802.25 ha, which comprises 575.16 ha (462.247 ha Revenue Forest and 112.913 ha Sabik Forest) of forest land and Non-forest land over 227.09 ha (77.497 ha Non-forest Govt. land and 149.59 ha Non-forest Private Land) for mining, ancillary activities.
  - vi. Out of 575.16 ha, PRF is 186.220 ha and Revenue Forest is 388.940 ha. But, 186.220 ha of forest land has been notified as Kotamateru PRF under Section-4 of OFA, 1972 and the final notification is yet to be published u/s 21 of OFA, 1972. Hence, 186.22 ha has been reflected as Jungle Kissam in Land Schedule.
  - vii. The proposed forest area is 575.16 ha (Revenue Forest - 388.94 + PRF - 186.22)with canopy density of 0.35 (Eco Class-3) and total 85757nos of trees have been proposed to be felled.
  - viii. The component wise break-up of the total forest land proposed for diversion is given below:

Sl. No.	Item	Forest Land (In Ha)	Non-Forest Land (In Ha)	Grand Total Land (In Ha)
1	Area to be excavated	365.78	145.726	511.506

2	Infrastructure including workshop Administrative Building etc.	0.610	2.633	3.243
3	Roads	0.72	1.357	2.077
4	Green Belt/Plantation	26.910	6.267	33.177
5	Mineral separation Plant	0.510	0.539	1.049
6	Future Exploration and Mining	180.630	70.568	251.198
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>575.16</b>	<b>227.09</b>	<b>802.25</b>

- ix. The forest land proposed for diversion is of the Tropical Dry Deciduous Forest category and comes under Eco-Value Class-III with canopy density is 0.35 where 33.0 ha is coming under Moderately Dense Forest (MDF).
- x. As per justification for locating the project in forest land submitted by the State Government that Kottameta Limestone Block is an Auctioned block for which Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Limited was the preferred bidder through the e-auction conducted by Govt. of Odisha. Moreover, mining is 'a site-specific project with proven reserve of minerals. The State Govt. granted the mining lease for Limestone in respect of Kottameta Limestone Block over 802.25 ha under Malkangiri District for a period of 50 years in favour of M/s Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Limited as a "Successful Bidder" vide Govt. Proceeding No.5388/SM dt.25.05.2023. With the implementation of the proposed project, the living conditions of the population will improve. The project would be beneficial to the local people & the region in terms of infra. Development, Generation of direct & indirect employment avenues, Establishment of small & medium scale engineering ancillaries, other small-scale industries with cascading direct indirect employment opportunities; Increased revenue to the state by way of royalty etc.
- xi. It is predicted that with the commencing of the proposed project, the sources of income of the locals will definitely increase. Being an economically undeveloped area, the implementation of the proposed project, will positively improve the living standard of the locals and generate employment opportunities. Thus, there will be positive socio-economic impact. The mine shall be contributing to the State & Central Govt. exchequers by way of mining revenue of Rs.26.88 Crores/ year once mine comes into operation.
- xii. As per the Site Inspection Reports of DFO Malkangiri Forest Division and Regional Chief Conservator of Forest of Koraput Circle the proposed Tree felling is expected to adversely affect forest cover, disrupt wildlife habitats and contribute to increased soil erosion.
- xiii. 575.16 ha Non-forest Govt. land in (in 8 patches) in 7 Nos. of village under Kalimela and Khairput Tahasil has been identified for compensatory afforestation in lieu of 575.16 ha of forest land. Further, 20 ha has been identified in Pusugudam RF is Motu Range under Malkangiri Forest Division for Addl. CA in lieu of water body of 1 ha and the scheme has been prepared for planting @500 seedlings per ha with 10 years maintenance.

- xiv. CA Scheme for planting @ 1000 seedlings per ha in AR Plantation mode over 56.243 ha with 10 years of maintenance and CA Scheme for planting @ 500 seedlings per ha in ANR Plantation mode over 383.0 ha with required SMC measures to be taken up including the provision of fencing around the plantation and watering provision with 10 years maintenance and 7.93 ha in ANR mode @ 500 seedlings per ha with 20 years maintenance for Rs. 25,13,07,300/-.
- xv. An area of 8.77 ha has been earmarked as Safety Zone area within the applied forest area for diversion.
- xvi. As per DSS analysis of the proposal, the proposed forest land falls under Malkangiri district of Odisha State. The software calculated area of proposed forest land is found 574.046 ha. No Protected Area/Tiger Reserve/ Tiger Corridor is located within 10km radius of proposed forest land. The Proposed area falls in High Conservation Value (HCV) Zone based on Decision Rule 1 (as it falls within 250m buffer of Sabari/Kolab River) and Not in High Conservation Value (HCV) Zone based on Decision Rule 2. The Compensatory afforestation land has been proposed in eight patches over non-forest land and their software- calculated area is found 575.436 ha. As per Observation based on high resolution Google Earth images: dense vegetation is visible in some parts of the proposed CA. The Additional compensatory afforestation land has been proposed in a twenty patches over degraded forest land and its software- calculated area is found 951.819 ha. The Observation based on high resolution Google Earth images of the proposed ACA: Most of the proposed ACA sites are free from encroachment. However, some ACA sites have small portion under cultivation.
- xvii. DFO, Malkangiri Forest Division in SIR reported that the proposed tree felling is expected to adversely affect forest cover, disrupt wildlife habitats, and contribute to increased soil erosion.
- xviii. The Mining Plan has been approved by the Indian Bureau of Mines vide their Letter No. MCDR-MiFLOLST/5/2023-BBS-IBM RO BBS dated 07.08.2023 with validity period of 5 years.
- xix. No violation has been committed by the user agency on the forest area proposed for diversion as per Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam 1980.
- xx. The proposed area does not form part of any National Park/ Wild life Sanctuary/ Biosphere reserve/ Tiger reserve/ elephant corridor etc. Also, the applied area is not forming part of any eco-sensitive zone of any protected area. No archaeological monument/ Heritage site/ Defence establishment etc. are located in the applied area. The total cost of this project is ₹23171 Lakhs. This project will generate employment for 82 persons permanently and it will also create temporary employment for about 1500 persons.
- xxi. It is imperative to mention that Ministry has granted permission under Section 2 (iii) of FCA vide letter no. 8-18/2022-FC dated 18.05.2023 over 575.16 ha of forest land within the granted ML area over 802.255 ha for Kottameta Lime Limestone mining in Katamateru village under

Malkangiri Tahasil of Malkangiri District, Odisha by M/s Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Limited).

- xxii. After examination of the proposal, Ministry vide its letter dated 31.07.2025 through online requested the State Government to submit additional information on certain points which include the compliance of the conditions of the approval dated 21.07.2023, detailed analysis of Cost-Benefit ratio, justification for opening a new mine as per the provisions of the Para 7.8 of the Consolidated guidelines dated 29.12.2023, clarification regarding Satellite imagery shows that the agriculture land is visible in the proposed area for diversion, component wise breakup of Kottameta Limestone Mine , details of mineral evacuation plan, details regarding requirement of electricity and water, justification for the diversion of 180.630 hectare land for future exploration.. In the response of the Ministry's letter, State Government vide letter no. 19640/9F (MG)-373/2025 dated 18.09.2025 through online has submitted their reply.
- xxiii. The State Government has submitted the annual self-compliance submitted by Dalmia Cement (Bharat), which has already been certified and forwarded by the DFO, Malkangiri, to the Addl. PCCF, FD & NO, FC Act, O/o the PCCF & HoFF.
- xxiv. The State Government has given justification for opening new mine that this new limestone mine has a proven mineral reserve of 97.50 MMT of high-quality cement-grade limestone (CaO: 45.865 & MgO: 0.75) as per the approved mining plan. This mining lease spans over 802.225 ha of land encompassing 575.16 ha of Forest land in Malkangiri District of Odisha.
- xxv. The State Government has reported that the identified land proposed for diversion was previously affected by shifting cultivation practices. However, based on recent field assessments, no ongoing instances of shifting cultivation have been observed.
- xxvi. The State Government has reported that 575.16 ha of revenue non-forest land has been identified in Kalimela and Khairput Tahasil for raising CA. As per DSS analysis report, 575.16 ha comprises of 127 ha MDF, 390.93 ha Open Forest, 56.243 ha bushes and non-forest category and 1 ha is water body. Accordingly, the DFO has submitted the CA scheme for planting @1000 seedlings per ha in AR mode over 56.243 ha, @500 seedlings per ha in ANR mode over 390.93 ha and SMC activities to be undertaken over entire area i.e. 575.16 ha. Further, the DFO, Malkangiri has reported that no plantation is necessary except soil and moisture conservation work in the MDF category land. Hence, soil and moisture conservation measures are proposed to be undertaken in the identified MDF areas to ensure effective ecological management over 127 ha. Further, 20 ha has been identified in Pusugudam RF is Motu Range under Malkangiri Forest Division for Addl. CA in lieu of water body of 1 ha and the scheme has been prepared for planting @500 seedlings per ha with 10 years maintenance.
- xxvii. The State Government has reported that about 0.5 MW of power will be required for the instant project, which will be met from the State Electricity

Board/ grid, and the evacuation line will be along the RoW of the existing all-weather road.

- xxviii. The State Government has reported that there is an existing all-weather road extending approximately 17 km from Kotamateru (Katamater) village to State Highway-25, passing through the villages of Matapaka, Namgonda, and Sikhapali. This road is presently connected to a single kaccha road, which provides site access through Pillar No. 03. Future upgradation of this kaccha road, specifically for facilitating mineral evacuation from the proposed mines, may involve additional diversion of forest land. The land schedule pertaining to this kaccha road alignment is not yet finalized.
- xxix. The State Government has reported that the Supreme Court of India, in their order of 6th July 2011, issued guidelines so as not to create a fait accompli situation in the matter of diversion of forest land under the Van (SanrakshanEvamSamvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. Therefore, in the case of new mining lease projects having forest land in part or in full, approval under Van (SanrakshanEvamSamvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, for diversion of the entire forest land located within the mining lease project is to be obtained before execution or renewal of the mining lease project. The component-wise breakup of land in the proposal depicts that 251.198 ha has been proposed for future exploration and mining, out of which 180.630 ha is forest land and 70.568 ha is non-forest land. This mine is explored up to the G4/G3/G2 level. The complete area 251.198 ha including 180.630 ha will further be explored as per the provision of Rule 12(3) of MCDR -2017, which reads as "The holder of a mining lease shall carry out detailed exploration (G1 level) over the entire potentially mineralized area under the mining lease.
- xxx. The State Government has reported that as per the approved mine plan, an area of 6.369 ha will be used for utility services, i.e., road, infrastructure, mineral separation and crushing plant, etc. (inadvertently mentioned as public use) and 251.198 ha land will be put for exploration in G1 level post. The User Agency will ascertain the quantum of land to be considered for mining and remaining land to be considered for ancillary activities. Till then, this will be maintained as a greenbelt.
- xxxi. The State Government has submitted the Hydrological report & Rainwater harvesting plan.
- xxxii. Regional Office in SIR has informed that out of the total 575.16 hectares of proposed forest land, 186.22 hectares constitute Protected Reserved Forest (PRF), while the remaining 388.94 hectares fall under Revenue Forest. The 186.22 hectares of PRF have been notified as Kotamateru Protected Forest under Section 4 of the Orissa Forest Act, 1972. However, the final notification under Section 21 of the said Act is yet to be issued. Furthermore, this 186.22 hectares has been recorded as "Jungle KISSAM" in the land schedule submitted by the Tahasildar. The proposed mining lease area has been explored up to G4/G3/G2 level. In accordance with the provisions of Rule 12(3) of the Mineral Conservation and Development Rules (MCDR), 2017, G1 level exploration has been proposed for the

entire mining lease area, including the 180.63 hectares under consideration.

xxxiii. The Regional Office has recommended the Proposal for consideration under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, subject to the following conditions:

- a. Trees shall be felled in a phased manner, only when absolutely necessary, under the strict supervision of the State Forest Department. Wherever feasible, suitable species shall be transplanted.
- b. As the Sabari River flows along the western boundary of the proposed mining lease, no excavated material or mine wastewater shall be discharged into the river. To prevent this, an embankment shall be constructed along the riverbank at the cost of the User Agency, with the approval of the competent authority. In addition, a buffer plantation of appropriate width shall be developed and maintained along the riverbank by the User Agency, in consultation with the Forest Department and at the cost of the project proponent.
- c. As submitted by the User Agency, an area of 251.198 hectares, including 180.63 hectares of forest land, shall be maintained as a green belt until detailed exploration in the G1 category is completed, based on which the final land use will be determined.
- d. The State Forest Department shall implement the Site-Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan (SSWLCP) for the project, as approved by the Chief Wildlife Warden (CWLW), Odisha, at the cost of the User Agency.
- e. The State Government shall ensure that all Additional Compensatory Afforestation (ACA) sites are free from encroachment prior to undertaking plantation activities. Wherever required, proper fencing shall be carried out at the cost of the User Agency. In the case of Compensatory Afforestation sites in non-forest land (NFL) areas, the State shall ensure that the sites are properly fenced and afforested also at the cost of the User Agency.

xxxiv. The Advisory Committee noted that M/s Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Limited proposes to establish a new Integrated Cement Manufacturing Unit in Malkangiri district, Odisha, with an installed capacity of 2 Million Tonnes Per Annum (MTPA) of Cement and 1.45 MTPA of Clinker. To meet the raw material requirements of this facility, the company plans to source 3 MTPA of limestone from the Kottameta Limestone Mine. However, the Site of Cement Manufacturing Unit is not yet finalised.

xxxv. The Advisory Committee observed that there is no cement manufacturing facility in nearby area of mining lease for consumption of raw material proposed to be extracted. The state may therefore be asked to give justification for the opening of the mining lease.

4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bhubaneswar and APCCF and Nodal Officer, Government of Odisha. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of



Odisha, the Committee '**deferred**' the proposal and sought clarification/information on the following for further consideration in the matter:

- i. There is no existing cement manufacturing facility in the vicinity of the mining area for the utilization of the extracted material, and the location of the proposed cement plant has also not yet been finalized. In view of this, the State Government shall submit a detailed justification for the locating the limestone mining lease in the area.
- ii. The State Government has not provided details of any additional forest land that may be required for the conveyor belt, coal handling, or related infrastructure. Further, it has been mentioned that road expansion would be necessary; however, details regarding the forest land involved in the same have not been submitted. The State Government shall examine the matter and furnish the requisite details in this regard.
- iii. Since the forest area involved in the proposal exceeds 100 hectares, the site inspection report of the Nodal Officer (FCA) shall be uploaded.
- iv. The State Government has informed that 180.63 hectares of forest land shall be maintained as a green belt until detailed exploration is completed, based on which the final land use will be determined. In this regard, the State Government shall examine the matter and provide an undertaking that the said 180.63 hectares of forest land will not be used for any purpose other than mining.
- v. The component-wise area in the KML file has been found to be 570.732 hectares instead of 575.176 hectares, and the KML file for the additional Compensatory Afforestation (CA) land of 20 hectares has not been uploaded. The State Government shall take necessary action to rectify this and upload the complete KML files.
- vi. The Sabari River (also known as the Kolab River) flows along the western side of the proposed mining block, with the distance between the mine boundary and the river ranging from 30 metres to 200 metres. The State Government shall submit a detailed report and comments regarding the potential impact of mining activities on the river water.

### **Agenda No.17**

#### **Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/QRY/461073/2024**

**Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of Van (SanrakshanEvamSamvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 64.3723 ha of Forest land within Mining Lease area over 1192.2930 Ha of Baitarani Open Cast Coal Block of M/s Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Limited in Angul Forest Division of Angul District, Odisha(Online Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/QRY/461073/2024) -reg.**

1. The agenda item was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 27.10.2025. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). The DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Bhubaneswar and APCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Odisha attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the

Member Secretary before the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.

3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:
  - i. The State Government of Odisha vide their letter No. FE-DIV-FLD-0005-2025-1477/FE&CC dated 15.01.2025 and uploaded on PARIVESH portal on 16.01.2025 submitted above subject proposal seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (SanrakshanEvamSamvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
  - ii. Baitarani West Coal Block was allotted in favour of M/s Odisha Mining Corporation Ltd. on 29.09.2016, after execution of allotment agreement on 24.08.2016 between the Nominated Authority, Ministry of Coal, Govt. of India and M/s. OMC Ltd. The Coal Block was allotted in favour of M/s. OMC Ltd. as per the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act-2015. Previously prepared Mining Plan was also vested to M/s-OMC Ltd. Since the mining plan did not contain Mining closure plan, OMC Ltd. entrusted the work to CMPDI. In the mining closure plan the dump sites area for infrastructures are shown over coal bearing area on which ministry of Coal, Gol raised the objection. As M/s OMC Ltd. can not deviate from the approved mining plan, it stalled all the developmental activities within the Coal block.
  - iii. M/s OMC Ltd., after receiving the revised boundary co-ordinates and corrigendum to the allotment order of Baitarani west Coal Block, entrusted CMPDI to prepare revised mining plan including mining closure plan, which was duly approved by MoC, Gol on 10.11.2021. Then, M/s OMC Ltd., to undertake land acquisition for the Coal mine, submitted fresh application. Ministry of Coal, Gol issued the "Policy granting one time window to allottee Govt. Companies (both Central and State) to surrender non-Operational Coal Mines without penalty vide its Office Memorandum No.NA-301/1/2021-NA dt.09.05.2022 as approved by the Cabinet Committee of Economic affairs on 08.04.2022". In line with this decision, Steel and Mines Department, Government of Odisha directed M/s OMC Ltd. to surrender Baitarani west Coal Block and accordingly OMC Ltd. submitted the application on 06.06.2022 for surrender of Coal Block to MoC, Gol which was accepted by the Ministry on 25.08.2022 and the Bank Guaranty was returned on 02.09.2022 to OMC Ltd.
  - iv. M/s. Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. (GMDC) participated in the process of bidding and declared as the successful bidder. M/s. GMDC, in accordance with Tender document and with the provision of sub-section (6) of Section-8 of "The Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015" and Sub-rule (4) of Rule-13 of Coal Mines (Special provision) Rules-2014, furnished a performance Bank guaranty for an amount equal to ₹11,05,18,98,774.85/- (Eleven hundred & Five Crore Eighteen Lakhs Ninety-Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy-Four rupees and Eighty-Five Paise Only).
  - v. The Nominated Authority, Ministry of Coal, Govt. of India issued the Vesting order (Order No.NA-104/4/2023-NA) of Baitarani West Coal Mine

in favour of GMDC on 08.06.2023. GMDC has entered into a Coal Mine Development & Production Agreement (CMPDA) with the nominated authority in accordance with the provision of Sub-rule (5) of Rule-13 on 29.03.2023.

- vi. Total lease area is 1196.00 ha of which 623.71 ha will be used for quarry purpose and the rest area at the south of the mine will be used for dumping of over burden and infrastructure development.
- vii. The component wise break-up of the total forest land proposed for diversion is given below:

Pattern of utilisation	Land use proposed in the submitted map and KML file in ha	Non-forest in ha	Total land in ha
Quarry excavation	37.8117	585.8983	623.7100
Safety zone	1.0830	14.9170	16.0000
OB Dump	-	211.9714	211.9714
Infrastructure	-	202.3449	202.3449
Top Soil Dump	-	2.3400	2.3400
Green Belt	25.5262	82.9881	106.5143
Water Reservoir near Pit	0.1088	7.7812	7.8900
Other areas (Embankment, Garland drain & Nala)	1.8426	23.3868	25.2294
<b>Total</b>	<b>64.3723</b>	<b>1131.6277</b>	<b>1196.0000</b>

- viii. Near about 5100 families will be affected due to this project. 957 families are proposed to be displaced due to commencement of the project. These affected families will be settled as per R&R policy-2006 of State of Odisha.
- ix. The State Government has submitted the justification for locating the project in forest land is that this is a mining project which is site specific and cannot be worked unless diversion is effected where minerals (Coal) exists. The justification of locating the project in forest area is:
  - a. Deposits are nature oriented and site specific.
  - b. Baitarani west coal block covers a total area of 1196.0 ha, out of which forest area is 64.3723 ha and non-forest area is 1131.6277 ha.
  - c. Total lease area is 1196.0 ha of which 623.71 ha will be used for quarry purpose and the rest area at the south of the mine will be used for dumping of over burden and infrastructure development. Total geological reserve calculated to 662.94 Million tons of which mineable reserve is 485.06 Million tons. But only 468.27 Million tons are available for extraction as some of the seams are so deep seated that mining is not viable from economic point of view. The percentage of extraction is calculated to be 77.771%.

- d. It would severely affect the mining process of excavation unless these scattered patches of Revenue Forest plots are excavated as Open cast mine in continuity.
  - e. Non-existence of any Eco-Sensitive Zone. Proposed area is not covered under declared Wild Life Sanctuary.
  - f. Non-existence of elephant Corridor.
- x. The legal status of the forest land within the Coal block is R.F. Revenue forest and DLC Forest.
- xi. The total area of safety Zone in forest and non-forest land comes to 16.00 ha.
- xii. The canopy density of the applied forest land for diversion is 0.5 under Eco-Value Class-I. Total 3113 nos. of trees have been enumerated to be felled.
- xiii. 67.821 ha. of Govt. land identified in Katapada Village under BoiparigudaTahasil, Jeypore Forest Division of Koraput District for the purpose of Compensatory Afforestation in lieu of diversion of 64.3723 of forest land. The financial outlay of the CA scheme approved by APCCF (Nodal) comes to ₹5,19,13,600/-.
- xiv. As per DSS analysis of the proposal, the proposed forest land for diversion falls under Anugul district of Odisha State and its area (software-calculated) is found 64.331 ha. Further, the area for Baitarni West Coal Mine is found 1195.72 ha. No Wildlife sanctuary, National park, Tiger reserve and Tiger corridor is located within 10 Km distance from the proposed forest land for diversion. Compensatory afforestation has been proposed over non-forest land in a single patch and its area (software-calculated) is found 67.891 ha.
- xv. The Mining Plan in respect of Baitarani west Coal Block was prepared by CMPDI for erstwhile lessee i.e. OMC Ltd, approved by Coal Controller, Ministry of Coal, Gol vide Letter No.SWCS/Baitarani west coal Mine/OR/AN/2021/CCO-MCBA dt.10.11.2021 has been vested with the present lessee i.e. GMDC Ltd. by nominated authority, Ministry of Coal, Gol dt.08.06.2023.
- xvi. No violation has been reported to be committed by the user agency on the forest area proposed for diversion as per Van (SanrakshanEvamSamvardhan) Adhiniyam 1980.
- xvii. The applied area does not involve any Eco-Sensitive Zone, National Park, Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve and Elephant Corridor. There are no archaeologically important monuments situated in the area. A Tiger Corridor is located at a distance of 4Kms. from the boundary of the applied area. No rare and endangered species is available in the area applied for diversion.
- xviii. The State has informed that the Baitarani West Coal Mine, now vested with GMDC Ltd. as per MoC Vesting Order dated 08.06.2023, was previously allotted to OMC, which had obtained the approved Mining Plan; the modified land use plan over 1196 ha, as per the approved Mining Plan

and Mine Closure Plan dated 08.10.2021, has been submitted for reference, ensuring that the proposed land use is commensurate with the approved mining plan.

- xix. The State has informed the Baitarani West Coal Mine lease area is 1196 ha as per the approved Mining Plan and DGPS survey, consistent with details provided during the coal block auction; while the Vesting Order cites 1192.293 ha based on the initial Gazette Notification under the CBA Act, the remaining 3.707 ha within the lease boundary will be notified separately, and GMDC has accordingly sought clearances for the full 1196 ha, with supporting documents and an undertaking submitted and uploaded on the Parivesh portal.
- xx. The State has informed that existing encroachments within the mining lease area predate the coal block auction and no violations under Sections 3A/3B of the Adhiniyam, 1980 have occurred; the user agency has undertaken to remove all encroachments with support from revenue authorities before Stage-I compliance and has formally requested action from the Tahasildar, Chhendipada, with relevant documents submitted.
- xxi. The State has informed that the proposed 33 KV transmission line is at the conceptual stage with its alignment yet to be finalized, and it will be ensured that no forest land is involved in its Right of Way; currently, an 11 KV power supply from within the mine lease area will be used for initial operations
- xxii. The State has informed that the opening of the new mine by GMDC is justified under para 7.8 of the consolidated guidelines dated 29.12.2023, as the coal block was allocated through auction by the Ministry of Coal to meet the country's growing energy needs, reduce dependence on imports, and support the Government of India's vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat in the coal sector, with supporting documents submitted.
- xxiii. The Regional Office, Bhubaneswar has recommended the Proposal for consideration under the Van (SanrakshanEvamSamvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, subject to the following conditions:
  - a. The instant proposal is for mining of coal in an area over 1192.2930 Ha of Baitarani Open Cast Coal Block of M/s Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. in Angul Forest Division. Out of this 64.3723 Ha is forest land.
  - b. The forest land proposed for diversion falls under Eco-Value Class- III and canopy density is 0.5 as reported by the DFO. Total 3,113 nos. of trees have been enumerated over the forest land proposed for diversion. Similarly, total 1597 nos. of trees have been enumerated over the non-forest land required for this project. The number of trees to be felled is large. To minimize the adverse ecological impact, trees should be felled in a phased manner and when become absolutely necessary. Further, to mitigate the impact of the felling of trees outside forest, ten times numbers of trees is recommended to be planted for felling of trees outside the forest area.
  - c. The applied area does not form part of any National Park/ Wildlife Sanctuary/Biosphere Reserve/ Tiger Reserve/ Elephant Corridor. It was

also reported that the proposed site for the project does not come under eco-sensitive zone of any Protected Area. However, the State Govt. has reported that a Tiger Corridor is located at a distance of 4Kms from the boundary of the applied area. The DFO has also reported that species like Leopard, Sloth bear and Elephant are found in that area.

- d. The State Govt. shall prepare and implement a Site Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan duly approved by CWLW, Odisha to mitigate the impact of the project on wildlife available in the area. Besides the user agency shall contribute towards the cost of Regional Wildlife Management Plan.
  - e. The State Govt. has reported that 957 families of 07 villages are supposed to be displaced and 5100 families including school will be affected due to this project. The user agency shall submit duly approved R&R Plan.
  - f. The Mining Plan has been approved by the Ministry of Coal vide letter No.SWCS/Baitarani West Coal Mine/OR/AN/2021/CCO-MCBA dated 10.11.2021.
  - g. A small nala, Supai is flowing across the block from South to North near Northeastern boundary of the block. During inspection, it was told that the Supainalla will be diverted and 1.8426 Ha of forest land has been proposed for this activity. The user agency should obtain permission of Water Resource Department, Govt. of Odisha before diverting the above river/nala. Further, Kumbhiranala forms the South-Eastern block boundary. So there is a need for soil and moisture conservation measures in the rest catchment of this nalas and the forest lands in and around the proposed site. Safety zone with plantation of at least 50 meter width may be maintained along the lease boundary close to river/nala. Efforts should be made to ensure that no discharge leads to the Supai and Kumbharinala from the mining lease area.
  - h. In lieu of 64.3723 Ha of forest land proposed for diversion, State Govt. has identified 67.821 Ha of non-forest Govt. land for raising compensatory afforestation.
  - i. Mining of coal is a site-specific activity. The proposal is recommended with standard general conditions and compliance of observations made during site inspection.
- xxiv. The Advisory Committee noted that as per SIR of RO, a small nala, Supai is flowing across the block from South to North near Northeastern boundary of the block. During inspection, it was told that the Supainalla will be diverted and 1.8426 Ha of forest land has been proposed for this activity. The user agency should obtain permission of Water Resource Department, Govt. of Odisha before diverting the above river/nala. Further, theKumbhiranala forms the South-Eastern block boundary. Hence there is a need for soil and moisture conservation measures in the catchment of these nalas and the forest lands in and around the proposed site.
- xxv. The Committee observed that elephant movement has been reported in the area and keeping in view the Human-elephant conflict position it is imperative to study the Human-Elephant conflict in the area in detail with the help of a reputed organization like Wildlife Institute of India. This will

facilitate a scientific understanding of elephant movement patterns and conflict dynamics, enabling the formulation of effective mitigation measures and also ensure the capacity building of the staff and the local community to deal with the conflict situations.

**4. Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after thorough deliberation and discussion with the Nodal Officer, Govt. of Odisha and DDGF(C), RO, Bhubaneswar and keeping in view the facts of the proposal recommended the **Stage-1/In-principle approval** for diversion of 64.3723 ha of Forest land within Baitarani Open Cast Coal Block of M/s Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Limited in Angul Forest Division of Angul District, Odisha in favour of M/s Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Limited, subject to the general, standard and following specific conditions:-

- i. The Supai Nala flows across the block from south to north near its northeastern boundary. The nala is proposed to be diverted, for which the user agency shall obtain a No Objection Certificate (NoC)/Permission from the Water Resources Department, Government of Odisha, prior to undertaking any diversion of the said nala.
- ii. The Kumbhira Nala forms the southeastern boundary of the block. Soil and moisture conservation measures are required in the catchment areas of the existing nalas and in the forest land within and around the proposed site. The State Government shall submit a copy of the approved soil and moisture conservation plan, along with compliance of the stipulated conditions, before consideration of Stage-II approval.
- iii. The State Government shall ensure that no discharge from the mining lease area flows into the Supai or Kumbhira Nala. A copy of an undertaking to this effect shall be submitted along with the compliance report of conditions prior to Stage-II approval.
- iv. The State Government, at the cost of the user agency and in collaboration with the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), shall undertake a detailed long-term study on human-elephant conflict in the surrounding conflict-prone areas to identify suitable mitigation strategies. The State Government shall also ensure the capacity building of frontline staff and local communities to effectively manage and respond to such conflict situations.

### **Agenda No. 18**

#### **Online Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/QRY/470250/2024**

**Sub: Proposal seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (SanrakshanEvamSamvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 708.204 ha (564.581 ha in Rayagada Forest Division + 143.623 ha in Kalahandi (South) Forest Division) of Forest land (including 11.195 ha earmarked for Safety Zone) within total Mining Lease land in 1548.786 ha of Sijimali Bauxite Mines in Rayagada Forest Division & Kalahandi (South) Forest Division under Rayagada and Kalahandi District respectively in respect of M/s Vedanta Limited (Online Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/QRY/470250/2024)-reg.**

1. The agenda item was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 27.10.2025. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at

www.parivesh.nic.in. The DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Bhubaneswar and APCCF and Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Odisha attended the meeting.

2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:
  - i. The Government of Odisha vide their letter No. FE-DIV-FLD-0017-2025-8268/FE&CC dated 08.04.2025 submitted the above subject proposal through PARIVESH 2.0 portal and uploaded on 09.04.2025 seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (SanrakshanEvamSamvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
  - ii. Vedanta Limited has been allocated the Sijimali Bauxite mine spread over Kalahandi and Rayagada districts of Odisha in March 2023, having an estimated reserve of around 311 Million Tonnes for meeting the increased requirement of raw material, Vedanta intends to operate Sijimali block for dispatching Bauxite from mines to its Refinery.
  - iii. An e-Auction process was conducted in accordance with the tender document for the Sijimali Mineral Block and Vedanta Limited was declared as the "Preferred Bidder" under Rule 9(9)(1) or Rule 10(1A) of Auction Rules dated 09.02.2023. Accordingly, pursuant to Rule 10(2) of the Auction Rules and the terms of the tender document of steel & Mines Department, Government of Odisha, issued Letter of Intent for grant of mine lease for Sijimali Bauxite Block over 1549.022 ha (Geo referenced DGPS Area 1549.022 ha, ROR Authenticated area-1548.786 ha) vide letter No SM-MC2-MC-0006-2023/2103/5&M, Bhubaneswar, dated 01 03 2023.
  - iv. M/s Vedanta Ltd has the proposal to operate the Sijimali Bauxite Mine with peak Proposed Bauxite Production Capacity of 9.00 Million TPA. The block is located in 18 villages under Thuamul Rampur Tehsil of Kalahandi district and under KashipurTahsil of Rayagada district in the State of Odisha.
  - v. As M/s Vedanta Limited has an existing alumina refinery plant at Lanjigarh of Kalahandi district of Odisha which very soon will be operated at granted EC capacity of 6.0 Million TPA, due to which the total bauxite requirement will be 18.0 Million TPA at a ratio of 3:1 to meet the partial requirement of the bauxite, Vedanta Ltd is proposing the Sijimali Bauxite Mine with 9.0 Million TPA Capacity, 3. Million TPA from OMC Kodingamali Mine through long term linkage and remaining 60 Million TPA from import.
  - vi. The area under consideration is well connected by rail and road to all important business and industrial centres of the country. Nearest Railway station is Sikarpai Railway station at a distance of 20 km in SE direction. The Nearest Port and International Airport are at Visakhapatnam at a distance of 194 Km in SSE direction, Distance of



SH-44 from the lease area is 1.5 km in West direction from the project site.

- vii. The Sijimali Bauxite Block has been explored in different phases with 91 bore holes with a total meterage of 2241.61m The boreholes have been drilled at an interval of about 400m grid pattern within the mineralized land in 12.38 sq. km The bore hole density is about 07 (735) BHs/Sq Km.
- viii. The entire geological block land in 1549.022 Ha (As per DGPS) will be brought under mining and allied activities to excavate bauxite. The cross-sectional method has been adopted for estimation of resources of bauxite in the approved mining plan 15 sets of vertical cross sections namely AA', BB', CC' etc in 1:10000 scale have been prepared in E-W direction taking into account 87 boreholes located along the section lines and a few holes adjacent to the section lines are projected. In order to estimate the mineable reserve, development sections were drawn through the block. The non-mineable bauxite portions considered for estimation of mineable reserve from geological resource are as follows. (a) bauxite occurring within 7.5 m along the lease boundary for the purpose of safety zone (b) Blocked bauxite under and outside the ultimate pit slope Production of maximum 9267402 79 TPA bauxite has been planned in the approved mining plan.
- ix. Mining operations will be carried out by a fully mechanized opencast method. The extractable bauxite reserve of 299.58 Million tonnes is proposed to be excavated in 31 years. Life of mine is considered as 31 years with two years of construction period including surface reorganization.
- x. The total ML area of the Sijimali Bauxite Block is 1548.786 ha. In the applied mining lease area, forest land involved is 708.204 Ha. Non-forest land involved in the Mining Lease is 840.582 ha out of which non-forest private land is 129.089 ha and non-forest Govt. land is 711.493 ha.
- xi. The State Govt. has reiterated / clarified that 0.66 ha of land in village Tadader and 1.57 ha of land in village Tijamali (both under Thuamul Rampur Tahasil of Kalahandi District) have been included in the Forest Diversion Proposal as FRA land. The kism of the above mentioned land (0.66 ha in Tadader village and 1.57 ha in Tijamali village) are of "Unsurveyed Category" in the Sabik record and 'Donger' in the Hal record over which Title under FRA have been issued to individuals by the Collector, Kalahandi. In this context he has informed that, 0.66 ha of land in village Tadades and 1.57 ha in village Tijamali have been included in the Forest Diversion Proposal as FRA land as reported by the DFO, Kalahandi (South) Forest Division.
- xii. As per the SIR of DFO, Kalahandi (South), it is revealed that the forest land proposed for diversion is located over 11 patches spreading over 04 no of villages. The Tahasildar Rampur has furnished the land schedule as on 25.10.1980 regarding forest and non-forest land involved in the ML coming under Kalahandi district as well as in Kalahandi (South) forest

Division, DFO, Kalahandi (South) has furnished a certificate regarding minimum use of forest land over 143.623 ha.

- xiii. The total district wise forest and non-forest land involved in the Mining Lease is tabulated below:

<b>ABSTRACT OF TOTAL LAND OF SIJIMALI BAUXITE MINES</b>									
<b>SI . N o.</b>	<b>Distric t Name</b>	<b>Area in Hectares</b>							
		<b>Reven ue Forest</b>	<b>PF/ FRA Forest</b>	<b>Sabi k Fore st</b>	<b>DLC Fore st</b>	<b>Tot al For est</b>	<b>Pvt. land</b>	<b>Non-Forest Govt. land</b>	<b>Total</b>
1	Kalaha ndi	12.408	65.512	3.69 9	62.0 04	143. 623	28.531	565.138	737.29 2
2	Rayag ada	0.000	0.000	6.23 6	558. 345	564. 581	100.558	146.355	811.49 4
<b>Total area in Ha</b>		<b>12.408</b>	<b>65.512</b>	<b>9.93 5</b>	<b>620. 349</b>	<b>708. 204</b>	<b>129.089</b>	<b>711.493</b>	<b>1548.7 86</b>

- xiv. The details of Existing Land Use of total lease area in Ha are as mentioned below:

<b>EXISTING LAND USE OF SIJIMALI BAUXITE MINES</b>										
<b>S I. N o.</b>	<b>Distri ct Name</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>All figures are in Hectares</b>							
			<b>Reven ue Forest</b>	<b>PF/ FRA Fore st</b>	<b>Sabi k Fore st</b>	<b>DLC Fore st</b>	<b>Tota l Fore st</b>	<b>Pvt. lan d</b>	<b>Non-Forest Govt. land</b>	<b>Total</b>
1	Kalah andi	Existin g Undist urbed area	12.408	65.51 2	3.69 9	62..0 04	143. 623	28. 531	565.13 8	737.292
2	Raya gada	Existin g Undist urbed area	0.000	0.000	6.23 6	558. 345	564. 581	100 .55 8	146.35 5	811.494
<b>Total in Ha</b>			<b>12.408</b>	<b>65.51 2</b>	<b>9.93 5</b>	<b>620. 349</b>	<b>708. 204</b>	<b>129 .08 9</b>	<b>711.49 3</b>	<b>1548.78 6</b>

- xv. Component wise break up of forest land proposed for diversion in the Sigimali Mining Lease has been mentioned in the SIR of DFO, Rayagada and SIR of DFO, Kalahandi (South) The detailed pattern of use of Forest land is tabulated below:

<b>PROPOSED LAND USE PATTERN (DISTRICT WISE)</b>											
<b>S . N</b>	<b>Distri ct Nam</b>	<b>Comp onent</b>	<b>Forest Area in Ha</b>					<b>Non-Forest area in ha</b>			
			<b>Rev enue</b>	<b>PF/ FR</b>	<b>Sa bik</b>	<b>DLC For</b>	<b>Total Fore</b>	<b>Govt. land</b>	<b>Pvt .</b>	<b>T ot</b>	<b>Total Area Ha</b>

o.	e		Fore st	A For est	For est	est	st		La nd	al N F L	
1	Kalah andi	Mined out Area	12.4 08	32.9 00	3.6 99	49.8 52	98.8 59	400.557	28. 53 1	4 2 9. 0 8 8	527.947
2		Safety Zone Area		2.97 0		0.62 8	3.59 8	15.117		1 5. 1 1 7	18.715
3		Untou ched Area		29.6 42		11.5 24	41.1 66	149.464		1 4 9. 4 6 4	190.630
Total			12.4 08	65.5 12	3.6 99	62.0 04	143. 623	565.138	28. 53 1	5 9 3. 6 6 9	737.292
1	Raya gada	Mined out Area			6.2 35	475. 351	481. 586	96.880	98. 71 7	1 9 5. 5 9 7	677.183
2		Safety Zone Area				7.89 7	7.59 7	6.558		6. 5 5 8	14.155
3		Untou ched Area			0.0 01	75.3 97	75.3 98	42.917	1.8 41	4 4. 7 5 8	120.156
Total					6.2 36	558. 345	564. 581	146.355	10 0.5 58	2 4 6. 9 1 3	811.494
Grand Total			12.4 08	65.5 12	9.9 35	620. 349	708. 204	711.493	12 9.0	8 4	1548.786

								<b>89</b>	<b>0.</b>	
									<b>5</b>	
									<b>8</b>	
									<b>2</b>	

- xvi. The consolidated forest land use pattern of the ML area pertaining to both the Forest Divisions is furnished below:

<b>ABSTRACT OF PROPOSED LAND USE PATTERN OF TOTAL AREA</b>											
<b>S. N o.</b>	<b>Distri ct Nam e</b>	<b>Comp onent</b>	<b>Area in ha</b>					<b>Non-Forest area in ha</b>			<b>Total Area Ha</b>
			<b>Reve nue Fore st</b>	<b>PF/ FRA For est</b>	<b>Sa bik For est</b>	<b>DLC For est</b>	<b>Tota l For est</b>	<b>Govt. land</b>	<b>Pvt. Lan d</b>	<b>Tota l NFL</b>	
1	Kalah andi Raya gada	Mined out area	12.408	32.900	9.934	525.203	580.445	497.437	127.248	624.685	1205.130
2		Safety Zone Area	0	2.970	0	8.225	11.195	21.675	0	21.675	32.870
3		Untouc hed Area	0	26.642	0.001	86.921	116.564	192.381	1.841	194.222	310.786
		<b>Total</b>	<b>12.408</b>	<b>65.512</b>	<b>9.935</b>	<b>620.349</b>	<b>708.204</b>	<b>711.493</b>	<b>129.089</b>	<b>840.582</b>	<b>1548.786</b>

- xvii. The area proposed for diversion is vulnerable to soil erosion due to steep slopes, vegetation loss and mining disturbances leading to rapid runoff, soil degradation and stream sedimentation Factors like top soil displacement, compaction and blasting will further accelerate erosion.
- xviii. The total extent of safety zone in the ML area over 1548.786 ha is 32.87 ha Out of which, 11.195 ha comes under forest land, 21.675 ha comes under Non-Forest Government land within the limit of both the forest divisions. The classification of safety zone over different KISSAM of land as well as over the different division jurisdiction is furnished below:

<b>Details of safety zone involved within the Sijimali Bauxite Mines NFL in ha</b>											
<b>Sl. N o.</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Compon ent</b>	<b>Forest land in ha</b>					<b>NFL in ha</b>			<b>Total in Ha</b>
			<b>Re v.</b>	<b>PF/ FRA</b>	<b>Sabi k</b>	<b>DL C</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Govt .</b>	<b>Pvt .</b>	<b>Total</b>	
1	Kalaha ndi	Safety Zone	0	2.97	0	0.628	3.598	15.117	0	15.117	18.715
2	Rayag ada	-do-	0	0	0	7.597	7.597	6.558	0	6.558	14.155
				<b>2.97</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>21.6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>21.6</b>	<b>32.87</b>

						25	95	75		75	0
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- xix. The proposed area includes Tropical dry deciduous forest. The vegetation is basically mixed Sal Forest with other miscellaneous species. Further, Wildlife species like Barking deer, wild boar, Monkey, Indian peacock and Indian hare are present in the area.
- xx. The presence of bauxite is characterized by long stretches of Plateau land on hilltop with little or no vegetation and vegetation is usually seen in hill slopes.
- xxi. No rare and endangered species are available in the Mining lease area coming under Rayagada Forest Division However, as per report of DFO, Kalahandi (South), Elephant habitat in Bijepur RF comes within 10 Kms impact zone. The applied area is not found important from an archaeological point of view. The proposed area does not form part of any National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary and Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant corridor or any protected area declared under any law of the State or central Government.
- xxii. The DFO, Rayagada has taken up tree enumeration through Range Officer, Kashipur over proposed 564.581 ha forest land of Sijimali Bauxite Block of Vedanta Limited adopting direct counting technique. Due to sparse vegetation on the plateau, the ecological impact of tree felling in this area will be minimal. The plateau's current ecosystem supports limited biodiversity, with most species reliant on valley vegetation for survival. DFO Rayagada has mentioned that the felling of trees near valley areas could lead to disruption of wildlife habitats and potential displacement of species, increased soil erosion and sedimentation of nearby water bodies.
- xxiii. Compensatory Afforestation has been proposed over 724.23 ha of Non-forest Government land measuring 565.50 ha in Rayagada District and 158.73 ha Government NFL in Kalahandi District against the proposed diversion of forest land over 708.204 ha for Sijimali Bauxite Block of M/s Vedanta Ltd.
- xxiv. The details of area identified for CA in Rayagada district and Kalahandi district are tabulated below:

Rayagada Division:							
S. No.	Tehsil	RI Circle	Mouza	Khata No.	Plot No.	Area in ha	Total Area (Ha)
1	Muniguda	Raghubari	Alibhata	11	1	9.70	36.75
					2	11.73	
					3 (P)	15.32	
2	Munigud	Raghubari	Baringpadar	12	1(P)	8.0	38.24

	a				43(P)	16.01	
					44	14.23	
3	Munigud a	Raghubari	Baringpadar	3	1	14.14	87.81
					2	16.26	
					3	15.68	
					4(P)	5.74	
					10	4.05	
					11	19.77	
					14(P)	12.17	
4	Munigud a	Raghubari	Baratarana	9	4(P)	7.47	34.09
					23(P)	5.84	
					24	9.31	
					25	11.47	
5	Munigud a		Dambalu	21	1(P)	3.27	3.279
6	Munigud a	Raghubari	Demupadar	10	129	9.49	58.00
					132(P)	7.71	
					133	7.08	
					134	7.63	
					135(P)	7.76	
					136	11.48	
					137(P)	6.84	
7	Munigud a	Raghubari	Jambapada fr	7	4(P)	2.388	40.40
					6	8.26	
					25	6.576	
					46(P)	13.242	
					47	9.935	
8	Munigud a	Kumudaba li	Kauguda	9	44(P)	24.136	38.95
					46(P)	14.816	
9	Munigud a	Tikarapad a	Lidipanga	59	208(P)	11.882	46.22
					362	15.714	
					363	12.562	
					364	6.066	
10	Munigud	Raghubari	PidelPadar	9	2	16.19	77.81

	a				3	15.27	
					4	16.39	
					5	15.19	
					219(P)	14.78	
11	Munigud a	Raghubari	Umbere	11	46(P)	7.49	69.66
					87	16.60	
					88(P)	15.24	
					91	12.79	
					92	17.54	
12	Munigud a	Raghubari	Madagalu	4	1	17.179	34.29
					3	5.868	
					5	11.242	

Kalahandi (South) Forest Division							
Sl. No.	Village	Khata No.	Plot No.	Kissam		Area in Ac.	Suitable Area For plantation in Ac
1	Sampala	29	103(P)	Dangar	AAA	25.42	23.65
2			104	Dangar	AAA	32.70	32.70
3			105	Dangar	AAA	36.25	36.25
4			106	Dangar	AAA	42.00	42.00
5			107(P)	Dangar	AAA	41.38	40.07
6			108(P)	Dangar	AAA	38.50	35.28
7	Kanjiguda	32	240(P)	Dangar	Govt. of Odisha	32.50	30.00
8			237(P)	Dangar	Govt. of Odisha	37.50	35.00
9			241(P)	Dangar	Govt. of Odisha	36.15	33.00
10			242(P)	Dangar	Govt. of Odisha	41.73	37.85
11	Malatipadar	38	302	Dangar	AAA	22.50	22.50
12			307(P)	Dangar	AAA	31.50	23.78
Total area in ac							392.08
Total area in ha							158.73

xxv. The CA schemes have been prepared in respect of Rayagada and Kalahandi (South) forest Divisions to the diversion proposal. It has been

proposed to adopt chain link wire mesh fencing for the protection of the planted species over the entire area in 17 patches coming under 12 villages. The perimeter proposed for fencing over 17 patches.

- xxvi. The total forest land proposed for diversion in the proposal is 708.204 ha. The user agency has provided 565.50 ha NFL in Rayagada forest Division and 158.73 ha NFL in Kalahandi (South) division against the proposed forest land for diversion. Thus, the user agency has provided 724.23 ha NFL land for CA It is required to plant 7,08,204 nos. seedlings in the CA However, both the DFOs have made schemes to plant  $2,28,157 + 69,986 = 2,98,143$  nos. seedlings Balance seedlings of  $7,08,204 - 2,98,143 = 4,10,061$  nos. seedlings will be planted through Additional CA schemes in Rayagada Forest Division. The DFO, Rayagada has identified 546.0 ha of notified degraded forest land in his division to take up the additional CA Plantation.
- xxvii. The financial outlay approved by the APCCF (Nodal) for the Addl. CA plantations proposed in Rayagada Division comes to ₹44,71,21,000/-
- xxviii. The total financial outlay of the CA and Additional CA schemes pertaining to Rayagada and Kalahandi (South) Forest Division come ₹107,63,89,300 (₹53,09,26,800+ ₹9,83,41,500 + ₹44,71,21,000) The user agency has furnished undertaking to pay the amount of ACA plantation as per the demand of DFO, Rayagada.
- xxix. The DFO, Rayagada has prepared the Cost-Benefit analysis of the project pertaining to both the Forest Divisions. The cost of the forest is assessed as ₹42401.893 Lakh and the benefit of the project is estimated at ₹2,76,27,164 65 lakhs The Cost-Benefit ratio comes to 1:651.554.
- xxx. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (IA Division) have issued Term of Reference (TOR) vide File No IA-J-11015/6/2023-IA-II(NCM) dt 14.08.2023 for mining of Sijimali Bauxite Block over 1549.022 ha for peak rated Capacity of 9.0 MTPA along with installation of two crushers (2x1200 TPH) located at Thuamul and Kasipur Tahasils of Kalahandi and Rayagada Districts respectively/MIN/439954/2023 dt 06.11.2023 to the user agency The ToR would be valid for a period of three years.
- xxxi. The Mining plan including Progressive Mine closure plan has been approved by the Regional Controller of Mines, Office of the Regional Controller of Mines, BBSR (IBM) over 1549.022 ha in respect of Sijimali Bauxite Block in Tehsil Rampur and KasipurTahasils of Kalahandi and Rayagada Districts in the state of Odisha in favour of M/s Vedanta Ltd vide L: No MCDR- MIFLOBXT/4/2023-BBS-IBM RO BBS dt 16.08.2023 with 17 no of terms and conditions The approval of Mining Plan along with Progressive Mine Closure Plan has been accorded by the Indian Bureau of Mines.
- xxxii. The field Inspection envisages that the project involves displacement of 100 nos. of families in 02 villages i. e. Malipadar under Rayagada District and Tijamali Under Kalahandi District In this regard the user agency has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Rayagada to submit the approved R & R Plan in respect of Sijimali Bauxite Block of



M/s Vedanta Ltd in Rayagada and Kalahandi Districts to the Competent Authority immediately after its approval under Section 16 of LARR Act, 2013. The user agency has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Kalahandi (South) to submit the approved R&R Plan in respect of Sijimali Bauxite Block of M/s Vedanta Ltd in Rayagada and Kalahandi Districts to the competent authority immediately after its approval under section 16 of LARR Act, 2013.

- xxxiii. A Site-Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan for the project has been approved by the PCCF (WL) and CWLW, Odisha vide Memo No 9718 dt 16.08.2024. The user agency has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Rayagada to bear the cost of SSWLCP.
- xxxiv. As stated by the Additional PCCF, Forest Diversion & Nodal Officer, FC Act, O/o the PCCF & HoFF, Odisha, there are no court cases pending against the user agency on the applied area as revealed from the Site Inspection Reports of report of the DFO, Rayagada and DFO, Kalahandi (South) Divisions. **However, a Writ Petition was filed before the Hon'ble High Court vide WP (C) No 3729 of 2025 (Sri Gobinda Majhi & others-Vrs-Union of India & others) by the Petitioners with the following prayers:**
  - a. Issue a writ of certiorari or any other appropriate writ quashing the Gram Sabha resolutions dated 08.12.2023 [Annexure 2 (Series) and Annexure 3 (Series)] and the subsequent certificate issued by the Collector, Kalahandi (Annexure 8) as the same are fraudulent and are against the provisions of FRA, 2006 and the Constitution of India.
  - b. Issue of writ of mandamus or any other appropriate writ directing the Ops to accept the resolutions passed by the Gram Sabha held between 30.08.2024 to 04.09.2024 [Annexure 9 (series)] wherein no consent for the diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes have been given by the villagers of the said villages.
  - c. Issue a writ of mandamus or any other appropriate writ directing the Opposite Parties not to take any further steps pertaining to the Sijimali Bauxite Mine Project till the rights of the villagers in the project affected areas are settled as per the Forest Rights Act, 2006.
  - d. Issue a writ of mandamus or any other appropriate writs constituting a judicial inquiry into the illegalities committed in the alleged Gram Sabhas which took place on 08.12.2023 in the villagers of Kantamal, Sagaban, Dumerpadar, Aligana, Chulbari, Tijimali, Pelanakona, Katibhata, Malipadar and Bondel and an action taken report be submitted before this Hon'ble Court in a time bound manner.
  - e. Union of India through Secretary, MoEF&CC, Ministry of Tribal Affairs through its Secretary, State of Odisha through Secretary, Department of Revenue & Disaster Management, State of Odisha through Additional Chief Secretary, Forest & Environment Department, Department of Steel & Mines, Collector, Kalahandi,

Collector, Rayagada and M/s Vedanta Ltd. were Opposite Parties No 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8 respectively.

- f. The Hon'ble High Court vide Order No 1 dated 12.02.2025 had directed the State to issue written instruction on Petitioners allegation recorded in their order and directed to list on 19.02.2025 In the matter, the Collector & District Magistrate, Kalahandi and Collector & District Magistrate, Rayagada were requested to furnish the instruction/ PWC on the aforesaid Writ Petition to the O/o the AG, Odisha, Cuttack at the earliest under intimation to this Department vide this Department Letter No 6289/FE&CC dated 12.03.2025.
- g. The Hon'ble High Court vide Judgement dated 05.03.2025 has disposed of the Writ Petition. In the said judgement, the Hon'ble High Court in Para 7 has directed as follows.

*"7 Mr. Mohanty submits, his clients have not conceded but on the contrary maintained that Impugned Gram Sabha resolutions were fraudulently got made. He submits, subsequent to impugned resolutions, the Gram Sabhas convened between 30th August, 2024 and 4th September, 2024. They resolved that no consent for diversion was duly obtained. Mr. Mohanty points out, there has not been process duly undertaken to grant recognition to his clients, who are forest dwellers in the area. Mr. Swain disputes on submission that the Gram Sabha proceedings were video recorded and petitioners were present in those Gram Sabhas, which resulted in impugned resolutions. We would not want to be drawn into this dispute on facts. **The submission is recorded for being noted by Union of India in dealing with the proposal made by the user agency (opposite party no 8), upon taking into confidence inhabitants of concerned villages, through the Gram Sabhas and otherwise. Petitioners have pointed out their rights under the Act of 2006 as provided under section 3. We reiterate, Union of India must take note"***

- xxxv. The aforesaid order dated 05.03.2025 of the Hon'ble High Court passed in WP No 3729 of 2025 (Shri GobindaMajhi& others Vrs Union of India & others) has been received in this Department on 26.03.2025 from the Superintendent of the High Court of Orissa vide his Issue No 8805 (3) dated 13.03.2025. *The copy of the aforesaid letter of the Superintendent of the High Court of Orissa along with a copy of the Order dated. 05.03.2025 of the Hon'ble High Court of Orissa is enclosed for favour of kind information and necessary action of the Ministry.*
- xxxvi. The Collector, Rayagada has issued certificate in Form-II under Schedule Tribe and other Traditional Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 for forest land of 565.70 Ha involved in the Sijimali Bauxite Block leased out in favour of M/s Vedanta Ltd On 24.01.2024
- xxxvii. The Collector, Kalahandi has issued certificate in Form No -II under Schedule Tribe and other Traditional Dwellers (Recognition of Forest

Rights) Act, 2006 for forest land of 133.95 Ha involved in the Sijimali Bauxite Block leased out in favour of M/s Vedanta Ltd. on 18.01 2024.

- xxxviii. The user agency has furnished an undertaking duly countersigned by the DFO, Kalahandi (South) to submit the FRA certificate for the balance forest land over 03 villages coming in Kalahandi district after obtaining from the Revenue authority.
- xxxix. The State has informed that the user agency does not have any other existing bauxite mines in Odisha. This will be their first bauxite mine in Odisha. The user agency, Vedanta Ltd., has been declared the Preferred Bidder for this block in the auction held on 09.02.2023 under the MMDR Act, 1957. However, they do operate the Jamkhani opencast coal mine in Sundargarh district with a lease area of 847 ha, a reserve of 222.13 million tonnes, and a capacity of 2.6 MTPA.
- xl. The State has informed that the valley area is non-mineralized, has no bauxite presence, and will be left untouched. It is proposed to be developed as a greenbelt.
- xli. The State has given justification for the temporary roads, transmission lines, and cultivation which are seen in the forest area. The State has clarified that these features are linked to the villages of Tijimali and Malipadar, which fall within the mining lease area. These villages will be rehabilitated and resettled as per the LARR Act, 2013. A notification under Section 11(1) has already been issued. Seasonal agricultural use is non-permanent and can be vacated anytime.
- xlii. The State Govt. has clarified that 116.5 ha of forest area marked as 'untouched' because as per Para 2.11 of the mining plan, this area, part of a non-mineralized valley, was included in the lease block but will remain undisturbed. The total untouched area is 311.02 ha, including 116.5 ha of forest.
- xlili. The State has clarified that cultivation and settlements are seen within the lease boundary because the seasonal cultivation is done by local villagers on a temporary basis and does not indicate permanent land use. The settlements are located in Tijimali and Malipadar, which are private lands. These villages are to be relocated under the R&R plan per the LARR Act.
- xliv. The State has clarified the requirement of water, electricity, and evacuation from the mine
  - a. **Water:** Will be drawn from groundwater (approval from CGWA obtained).
  - b. **Power:** To be supplied through Diesel Generators.
  - c. **Evacuation:** Bauxite will be transported via PWD road from Malipadar to SH-44, then via rail from Singarama siding to Lanjigarh refinery. A separate proposal has been submitted for diversion of 4.911 ha forest land for constructing an access road to SH-44.

- xliv. The State has informed that cultivation is visible on CA land because of seasonal signs of cultivation, but the land is still classified as degraded forest. These signs do not indicate permanent land use and the land is suitable for afforestation, as per the approved CA Plan.
- xlvi. A Site-Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan for the 10 km impact zone has been approved by the PCCF (Wildlife) & CWLW, Odisha, with a budget of ₹34.44 Cr. Funds will be deposited in State CAMPA and used in Kalahandi South and Rayagada Forest Divisions. Activities will be implemented under DFO guidance, with a 5-year plan period and monitoring provisions.
- xlvii. The Regional Office has inspected the area proposed for diversion and proposed CA land. The DDGF (Central), RO Bhubaneswar has recommended the proposal subject to the following conditions:
  - (a) A total of 310.786 hectares of land located within the mining lease boundary (beyond the safety zone), shall remain undisturbed, as submitted by the User Agency. This area shall be maintained as a green belt owing to the absence of bauxite reserves. The User Agency shall ensure that no tree felling or mining activity is undertaken in the said forest area.
  - (b) The State Government shall ensure that 8.082 hectares of forest land, which forms part of the Compensatory Afforestation (CA) area for the Dubna-Sakradihi Mines project (Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/30349/2017) and have also been included in the present proposal, are compensated by identifying and providing an alternative CA site for the said project. Approval for the partial change in CA site shall be obtained from the competent authority for Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/30349/2017.
  - (c) As mining is proposed at the hilltop and may affect the natural catchment area, the User Agency shall implement comprehensive soil conservation measures on the hillock and adjoining forest areas. These measures shall aim to prevent surface runoff from leaving the mining zone and to safeguard downstream ecosystems.
  - (d) The User Agency shall submit a progressive reclamation plan, along with the restoration schedule and forest land surrender schedule, to the Ministry prior to the grant of final approval.
  - (e) A separate proposal (Proposal No. FP/OR/OTHERS/523366/2025) involving the diversion of 4.911 hectares of forest land in favour of the Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (IDCO) for the construction of an access road from the Sijimali Bauxite Mines (hilltop) to State Highway-44 (SH-44) is presently under consideration by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change for "in-principle" approval. As this road is an ancillary component of the Sijimali Bauxite Mines project, the competent authority may consider appraising both proposals concurrently to

ensure an integrated evaluation and to avoid any fait accompli situation.

- (f) The User Agency shall ensure that all Compensatory Afforestation (CA) sites are free from encroachments before being handed over to the State Forest Department (SFD). The SFD shall ensure that the CA sites are properly fenced, cleared of encroachments, and planted, at the cost of the User Agency.
- (g) The State Forest Department (SFD) shall implement the Site-Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan (SSWLCP) for the project, as approved by the Chief Wildlife Warden (CWLW), Odisha, at the cost of the User Agency.

xlvi. The Hon'ble High Court vide Judgement dated 05.03.2025 have disposed of the Wnt Petition In the said judgement, the Hon'ble High Court in Para 7 have directed as follows:

*"7 Mr. Mohanty submits, his clients have not conceded but on the contrary maintained that Impugned Gram Sabha resolutions were fraudulently got made. He submits, subsequent to impugned resolutions, the Gram Sabhas convened between 30th August, 2024 and 4th September, 2024. They resolved that no consent for diversion was duly obtained. Mr. Mohanty points out, there has not been process duly undertaken to grant recognition to his clients, who are forest dwellers in the area. Mr. Swain disputes on submission that the Gram Sabha proceedings were video recorded and petitioners were present in those Gram Sabhas, which resulted in impugned resolutions. We would not want to be drawn into this dispute on facts. The submission is recorded for being noted by Union of India in dealing with the proposal made by the user agency (opposite party no 8), upon taking into confidence inhabitants of concerned villages, through the Gram Sabhas and otherwise. Petitioners have pointed out their rights under the Act of 2006 as provided under section 3. We reiterate, Union of India must take note" order.*

xlix. Further, the committee has also noted that a separate proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Govt. Diversion of 4.911 ha of forest land for construction of access road from Sijimali Bauxite Mines (Hill Top) to SH-44 to facilitate bauxite transportation in KashipurTahasil of Rayagada District under Rayagada Forest Division applied by IDCO has been submitted by the State Govt. letter No.FE-DIV-FLD-0025-2025-10894/FE&CC dated 09.05.2025 to the RO Bhubaneswar (Online proposal No. FP/OR/OTHERS/523366/2025). The RO has submitted this proposal to the Ministry for holistic decision.

I. Further, the DDGF (Central) has mentioned that:

- a. The instant proposal pertains to the construction of a road submitted by the Government of Odisha, with the primary objective of facilitating the transportation of bauxite ore via bulkers/trucks from the mines of M/s Vedanta Limited to State Highway 44 (SH-44).

- b. In response to the EDS raised by the Regional Office on 19.05.2025, the State Government has clarified that, apart from serving the aforesaid purpose, the proposed road is also intended to connect the villages of Dumerpadar, Porlang, Sagabari, Bichapinda, and Malipadar, which presently lack road connectivity.
  - c. However, as per the KML file submitted, the specifications of the proposed road (width) indicate that it is primarily designed to support the movement of heavy vehicles.
  - d. In this context, it is pertinent to mention that the associated mining proposal—vide proposal no. FP/OR/MIN/QRV/470250/2024—is currently under consideration by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), New Delhi. The in-principle approval for the same is yet to be granted. In the event that the mining proposal is not favourably considered by the competent authority, positive consideration of the road proposal at this stage by the Regional Office may lead to a fait accompli situation.
- ii. The committee further observed that the road proposal has been submitted by the other agency i.e. by IDCO, however the road is primarily proposed keeping in view the requirement of mineral evacuation in the instant mine. The separate proposal for the road construction may be allowed, However, the proposal for road can only be considered for approval once the proposal for the diversion of forest land for the mining lease is approved.
- iii. The above facts were considered in the Advisory Committee meeting held on 30.07.2025. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Odisha, the Committee **deferred** the proposal and sought clarification/information on the following for further consideration in the matter:
  - a. Keeping in view the Judgement dated 05.03.2025 of the Hon'ble High Court of Odisha w.r.t. the WP (C) No 3729 of 2025 (Sri GobindaMajhi& others-Vrs-Union of India & others), the state shall ensure strict compliance of the order of the Hon'ble Court and submit a detailed report.
  - b. The State has informed that the area proposed for diversion is vulnerable to soil erosion due to steep slopes. The vegetation loss and mining disturbances lead to rapid runoff, soil degradation and stream sedimentation. The factors like top soil displacement, compaction and blasting will further accelerate erosion. In this regard, the justification and plan to mitigate the soil erosion shall be submitted.
  - c. An area of 8.082 hectares, which forms part of the Compensatory Afforestation (CA) area for the Dubna-Sakradihi Mines project (Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/30349/2017) has been included in the present proposal. The state shall give justification for keeping this area in the diversion proposal. The State shall provide the status

of compensatory afforestation carried out in this area and intimate as to how this area will be compensated.

- d. The State has informed that the temporary roads, transmission lines, and cultivation seen in the forest area are linked to the villages of Tijimali and Malipadar. In this regard, the state shall examine the matter and submit a report regarding the violation of the Adhiniyam, if any.
  - e. The State shall ensure that all Compensatory Afforestation (CA) sites are suitable for plantation and free from encroachments. In this regard, a detailed report for each Compensatory Afforestation area shall be provided.
- liii. The State Govt. has submitted the reply online on 18.08.2025 and informed wherein the committee observed that:
- a. The State Govt. has submitted the detailed report submitted by the District Collector Rayagad and Kalahandi alongwith all supportive documents mentioning therein that the process has been completed in a fair and transparent manner. However, the reports are silent on the concerns raised by the people in their representations and in the petition before the Hon'ble Court.
  - b. An area of 8.082 hectares, which forms part of the Compensatory Afforestation (CA) area for the Dubna-Sakradihi Mines project (Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/30349/2017) has been included in the present proposal. The State has not provided the status of compensatory afforestation carried out in this area.
  - c. The State has informed that the area proposed for diversion is vulnerable to soil erosion due to steep slopes. The vegetation loss and mining disturbances lead to rapid runoff, soil degradation and stream sedimentation. The factors like top soil displacement, compaction and blasting will further accelerate erosion. In this regard, the plan to mitigate the soil erosion has not been submitted.
  - d. The State govt. has informed that as per data available in the census handbook of District Koraput and Kalahandi for year 1981, it is found that village Tijimali and Malipadar were existing during 1981 i.e. have been existing much before the enactment of Forest Conservation Act, 1980 due to which some patches of the Revenue Forest land have been used by the villagers for the purpose of cultivation prior to 1980. Similarly, temporary roads were also being used by the local villagers much before 1980. Hence, the breaking of forest land for the purpose of cultivation and road may not be treated as violation under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in respect of the project. However, the details of existing transmission lines have not been provided.
  - e. The RO in the SIR had mentioned that presence of shifting cultivation and village paths has been found in maximum proposed CA sites. Accordingly, the State was asked to ensure

that all Compensatory Afforestation (CA) sites are suitable for plantation and free from encroachments. In this regard, a detailed report for each Compensatory Afforestation was asked. In this regard the State has referred to the detailed CA scheme only and the detailed report for each site ensuring that it is free from all encumbrances has not been submitted.

- f. The State has informed that the temporary roads, transmission lines, and cultivation seen in the forest area are linked to the villages of Tijimali and Malipadar. Moreover, the State has not mentioned anything about the transmission lines. In this regard, the state shall examine the matter and submit a detailed report regarding the violation of the Adhiniyam, if any.
- liv. The committee further observed that the area has the presence of elephants and therefore it would be prudent to seek comments from the Project Elephant Division in the matter.
- lv. The proposal was considered in Advisory Committee meeting held on 25.8.2025. The Committee deferred the proposal and sought clarification/information on the following for further consideration in the matter:
  - (a) The State Govt. has submitted the detailed report submitted by the District Collector Rayagad and Kalahandi alongwith all supportive documents mentioning therein that the process has been completed in a fair and transparent manner by following due procedure. However, the reports are silent on the concerns raised by the people in their representations and in the petition before the Hon'ble Court. Keeping in view the Judgement dated 05.03.2025 of the Hon'ble High Court of Odisha w.r.t. the WP (C) No 3729 of 2025 (Sri Gobinda Majhi & others-Vrs-Union of India & others), the state shall address the concerns raised by the petitioners and those raised by the local people in their representations.
  - (b) An area of 8.082 hectares, which forms part of the Compensatory Afforestation (CA) area for the Dubna-Sakradihi Mines project (Proposal No. FP/OR/MIN/30349/2017) has been included in the present proposal. The State has not provided the status of compensatory afforestation carried out in this area. The same shall be provided.
  - (c) The State has informed that the area proposed for diversion is vulnerable to soil erosion due to steep slopes. The vegetation loss and mining disturbances lead to rapid runoff, soil degradation and stream sedimentation. The factors like top soil displacement, compaction and blasting will further accelerate erosion. In this regard, the plan to mitigate the soil erosion has not been submitted, which shall be submitted.
  - (d) The RO in the SIR had mentioned that presence of shifting cultivation and village paths has been found in maximum proposed CA sites. Accordingly, the State was asked to ensure



that all Compensatory Afforestation (CA) sites are suitable for plantation and free from encroachments and a detailed report for each Compensatory Afforestation site was asked. In this regard the State has referred to the detailed CA scheme only and the detailed report for each site ensuring that it is free from all encumbrances has not been submitted.

- (e) The State was asked to submit a report on the status of violation wherein the State has not mentioned anything about the existing transmission lines. In this regard, the state shall examine the matter and submit a detailed report regarding the violation of the Adhiniyam, if any.
- (f) The presence of elephants has been reported in the proposed area therefore the comments from the Project Elephant Division may also be sought on the matter.
- lvi. The observation of Advisory Committee conveyed to the State Government vide EDS dated 01.09.2025. In this reference, State Government vide letter dated 23.09.2025 has reported that all concerns raised by the petitioners and local inhabitants have been carefully examined and duly addressed in a fair and transparent manner by the District Administration. Further, adequate safeguards have been ensured under the provisions of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 alongwith the Rules of 2007 and the Amendment Rules of 2012 so as to ensure proper and effective implementation of the FRA.
- lvii. The Committee has observed that the User Agency has submitted the "Scheme to Mitigate Soil Erosion" proposing various structural and biological measures such as construction of retaining walls (45422 m), garland drains (7511 m), check dams (28 Nos), settling ponds (11 Nos), contour bunds (447 m), Loose Boulder Check Dams (LBCDs-100 Nos), periodic de-silting, and associated plantation works.
- lviii. With regard to compensate the reduction of 8.082 ha of CA land of OMC Ltd., an additional 8.082 ha has also been included in the total CA land of 724.23 ha, allotted by both the District Collectors in Kalahandi and Rayagada districts towards Compensatory afforestation of the project. Further clarified that no Compensatory Afforestation has been raised over the aforesaid 8.082 ha, which forms part of the CA area for the Dubna-Sakradihi Mines Project (Proposal No FP/OR/MIN/30349/2017) and has now been included in the lease area of the instant proposal.
- lix. The Committee noted that the State Government has informed that the presence of certain seasonal land-use features, including temporary cultivation and footpaths. As certified by the Tahasildars and jointly endorsed by the Range Officers, these activities represent temporary usages by local villagers in the past and can be discontinued or removed at any point of time.. Such transient indicators do not amount to any permanent change in land use, and accordingly, the identified land patches are considered suitable for afforestation.

- ix. The Committee noted that State has informed that the existing transmission line was established under the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY) (RGGVY XII Plan), for electrification of Malipadar village within the present Sijimali Bauxite Block prior to its auction. It is evident that the establishment of the said transmission line predates the involvement of the present applicant, Vedanta Ltd. and therefore no violation of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, is attributable to the User Agency.
  - ixi. Further, the Committee has observed that the State has informed that as per the Summer and Winter Elephant Census, figures for the year 2024-25, a total of 35 elephants have been recorded in the Rayagada Forest Division. There is one resident male elephant in Rayagada Forest Division at aerial distance of approximately 85-90 km from the lease boundary in Gunupur Range, while the remaining elephants are migratory, frequently moving in and out of Rayagada into adjacent Divisions. The Division encompasses two elephant corridors (Ref Elephant Corridors of India, 2023 published by MoEF CC), namely the Kotgarh-Chandrapur Corridor and the Karlapat-Urladani Corridor. Both corridors are situated beyond the 10 km impact zone of the Sijimali Mining Lease boundary, however, elephant movement has been recorded at aerial distances of approximately 15-20 km from the lease boundary during the years 2022-23 (2 Elephants), 2024-25 (10 Elephants), and 2025-26 (4 Elephants) in the recent past. Further, to mitigate any potential negative impacts a Site-Specific Wildlife Conservation Plan (SSWLCP) has been prepared and duly approved by the PCCF (Wildlife)-cum-CWLW, Odisha, vide Letter No. 9718 dated 16.08.2024.
  - ixii. The committee observed that the Hon'ble High court while disposing the matter has iter-alia observed that *"Mr. Swain disputes on submission that the Gram Sabha proceedings were video recorded and petitioners were present in those Gram Sabhas, which resulted in impugned resolutions. We would not want to be drawn into this dispute on facts. The submission is recorded for being noted by Union of India in dealing with the proposal made by the user agency (opposite party no.8), upon taking into confidence inhabitants of concerned villages, through the Gram Sabhas and otherwise. Petitioners have pointed out their rights under the Act of 2006 as provided under section 3. We reiterate, Union of India must take note"*.
  - ixiii. The Committee observed that keeping above in view, it would be prudent to obtain the NOC/Comments from the State Tribal Affairs department and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
4. **Decision of the Advisory the Advisory Committee:** The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with the Dy. DGF (Central), RO, Bhubaneswar and APCCF and Nodal Officer, Government of Odisha. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Odisha, the Committee **'deferred'** the proposal and sought clarification/information on the following for further consideration in the matter:

- i. The State Government shall submit a copy of affidavits filed by the petitioner and respondents in W.P. (C) No.3729 of 2025 (Sri Gobinda Majhi & Others-Vrs-Union Of India & Others) filed before Hon'ble High Court of Odisha for further necessary action in the Ministry.
- ii. The copy of affidavit filed by state may also be given.

### **Agenda No. 19**

### **Online Proposal No. FP/RJ/Pipeline/413545/2023**

**Subject: Proposal for seeking Ex-post facto approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (SanrakshanEvamSamvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 10.5996 ha Protected and Reserved Forest land for construction/ laying of Transmission Main from ISARDA Dam to WTP, IPS Bagri and CWRs for various cluster of District Dausa, construction of WTP, pump house and CWR (Only Pipeline Component in Forest) under ISARDA Dausa Water Supply Project in Dausa District of Rajasthan in favour of Executive Engineer, Public Health Engineering Department, Rajasthan (FP/RJ/Pipeline/413545/2023).**

1. The agenda item was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 27.10.2025. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). The IGF(C), Sub-Office (SO), Hyderabad in-charge of RO, Gandhinagar and Nodal Officer, Govt. of Rajasthan were present in the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC for their examination and analysis. Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee (AC) after thorough deliberation and discussion observed the following:
  - i. The State Govt. of Rajasthan through their letter No P.1(129)Forest/2025 dated 03.06.2025 has submitted a proposal to obtain prior approval of the Central Government, in terms of Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (SanrakshanEvamSamvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 10.5996 ha Protected and Reserved Forest land for construction/ laying of Transmission Main from ISARDA Dam to WTP, IPS Bagri and CWRs for various cluster of District Dausa, construction of WTP, pump house and CWR (Only Pipeline Component in Forest) under ISARDA Dausa Water Supply Project in Dausa District of Rajasthan in favour of Executive Engineer, Public Health Engineering Department, Rajasthan.
  - ii. The total forest area under the proposal is 10.2781 Protected Forest (10.0082 ha Fresh and 0.2699 ha Re-diversion of Protected Forest land) forest land which is located in Dausa Territorial Division, District:- Dausa, Rajasthan and 0.3215 ha Reserve Forest in SawaiMadhopur District of Rajasthan.

- iii. The proposed forest area is Protected and Reserve Forests with canopy density of 0.1 and 0.01 (Eco Class-3) and 22nos of trees have been proposed to be felled.
- iv. The component wise land use details submitted with the proposal is as follows:

Sl.No.	Component	Forest Land Proposed for Diversion (ha)	Non-forest Land (ha)
1.	Laying of Pipe Line (1900 mm) SWM	0.3215	19.6205
2.	WTP,CWRs,Pump House (SWM)	0	19.96
3.	Laying of Pipe Line Dausa (400 mm) Re Diversion Area	0.0244	2.5697
4.	Laying of Pipe Line Dausa (600 mm)	0.6333	7.4319
5.	Laying of Pipe Line Dausa (600 mm) Re Diversion Area	0.0957	0
6.	Laying of Pipe Line Dausa (700 mm)	4.2019	9.5468
7.	Pump House (Dausa)	0	0.25
8.	Laying of Pipe Line Dausa (1300 mm)	5.173	26.5545
9.	Laying of Pipe Line Dausa (1300 mm) Re Diversion Area	0.1498	0
10.	Total	10.5996	85.9334

- v. The Compensatory Afforestation has been proposed on Non-forest land as well as on De-graded forest land.

Sl. No.	Name of Forest Division	CA proposed in Area (Ha.)	Details of CA Scheme	Total Financial Outlay for CA Scheme (Rs.)
1.	Sawaimadhopur Territorial Division	0.30 ha <b>NFL (100 plants)</b>	Compartment No. 96, Village- Bandhawal, Range- Bonli, Tehsil- Bonli, District- Sawaimadhopur of Rajasthan.	<b>17,43,000/-</b>
2.	Sawaimadhopur Territorial Division	0.0215 ha <b>NFL (100 plants)</b>	Compartment No. 1021, Village- TharoliJharaunda, Range- Bonli, Tehsil- Bonli, District- Sawaimadhopur of Rajasthan.	<b>3,43,000/-</b>
3.	Pali Territorial Division	10.77 ha <b>NFL (2154 plants)</b>	Survey No. 1069/1025, 1029/805, Village-	<b>1,18,77,946/-</b>

			DhundaLambori, Range- Sojat, Tehsil- Sojat, District- Pali of Rajasthan.	
4.	Dausa Territorial Division	14.00 ha <b>DFL</b> <b>(9800 plants)</b>	Village- Lahadiwala, Tehsil- NagalRajawatan, District- Dausa of Rajasthan.	<b>35,35,000/-</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>25.0915 Ha</b>		<b>1,74,98,946/-</b>

- vi. As per DSS analysis, proposed forest area for diversion falls under Dausa and SawaiMadhopur Districts of the Rajasthan State. The calculated area of Shape file/ KML file of Forest land proposed for diversion is found 10.579 ha. Out of 10.579 ha (as per KML file) forest land, 10.258 ha forest land (including 0.269 ha forest for re-diversion) is in Dausa District for laying of pipeline and remaining 0.3207 ha forest land is in SawaiMadhopur District for establishment of Pipeline from ISARDA Dam (SawaiMadhopur District) to WTP, IPS Bagri (Dausa District). The Compensatory afforestation has been proposed over the Non-forest land (NFL) as well as over the Degraded Forest land (DFL).
- vii. The justification of the locating the project in forest area is that the possible efforts were made to avoid the forest land by PHED. The approx. applied area SawaiMadhopur Division: 0.3215 ha. and Dausa Division Area: (Re-Diversion Area: 0.2699 ha. and Diversion Area: 10.0082 ha. = 10.2781 ha. (Total Forest Area: 10.5996 ha.) Stretch of aforesaid project pipeline is passing through a Forest block of SawaiMadhopur division and along the NH-21 Road Protected Forest Area Dausa Division. The requirement for underground pipeline is there in forest as other areas have hard strata where earth work is not possible with men and machine. Therefore, the user agency has left no choice for arrangement of land for this part of project other than using the accessible land of the forest area. There is no other feasible alternative available for the same. This project is very prestigious Project of Government and completion of the same in given timeframe is compulsory. It is further stated that the area of forest land involved in the proposed pipeline alignment is bare minimum.
- viii. The State Government originally submitted the proposal to Regional Office, Gandhinagar. The proposal was then examined by the RO, Gandhinagar. The RO, Gandhinagar observed that the proposal involved violation of Van (SanrakshanEvamSamvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. Since the proposal involves violation of the Van (SanrakshanEvamSamvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, RO requested the State Govt. to submit the proposal to Central Govt. at HO level. Accordingly, State Govt. submitted the proposal to the Ministry.
- ix. The proposal examined in the Ministry and the Ministry vide EDS dated 05.07.2025 has sought additional information from the State Government which include whether the proposed CA land in Pali district falls within the boundary of any WLS or not, whether the user agency

has already established the transmission line in the project for pumping the water from ISARDA dam to Water Treatment Plant (WTP), IPS Bagri or otherwise, whether the instant project is linked with the ISARDA Tank project Stage-2/ final approval accorded by the Ministry vide its letter dated 04.10.2019 or otherwise, whether the user agency in both the project (ISARDA Tank project & Instant project) is same or otherwise, reason behind non- inclusion of 0.8213 Ha forest land in the instant diversion proposal needs justification along with the documentary evidence.

- x. The State Government was also requested to furnish details if any working permission was issued to the contractor by the user agency/ any other Government Authority in the instant matter, the details of any action taken by the State Government under section 3A/3B of VSESA, 1980 or IFA, 1927 or any relevant state Act regarding the present violation case, some of the proposed CA patches have an area less than 5 ha isolated patches, therefore, the State Govt. was requested to clarify that how these patches will be managed by the State Forest Department and whether these patches are acceptable as per the provisions contained in the Van (SanrakshanEvamSamvardhan) Rules, 2023 and whether any plantation work will be affected due to instant project or otherwise along with relevant details.
- xi. The State Government vide its letter dated 06.08.2025 has informed that Deputy Forest Conservator of Forests Pali and Deputy Conservator of Forests Wildlife Rajsamand has informed that the non-forest land received in District for compensatory plantation is not a part of Wildlife Sanctuary. The State Govt. also informed that the User Agency undertakes that the forest land proposed for diversion is solely required for laying of pipelines. All other project-related activities are proposed on non-forest land. No transmission line is proposed within the forest land proposed for diversion. Electricity for the project shall be provided by Jaipur VidyutVitrان Nigam Limited (JVVNL), whose supply infrastructure does not pass through any forest area. The User Agency stated that the old proposal does not belong to the Public Health Engineering Department. A No Objection Certificate (NoC) has been obtained from the Water Resources Department for the intake of water from ISARDA Tank.
- xii. The State Government also informed that 0.8213 Ha in Kolada Ki Dungri forest block is not a forest area. It was also informed that rectification of KML files takes time and it can be done later on. It was also informed that the State Forest Department has not granted any permission to any government authority or user agency to undertake any kind of work in the above diversion case. Action was taken against the concerned violators under Rajasthan Forest Act 1953 for undertaking work without prior permission. It was also informed that the non-forest land received in Pali district in lieu of the forest land to be Diverted is in two parts 9.7525 hectares and 1.0213 hectares which is Part of reserved land bank for diversion cases. The State Govt. also informed that no plantation work will be affected due to instant project.

- xiii. The reply submitted by the State Government examined and the Ministry EDS dated 26.8.2025 has requested the State Government to submit the information which include that the state shall give the detail of steps taken for the correction of KML file, the details of land bank, including total area, area already utilized and the balance area of the land bank and the details of Action initiated if any under Section 3A/3B of VSESA, 1980.
- xiv. The Government of Rajasthan vide its letter dated 29.09.2025 informed that total land bank area-178.86 ha. (Vill-Dhundhalambodi, Heeravas&dadi) in Pali district. land allotted to the Forest Department so far (Include this Proposal) - 58.98 ha. Balanced area-119.88 ha. The State Government further informed that an investigation is underway for action to be taken under Sections 3A and 3B of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. Under this investigation, notices have been issued to the implementing agency and NHAI under Sections 3A and 3B of the VSESA, 1980. In the event of a response to the notice within the stipulated timeframe, or if no response is received, an FIR will be filed against the person concerned in the relevant court under Sections 3A and 3B of the VSESA as soon as the investigation is completed. The State Government has not submitted any information regarding detail of steps taken for the correction of KML file.
- xv. The Site Inspection of the forest land applied for diversion in Dausa Division was carried out by Shri Balaji Kari, AIGF, RO Gandhinagar on 23.07.2025. It is evident from the inspection report and documents available, that the Revenue Department Notification, Jaipur Dated August 5, 1978 had declared the strips of lands on the National Highways as Protected Forest. The NHAI got 421.815 ha of protected forest land diverted in 2005 for four laning of NH 11 and the road was rechristened as NH 21 after completion. The RoW after the completion is 60 meters. The User Agency, Public Health Engineering Department of Rajasthan after paying license fee and bank guarantee to NHAI, obtained provisional permission for laying the pipeline. The Dausa Forest department booked PoRs against the responsible persons who carried out the earth works for laying the pipeline. The forest department of Dausa recorded it as a Violation and compounded the case under the Rajasthan Forest Act. This being the position, the instant proposal appears to be a Re-Diversion proposal as per the Guidelines para 5.6 of Chapter -5 of the consolidated guidelines and clarifications dated 29/12/2023. The Primary User Agency had actually charged some fee which is against the guidelines at 5.6(iii). Keeping in view of the facts furnished in the SIR above, the proposal is recommended as the project is aimed at supply of water to the general public and the forest area involved is mainly road side Protected Forest already diverted for the National Highway project in the past.
- xvi. The Advisory Committee noted that while the proposal seeks Fresh diversion of 10.0082 Ha in Dausa District and 0.2699 Ha Re-diversion, the SIR of RO states that the complete area of 10.2731 Ha in Dausa Division is for re-diversion since it falls within the ROW of a National Highway. The Monitoring Report and compliance report of diversion of

421.85 Ha forest land for expansion of road granted on 16.11.2005 is not part of the proposal. The User Agency PHED, approached the NHA for permission to lay the water pipeline and paid an amount of Rs 9,00,60,524 towards Licence fee, Rs 1,90,22,500 as a bank guarantee.

- xvii. The Advisory Committee further noted that the CA patches have been found isolated and the area is less than 5 ha. The State Govt. stated that the non-forest land received in Pali district in lieu of the forest land to be Diverted is in two parts 9.7525 hectares and 1.0213 hectares which is Part of reserved land bank for diversion cases. The CA land has not been inspected by Regional Office, Gandhinagar. The recommendation of RO on the proposal received without inspecting CA land. The Committee noted the same.
  - xviii. The Advisory Committee also noted that the DSS analysis reported that, as per the Forest compartment boundary available on the Rajasthan State Forest Department website, the user agency has not Included some part of proposed forest land in SawaiMadhopur District for the establishment of Water pipeline. In this context, the State Government has informed that the area 0.8213 Ha is a non-forest land. Therefore, the above area is not included in the proposal. However, State Government further informed that correction of KML file for the RF boundary will take time and it can be done later on. The Committee noted the same.
4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after thorough deliberation and discussion with the Nodal Officer, Govt. of Rajasthan and IGF(C), Sub-Office (SO), Hyderabad in-charge of RO, Gandhinagar, recommended the proposal for granting '**in-principle**' approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 10.5996 ha Protected and Reserved Forest land (10.2781 Ha in Dausa Division for re-diversion and 0.3215 Ha fresh diversion in SwaiMadhopur District) for construction/ laying of Transmission Main from ISARDA Dam to WTP, IPS Bagri and CWRs for various cluster of District Dausa, construction of WTP, pump house and CWR (Only Pipeline Component in Forest) under ISARDA Dausa Water Supply Project in Dausa District of Rajasthan in favour of Executive Engineer, Public Health Engineering Department, Rajasthan, subject to the general, standard and following specific conditions:-
- i. The penalty for violation shall be equal to NPV of forest land per hectare for each year of violation from the date of actual diversion as reported by the inspecting officer with maximum up to five (5) times the NPV plus 12 percent simple interest from the date of raising of such demand till the deposit is made.
  - ii. The State Government shall initiate action against violations in accordance with the provisions of Sections 3A and 3B of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
  - iii. The matter regarding imposition of penal CA is under consideration for the formulation of a uniform policy guideline in the matter. Keeping this in view, the imposition of penal CA (if any) shall be as per the said guideline, if issued.



**Agenda No. 20****Online Proposal No. FP/TG/MIN/QRY/423308/2023**

**Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) and 2 (1) (iii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in favour of the M/s. Telangana State Mineral Development Corporation (TSMDC) Limited, for non-forestry use of 588.26 ha. of Rally Reserve Forest land in compartment No.467,500, to 508,537,539 and 540 of Mancherial Forest Division and District for grant of mining lease for Devapur Limestone Mine-II, Telangana State**

1. The agenda for the above subject proposal was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 27.10.2025. The corresponding agenda note may be seen at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in). The DDGF (Central), RO Chennai and Nodal Officer, Telangana attended the meeting.
2. During the meeting, all the facts and background of the proposal, along with examination of the proposal in the DSS were presented and explained by the Member Secretary before the AC. The Committee was also apprised of the relevant provisions under other Acts, Rules and Guidelines relevant to the proposal and their significance.
3. The Advisory Committee after through deliberation and discussion observed that:
  - i. The Government of Telangana Department of EFS&T vide their letter No.2168/For.I (1)/2024 dated 07.10.2024 submitted the above mentioned proposal (received on the PARIVESH 2.0 on 10.10.2024) for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
  - ii. The instant proposal is for diversion of 588.26 ha. of Rally Reserve forest land for grant of mining lease for Devapur Limestone Mine-II, Telangana State under Section 2 (1) (ii) and 2 (1) (iii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in favour of the M/s. Telangana State Mineral Development Corporation (TSMDC) Limited. The TSMDC has an existing operational mine of 210 ha. In the said area. This mine was sanctioned in March, 1980, well before promulgation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. The limestone of the current operational mine is being exhausted soon and it will lead to the closure of the cement plant/adversely affecting cement production which necessitated the present diversion of forest for continuation of cement production. The cement produced shall be used in the civil construction works of Singareni Coalfields Limited. Ramagundam plant of NTPC, projects of National Highway Authority of India and domestic purposes.
  - iii. The proposed forest land is located in District and Forest Division Mancherial of Telangana State 467, 500, to 508, 537, 539 and 540 Forest Blocks.
  - iv. The legal status of the proposed forest land is RF. Density of Vegetation is 0.4 and Eco Class III. A total 59,898 numbers of Trees/poles are

enumerated in the proposed area and only 39,665 numbers of trees are proposed to be felled.

- v. The forest area is susceptible for erosion as it is undulating with many streams on a watershed basis. Rally reserve forest in which the subject project proposed the terrain and the geology is such that during summer months except few perennial streams all other areas become quite dry and devoid of any water. The soil is well drained and hence does not retain water for long. The reason for the lack of water in the Reserve block is that though the rainfall varies 900-1200mm in the Reserve will be drained out within hours to the Godavari, as the landscape is hilly and undulating. This necessitates the creation of water sources, in ridge to valley approach on saturation basis, so that there is water available throughout the year for the wildlife. Detailed Landscape plan for above approved by CWLW vide PCCF/WL-1/WL07/29/2022/WLS dt 31.10.23 .UA submits Phased felling plan, tree translocation plan. Safety zone management , other vital mitigation planning will reduce vulnerability.
- vi. As per the DSS, Kawal Tiger reserve is located within 10 Km distance from the proposed forest land for diversion. However, as per the State Govt. the proposed forest land is located within the tiger corridor of Kawal TR. The proposed area of diversion and the surrounding forests and adjoining landscape has planned expansion of limestone mining, expansion of cement plant capacity, which will adversely affect wildlife . The regular use of explosives for blasting, vibrations associated with it shall affect the natural corridor dispersal of wildlife. The light, noise pollution caused by mining, associated vehicle movement in corridor areas, through reserve forest affects the wildlife. Natural streams are choked due to mining explosives, rolling of boulders, etc. along the contours of the mining area. Leachates from the mined out dumps, overburden, are to be appropriately addressed. The loss of habitat causes fragmentation and in turn affects the dispersal of the gene pool. This Wildlife Conservation plan is thus prepared to mitigate the adverse effects of mining and to conserve the wildlife of the zone of influence.
- vii. The proposed area for diversion in and around harbors some of the representatives of the typical fauna of Deccan plateau. The varied topography, interspersed with hillocks and large number of streams provide a variety of habitats for different faunal species. Different species of Amphibians, reptiles, Avifauna, Mammals and Invertebrates are distributed. Rally Reserve Forests has a rare assemblage of carnivores that include canids such as Wild-dogs, Wolves, and the felines such as Tiger, Leopard, Jungle Cat & Rusty Spotted Cat. The Leopards are widely distributed in reserve forest blocks. The omnivorous Sloth Bear & Ratel (Honey Badger) has a wide distribution in all areas of Devapur, Luxettipet and Bellampally ranges. Small mammals like Civets (Palm Civet and Small Indian Civet), Mongoose (Grey mongoose, ruddy mongoose), Indian crested porcupine, Jungle cat, are spread throughout the forest areas. Wildpig followed by Gaur, Chital, Nilgai, Four Horned Antelope, Sambar & Chinkara etc.,

- viii. No National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Elephant Corridor etc. is a part of the proposed forest land for diversion and the distance is 0.05 km of the proposed site for diversion from the boundary of the forest.
- ix. There are no rare/ endangered/ unique species of flora and fauna found in the area proposed for diversion, loss of habitat may be the impact of the project on such species of flora and fauna. The forest land proposed for diversion is not located within the eco-sensitive zone (ESZ) of the protected Area notified under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. No protected archaeological/ heritage site/ defence establishment or any other important monument is located in the area proposed for diversion.
- x. No violation has been reported by the State Govt. in the instant proposal.
- xi. The user agency has proposed the Compensatory afforestation on NFL to an extent of 594.8683 ha. of Non-forest land in KB Asifabad, Mancherial and Wanaparthy Districts of Telangana State. The details is given below:

Id	Division	Mandal	Village	Sy. No.	Area in Ha
1	Bellampally	Kasipet	Rottapalli	167/1/2	5.75050
2	Bellampally	Kasipet	Rottapalli	167/1/2	16.9430
3	Bellampally	Kasipet	Rottapalli	167/1/3,112	11.3283
4	Bellampally	Kasipet	Timalapur	15	32.6289
5	Mancherial	Kasipet	Devapur	84	11.7786
6	Asifabad	Asifabad	Kowadian Movad	19/4	89.2166
7	Asifabad	Asifabad	Kowadian Movad	19/2	38.2436
8	Asifabad	Asifabad	Kowadian Movad	19/3	37.3139
9	Asifabad	Asifabad	Kowadian Movad	19/5	31.1445
10	Wanaparthy	Gopalpet	Buddaram	265	43.8270
11	Wanaparthy	Gopalpet	Gopalpet	471	21.6884
12	Wanaparthy	Yedula	Chennaram	248	110.4070
13	Wanaparthy	Yedula	Chennaram	259	40.9685
14	Wanaparthy	Talapnoor	Revally	258	28.3812
15	Wanaparthy	Yedula	Chekapally	170/1	33.9430
16	Wanaparthy	Yedula	Yedula	860	41.4694
<b>Total Area</b>				<b>595.0324</b>	

- xii. The Divisional forest officer, Asifabad, Mancherial and Wanaparthy District of Telangana, has prepared the CA scheme with total financial outlay of ₹51.7827/- (Crore) which is uploaded in the portal. Suitability Certificate issued by the Divisional Forest Officer, of Asifabad, Mancherial and Wanaparthy District of Telangana State has been submitted/uploaded.

- xiii. The reclamation plan along with approved mining plan, as approved by the Ministry of Mines, IBM vide No. Lr No.AP/ADB/MP/LST-468/HYD dated 01.03.2024 has been submitted.
- xiv. No rehabilitation is involved in the proposal. State authorities have recommended the proposal.
- xv. The purpose breakup of the proposed forest area is given as under:

Sl. No.	Component	Area in ha.
1.	Undisturbed area	39.85
2.	Green belt/Plantation	55.19
3.	Infrastructure and road	15.95
4.	External Waste dump (within Diversion area)	8.88
5.	External Sub Grade Stack (Within Forest Diversion Area)	8.135
6.	Mining Pit Broken Area	460.25
<b>Total Area</b>		<b>588.26</b>
Note: The above land use is in consonance with the approved mining plan.		

- xvi. The DFO, Mancherla has prepared Safety Zone Scheme ₹138.185 lakhs to an extent of 16.00 ha.
- xvii. The PCCF (WL) & CWLW, Telangana has approved the Wildlife Conservation Plan for ₹793.96 lakhs.
- xviii. The user agency has submitted a Landscape Management plan and the PCCF (Wildlife) & CWLW, Telangana has approved the plan for ₹324.30 lakhs.
- xix. The justification given by the TSMDC that the prospecting operations of Devapur Mine started in 1976 and the “mining lease” was granted in 1980, well before the promulgation of Forest (Conservation) Ordinance, 1980 by the H.E. the President of India. The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 was enacted by the Parliament, on 28<sup>th</sup> December, 1980. At a later stage, the mining area has been reduced.
- xx. The applicant TSMDC has obtained the renewal of 210 ha. of said “forest land” in 1998, 1999, 2010 and 2011 vide the below mentioned OMs of the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (MOEF&CC), GoI.
- xxi. The stipulated “NPV” has also been paid in 2010-11 and no NPV payment is pending now. That the “mining lease” of this operational limestone mine is valid for 50 years, under the provisions of the Section-8A (2) and 8A (3) of the Mines & Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957 (as amended up-to 2021). It is also reiterated here the said principal Act has been amended vide Mines & Minerals (Regulation & Development) Amendment Act, 2015; 2020 and 2021.
- xxii. The instant operational Devapur Mine of 210 ha. is having a valid mining lease up to 2030 under the Mines & Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 (as amended up to 2021). Though the “mining lease” and “forest clearance” is valid up to 2030 (coterminous with the

mining lease), but the quality & quantity of limestone is deteriorating fast and as a consequence, the mine is likely to exhaust within 2-3 years, before the expiry of mining lease in 2029.

- xxiii. The limestone win-over from the Devapur has been used in the “Cement Plant” of Orient Cement Limited, since 1980. The Devapur Cement Plant has been under continuous operation since 1980. At present 3 cement clinker and crushing units are continuously operating at Devapur and continuously producing cement. Moreover, the modernization and expansion of Cement Plant by installing a fourth unit is underway, by increasing clinker production from 3.50 MT to 6.50 MT.
- xxiv. Thus, there is a net demand of 9.06.MT of limestone for operation of cement plant. For augmentation of limestone production two adjacent areas of operation have been selected and subjected to “prospecting”. The “LOI of mining lease process” has been allotted (refer Annexure-XXXIV) vide order No. 28 dated 31.12.2021 of the Industries & Commerce (Mines-II) Department, Government of Telangana.
- xxv. These 2 new “diversion areas” are having a common boundary with the existing operational mine of 210 ha. It is planned to use the existing “mine infrastructure” for extraction of limestone from the new “forest diversion areas” of 588.26 ha. The detailed justification for seeking diversion of 588.26 ha of new “Devapur – II Limestone Mine”, is as follows:
  - a. The current Devapur Limestone Mine is under operation, since 1980 and feeding limestone to Devapur Cement Plant for the past 43 years. That there is no other cement plant in the vicinity of Devapur Cement Plant, at least in the hinterland of 50 kms. The “clinkers” produced in Devapur Cement Plant are transported to Jalgaon district, Maharashtra; crushing plants for processing and bagging. Hence said Devapur Limestone Mine is having “strategic importance” for supplying limestone and clinkers to the North region of Indian Peninsula.
  - b. That the Komaram Bheem Asifabad, Mancherial, Pedapalli, Jayashankar Bhupalpally, Bhadraru Kothagundam, and Khammam districts are having large number of “coal mines” of Singreni Coalfields Limited (with inferred coal reserves of 11849.54 MT) and the Devapur Cement Plant supply cement to hinterland of Ramagundam also, which is having 2600 MW super thermal power plant, situated in Pedapalli district, Telangana. Hence, there is vast “strategic demand” of cement for infrastructure development in the region.
  - c. There are a large number of projects of National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) and PM - Gati Shakti – National Master Plan”, Bharatmala, Sagarmala Schemes etc. are under construction in the vicinity of Devapur Cement Plant. Thus, the Devapur Limestone Mine and Cement Plant is of huge strategic importance for the development of Peninsular India.

- d. The Devapur– II Limestone Mine is situated in “forest areas” of Raily Reserve Forests, Mancherial Division, and there is no other “Limestone Deposit” available in “non-forest areas” of the region. Thus, there is no alternative to the “forest diversion area”.
- e. The Devapur Cement Plant is situated within a distance of 700 Meters of the Devapur Cement Plant. The 2 new “forest diversion areas” of 588.26 ha. are also situated within a distance of approximately 1.4 to 1.6 Kms only. Hence by diversion of new forest area, there will be lots of savings of “fuel consumption” in transportation. The transportation shall be carried-out by the “covered conveyor belt” only. This will reduce “air pollution and noise pollution”, fuel expenses to the minimum extent. It will save lots of fuel expenditure on transportation also.
- f. That the new diversion forest area” of 588.26 ha. is situated on the East and West side of the operational Devapur-I Limestone Mine, hence after 7 – 10 years, two new “Limestone Crushing Plants” shall be planned, according to the requirement. In general, no new infrastructure shall be developed upto 2030, since existing structure can be used. It will entail stupendous cost saving in the mine infrastructure. After 7-10 years two new “Limestone Crushing Plants” and “Conveyor Belts” are proposed in 2 new diversion areas. That presently (or upto validity of existing mining lease) no new electricity lines, water pipelines are envisaged.
- g. That in the existing Devapur-I Limestone Mine of 210 ha. an area of 55.339 ha. has been technically reclaimed and has an area of 36.592 ha. has been biologically reclaimed. An area of 18.747 ha. has been developed into water impoundment with the storage capacity of 32 Lac cum.
- h. That, a “Buffer Zone” of 10 Kms wide periphery has been demarcated all around the Devapur-II Limestone Mine having 164 forest compartments of Devapur and Luxettipet Forest Ranges. The area of this Buffer Zone has been subjected to “Wildlife Impact Assessment” (WIA) for determination of the status of wildlife in the study area. Based on WIA, a draft “Terms of Reference” (TOR) has been submitted to the Chief Wildlife Warden (CWLW), Telangana for approval. A “Wildlife Conservation Plan” (WCP) has been prepared containing details of faunal species found in the area, distance from Kawal Tiger Reserve, Sivaram Crocodile Wildlife Sanctuary, Pranahita Wildlife Sanctuary and Godavari River. Also prescriptions have been provided for mitigation planning, conducive for wildlife conservation in the “Buffer Zone”. The WCP is under process and the approval of CWLW, Telangana shall be obtained and submitted at the later stage for examination by the “Forest Appraisal Committee” (FAC), MoEF&CC, GOI.

- xxvi. It is proposed to remove the safety zone of “East and West” side of the existing operational mine of 210 ha. because the TSMDC proposes to use the “mine infrastructure” of the current working mine of 210 ha. if the existing safety zone on “East and West” side is not removed by mining limestone in that area, it will create a serious hurdle in mining operations.
- xxvii. As apprised in the project report, the TSMDC is already having a working mine of 210 ha. The new diversion area of 588.26 ha. is situated on the east and west side of the currently working mine. After obtaining ‘forest clearance’ under Section-2(ii) under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. It is humbly submitted to the MOEF&CC, GoI to modify (partially / exempt) the condition of safety zone on the eastern border of 313.26 ha. of diversion area (Devapur– II Limestone mine, Part A) and similarly to waive-off condition of complete safety zone on western side of the diversion area of 275 ha. of Devapur II Limestone mine (Part B).
- xxviii. This request for exemption is being submitted because after forest clearance of new diversion area of 588.26 ha. that area will be one mine with area of 798.26 ha. There is no justification to have “two cross safety zones” in a large operational mine. The stipulation of these 2 cross safety zones on the East and West side shall create huge hurdles in limestone mining operations.
- xxix. The TSMDC has an operational mine of 210 ha. at present. This working mine has haulage roads, crusher plant, conveyor belt, water reservoir, plant and machinery shed, etc. This existing infrastructure of the operational mine shall be used to transport limestone from Part A and Part B of the new diversion area of Devapur-II Mine. Taking cognizance of this situation, the MOEF&CC, GoI is requested to do away with the safety zones (partially) of adjoining mines on the east and west of the operational mine of 210 ha.
- xxx. Since obtaining forest clearance of 588.26 ha. the area of working mine shall be 798.26 ha. to reduce the outflow of mine water from this mine; It is proposed to have “Landscape Zone” (for soil and moisture conservation) of 50 meter wide on the outside of east and west side of the integrated mine of 798.26 ha. The said 50 meter wide “Landscape Zone” will be outside of the consolidated mining lease area of 798.26 ha. This area will remain under the administrative control of Telangana Forest Department. Intensive soil moisture conservation work shall be carried out on this 50-meter wide extra “Landscape Zone” to retain water discharge from the water reservoirs. This extended “Landscape Zone” shall act as a barrier for any wildlife coming to the water reservoir for drinking purposes.
- xxxi. On the east and west side of this integrated mine, a large number of water holes, saucers, and percolation tanks have been planned in the buffer zone so that wildlife will not perceive any shortage of water. The TSMDC is undertaking to provide free water to these water holes and develop infrastructure (including pipeline) for operationalization of these water holes.

- xxxii. That, the approval of “Mining Plan” of Devapur-II Mine has been accorded vide No. AP/ADB/MP/LST-46/Hyd dated 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2023 of the Regional Controller of Mine, Hyderabad, Indian Bureau of Mine, Ministry of Mines (refer Annexure-XLIV). It is submitted here that the IBM has allowed to carry-out mining operations in the entire 588.26 hec. of “forest diversion area”. Hence there is no justification for maintaining 2 cross safety zones in the existing mine and 2 blocks of new forest diversion blocks.
- xxxiii. Area of “Safety Zone Management Plan” – That considering the stipulations for “Safety Zone Management Plan” under The Chapter 7 of FCA Guidelines provide procedures for mining projects. The FCA Guidelines 7.9 provides for ‘Safety Zone’. It stipulates a 7.5-meter-wide peripheral safety zone within the mining lease area. The area has been surveyed by DGPS and the map of the safety zone is enclosed as Map – VIII & IX.
- xxxiv. After the examination of the facts given in the proposal, the Ministry vide Online on 29.10.2024 has sought additional information from the State Govt. and has also requested the Regional Office to carry out Site Inspection Report.
- xxxv. The RO Chennai through online dated 22.01.2025 has submitted a Site Inspection Report. The DDGF(C), Regional Office, Chennai has Recommended the proposal subject to the following:
- a. The entire mining lease falls in the forest land only and there is no Non-Forest Land within the mining lease. The area has Southern Dry Mixed deciduous and dry teak forest type with very less topsoil depth and humus. The forest area is home for a diverse flora and fauna including Indian Gaur, Tiger, Leopard, Sloth Bear etc. Keeping in view the importance of the area from Biodiversity conservation point of view, a detailed wildlife mitigation plan, landscape plan etc. are prepared by the SFD for implementation at the cost of the user agency. However, these plans are prepared for a duration of only 5 years, whereas the life of the mine is going to be 18-20 years. Therefore, the mitigation plans shall be implemented throughout the life of the mine and also there is a need to continuously monitor the impact of mining in the surrounding forest and the mitigation measures implemented with a provision to review these plans at every five years interval. A monitoring committee with a member from Regional Office/Sub Office, SFD, UA may be constituted to periodically monitor the implementation of conditions imposed in FC clearance.
  - b. As there is possibility of encroachments in the NFL lands, the user agency may fence the area as per the standards of SFD before handing over the same to the SFD.
  - c. A detailed study on the local hydrology may be conducted and measures taken to avoid any destruction to the local network of streams and water bodies. Based on the technical feasibility, progressive mining and mine closure and reclamation may be



carried out and the void created, if any, may be ensured to have stable gradient so as the wild animals get access to the water after closure of mine. Plantation within the mine dumps may be done using local/ native forestry species only.

- xxxvi. The State Govt. has submitted that due to the transportation of minerals from 588.26 ha. to the crusher situated in the existing mine, the same existing haulage roads will be utilized. As these roads are in the diverted forest land for which the clearance was granted, further Forest Clearance approval is not required.
- xxxvii. Complete compliance of the previous approvals have been submitted by the State Govt. as well as monitoring report has also been submitted by the RO.
- xxxviii. The erstwhile Adilabad District has been a LWE affected District, was affected by Left Wing Extremism (LWE), necessitated the installation of a watchtower and security shed to protect explosives stored in a magazine within the 210-hectare diversion area allocated to M/s TSMDC.
- xxxix. In the year 2003, LWE militants attacked and set fire to machinery, including the mine crusher and transport equipment at Devapur, causing substantial financial and production losses.
- xl. The mining lease area was reduced from 798.26 ha to 210 ha in 2001 during renewal. Since the area of mining lease was reduced, it created administrative and management issues about the "reduced forest area". To take care of such bizarre situations, the PCCF, Andhra Pradesh vide Memo No. 14439/F2-2000 dated 12.04.2001 issued Instructions that the remaining forest area (reduced in ML area) shall be protected by TSMDC. The Department of Industries & Commerce, AP vide GO Ms No. 141 dated 30.03.2002 taken the cognizance of the remedial measures sanctioned by the PCCF Andhra Pradesh (now Telangana State).
- xli. Regarding watch tower and security shed which has been constructed in the proposed area for diversion the State has informed that it is evident that the said watch tower was constructed well before enactment of FCA on 25<sup>th</sup> Oct 1980. But because of reduction in mining lease area from 798.26 ha to 210 ha, the said forest land of watch tower has been kept outside and considering this situation, PCCF, AP and Dept. of Industries and Commerce, AP (before bifurcation of state) advised the project proponent TSMDC to protect the balance area of 588.26 ha.
- xlii. The State Govt. has been informed that a "small water drain" (not even nala) touches the "Northwestern" part of the forest diversion area and the user agency states that the nala will not be disturbed and the area will be maintained as a green area. However, the same has to be incorporated in conditions, and that further mining plan changes /revisions does not affect the nala and its watershed. NOCs/Approvals from the Water resources/Irrigation Department are to be Submitted.
- xliii. Proposed area lies in the East and West direction of the already diverted 210 ha area. Total breakup of the said area landscape is as follows:-

Mine Name & Area	User Agency	CA
100 ha in Devapur	Andhra Pradesh Mining Development Corporation	100 ha NFL 1. 60 ha NFL – CA has failed as per RO SIR. Land not notified as RF yet. 2. 40 ha NFL – encroached. New CA site notified as RF and plantation carried out. 3. Change of CA site done without approval of the Ministry.
110 ha	Andhra Pradesh Mining Development Corporation	No CA carried out. As per State Government, since diversion proposal has been awarded before enactment of FCA and hence no CA condition is stipulated.
Instant proposal of 588.26 ha	Telangana State Mining Development Corporation	CA proposed on 1. NFL in 16 patches 2. For balance seedling the State Govt. has also been proposed for DFL of 286.7365 ha.

xliv. Diversion of 100 ha and 110 ha forest land was given by the Ministry in the name of A.P. Mineral Development Corporation Limited as two different approvals. Consequent upon bifurcation of erstwhile Andhra Pradesh State into two states, the present diversion area is falling in the State of Telangana. The diversion area is being reported to be under the control of Telangana State Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. On enquiry regarding obtaining any approval for change of the User Agency, the officials of the Telangana Mineral Development Corporation informed that they have not obtained any approval for change of User Agency consequent upon state bifurcation. Thus the forest land diverted in the name of APMDCL is being operated by another entity, TSMDC Ltd. since its formation somewhere in 2014 to till date. No application for change of name of FC for 210 ha is received in the Ministry till date.

xlv. In lieu of the diversion of 110 ha (already broken up forest land for renewal of mining lease for mining of limestone), no condition of CA was stipulated. In lieu of the diversion of 100 ha of forest land 100 ha NFL was given. Out of 100 ha, an area of 40.00 ha is under encroachment. The District Collector of Adilabad vide letter dated 13.02.2016 has transferred 100 acres (40 ha) of alternate non-forest land in Sungapur village, Tiryani mandal, to the Telangana Forest Department for compensatory afforestation (CA) in lieu of encroachments on previously allotted non-forest land. The CA land has been changed without approval of the Central Government.

xlvi. The Government of Telangana has issued a notification reserving the Sungapur Forest Block 100 acres (40.57 ha) in Survey No. 95/1, Sungapur Village, Tiryani Mandal. Asifabad Division, Komaram Bheem Asifabad District, under section-4 vide G.O. Ms. No. 84 (EFS&T) (For. I) Dept. dated 28.08.2023. However, remaining 60 ha of Non-forest land in

Pegadapally village is under control and possession of the Forest Department. However, the M/S.TSMDC has not revised the previously mutated 100 ha. to the unencumbered 60 ha. land parcel. The User Agency submitted an undertaking stating that the mutation is under progress and assured that it will be done prior to the In-Principle (Stage-1) Approval for the instant proposal.

- xlvi. For transportation of minerals from 588.26 ha to the crusher situated in the existing mine, the same existing haulage roads will be utilized. As these roads are in the diverted forest land for which the clearance was granted, further Forest Clearance approval is not required.
- xlvi. In the past approvals for diversion of 210 ha, the 7.5 meter zone was kept outside the lease as per the then extent rules and guidelines, however, as per new rules the safety zone is inside the lease boundary and it will be diverted. In this regard, the State Govt. has informed that a separate proposal on PARIVESH 2.0 (FP/TG/OTHERS/495457/2024) for diversion of 7.5 ha of area falling in the safety zone has submitted by the UA and considered and recommended in 32<sup>nd</sup> PSC meeting held on 24.10.2024 for processing the proposal by the DFO. However, The TSMDC has paid an amount of ₹127.45231 Lakhs as NPV of the safety zone on 13.09.2024. This includes ₹71.834 Lakhs as NPV of the forest area of the safety zone and an amount of ₹55.619 Lakhs has been paid as interest on the NPV.
- xlix. In light of the rationalization proposed of Safety Zone, the instant proposal is proposed on the extremities of the project around the western boundaries of the western block and the eastern boundaries of the eastern block.
  - i. As per DSS and submission of the State Government, the instant proposal is outside the ESZ for the Kawal Tiger Reserve Core area. As per DFO, movement of tigers are seen within the RF close to the proposed area. However, an approved Wildlife Conservation Plan has been submitted by the State Government.
  - ii. On the matter of nalas/river streams inside the proposed area, the State Government has stated that the Nala will not be disturbed. NOC from the Water Resources/Irrigation department required to be submitted. SIR from RO recommended that a detailed study on the local hydrology may be conducted and measures taken to avoid any destruction to the local network of streams and water bodies.
  - iii. The above facts were considered in the last AC meeting held on 16.04.2025. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, Government of Telangana, the Committee decided to *defer* the proposal seeking the following information:
    - a. The Ministry has already accorded approval for diversion of 100 ha and 110 ha of forest land for limestone mining in the same landscape. The State Govt. shall provide justification for seeking further 588.26 ha over and above the 210 ha already diverted land. Furthermore, the State Government may explore the possibility of

use of forest land in a phased and regulated manner to ensure environmental responsibility and sustainable development.

- b. The forest land proposed is an important watershed for two bodies (one pond on one side and one rivulet on the other side) which provides water for drinking and other purposes to the villagers. Therefore the State Government shall provide comments on the impact of the proposed mining activity on these water bodies and proposed mechanism to safeguard the water bodies for villagers.
  - c. The State Government shall submit a detailed study on the local hydrology with clear recommendations on measures to be taken to mitigate any damage to the local network of streams and water bodies.
  - d. The State Govt. shall intimate the status of change of the User Agency for the already diverted 100 ha & 110 ha forest land in the name of Andhra Pradesh Mining Development Corporation.
  - e. The State Govt. shall provide the details of renewals of the earlier diverted forest land i.e. 110 ha. along with the next date of renewal in the matter.
  - f. The State Government shall submit a proposal for change in CA site of 40 ha carried out against the diversion of 100 ha forest land.
  - g. The State Government shall submit the RF/PF Notification of CA land of 60 ha identified against the diversion of 100 ha forest land.
  - h. The State Government shall submit an approved detailed wildlife mitigation plan for the duration of life of the mine, instead of the presently submitted 5 years period, for the instant proposal.
- liii. The decision of the Advisory Committee mentioned above was communicated to the State Govt. dated 30.04.2025 online at PARIVESH 2.0 portal regarding certain issues from the State Government. In this reference, the State Government of Telangana submitted the reply vide Letter No.2168/For.I(1)/2024 dated 17.09.2025 and online at PARIVESH 2.0 portal.
  - liv. The State Govt. has informed that the additional diversion of 588.26 ha of forest land by citing the pre-1980 mining lease of 798.26 ha, depletion of reserves in the currently approved 210 ha, the need to sustain and expand cement production capacity, and proposes a phased, environmentally responsible forest felling plan over 15 years to minimize ecological impact while ensuring operational efficiency, regulatory compliance, and socio-economic stability.
  - lv. The State Government has submitted compliance reports for the previously approved 100 ha and 110 ha forest land diversions via PARIVESH 2.0, and in line with MoEF&CC guidelines requiring a 7.5 m safety zone outside the forest diversion area, TSMDC has proposed and paid for the regularization of a 7.5 ha safety zone (₹127.45 lakhs including NPV and interest), which was recommended in the 32<sup>nd</sup> PSC meeting, and upon its approval, a separate proposal for modification of land use/re-diversion will be submitted to MoEF&CC to enable mining in

the current proposal, with rationalization of overlapping safety zones for Devapur Mines I and II already under consideration and reflected in the approved mining plan.

- lvi. The State Government informed that while no Compensatory Afforestation (CA) was required for the 110 ha diversion approved before the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, for the 100 ha diversion, 100 ha of non-forest land was transferred, mutated, and partially notified as Reserved Forest, though 40 ha was encroached and later replaced with alternate land in Sungapur (now notified), with afforestation carried out on both the 60 ha and 40 ha parcels—along with additional plantations in degraded forest areas (totaling 40 ha) having over 75% survival—incurring ₹153.625 lakhs, and survival of original 60 ha plantation being over 10%, while additional safety zone afforestation (6.3 ha) and protection activities were also undertaken with ₹6.771 lakhs spent, and all relevant KML files and documentation have been uploaded to PARIVESH 2.0.
- lvii. The State Government clarified that the watch tower and security shed were constructed before the enactment of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, as part of the original 798.26 ha mining lease granted in 1979 to ensure surveillance and protection of the explosive magazine—especially in the then LWE-affected Adilabad district—and though now located within the proposed diversion area due to lease reduction in 2001, these structures do not attract provisions of the FCA, 1980, as they predate its enforcement and were acknowledged by both the PCCF and Industries Department through official directives.
- lviii. The State Government informed that M/s TSMDC has submitted a proposal for regularization of a 7.5 ha safety zone along the boundary of the 210 ha cluster of existing mines (100 ha + 110 ha) in the PARIVESH 2.0 portal (Proposal No. FP/TG/OTHERS/495457/2024), which was recommended in the 32<sup>nd</sup> PSC meeting on 24.10.2024, and the corresponding KML files showing both the mining areas and safety zone have been enclosed and uploaded.
- lix. The State Government clarified that a small, seasonal, non-perennial water drain merely touches the northwestern edge of the proposed 588.26 ha forest diversion area without entering the mining zone, which will be preserved as a green area with enrichment plantations and tree translocations as per the approved Mine Plan and ₹324.30 crore Landscape Plan (sanctioned by the Chief Wildlife Warden on 31.10.2023), ensuring a 50-meter-wide buffer on both eastern and western sides to protect ecological integrity, and NOCs from the Water Resources/Irrigation Department will be obtained, with relevant maps and plans uploaded.
- lx. The State Government informed that since some identified non-forest lands (NFLs) across 16 patches in Mancherla, KB Asifabad, and Wanaparthy districts were unsuitable for plantations, Compensatory Afforestation has been proposed over degraded forest land (DFL) in 23 patches within these districts, and the KML files for all DFL sites have now been uploaded to the PARIVESH 2.0 portal.

4. **Decision of the Advisory Committee:** The Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation with the DDGF (Central), RO Chennai and Nodal Officer Telangana, recommended the proposal for grant of '*in-principle*' approval for diversion of 588.26 ha of Rally Reserve Forest land in favour of M/s. Telangana State Mineral Development Corporation (TSMDC) Limited in compartment No.467,500 to 508,537,539 and 540 of Mancherial Forest Division and District for grant of mining lease for Devapur Limestone Mine-II, Telangana State subject to the general, standard and following specific conditions:
- i. As per the proposal, the RF/PF notification for 60ha out of 100 ha CA land has not been completed. The State Government shall submit a copy of the said RF/PF notification along with Stage- I compliance report.
  - ii. As per the State Government, the site for 40 ha out of 100 ha CA has been changed without approval of the Ministry. The State Government shall submit a proposal for change CA land to the Ministry.
  - iii. The State Government has informed that out of the Mining lease area of 798.26 ha, 210 ha Forest land was earlier diverted in the name of Andhra Pradesh Mineral Development Corporation. The State Government shall take necessary action for change in name of User Agency for already diverted forest land.
  - iv. The State Government shall rationalize the safety zone around the already diverted forest land ie. 210 ha.
  - v. The State Government shall ensure that the North-Western corner of the proposed mining lease area which contains seasonal streams/nalas shall be excluded from mining operations. The stream shall remain undisturbed and pond located downstream of the nala shall be properly rejuvenated to enhance water availability and ecological function at the cost of user agency.
  - vi. The State Government shall ensure that a 50 mtrs wide green belt shall be developed and maintained on both sides of the seasonal stream/nala in the North-Western corner of the lease area to protect its natural flow and maintain the ecological buffer at the cost of user agency.
  - vii. The State Government shall also ensure compliance of the comprehensive hydrological study and mitigative measure suggested therein.
  - viii. The State Government shall ensure that garland drains along with retaining walls having water holes at the toe of temporary dumps be constructed to avoid the soil wash out & around the mine pit to prevent surface run off entering into the mine pit. The State Government shall ensure that Water will be diverted to sumps through sedimentation ponds/settling tanks.
  - ix. The State Government shall ensure that during monsoon or post monsoon time, if any excess water needs to be discharged, it should pass through sedimentation pond /check dams / filters prior to joining natural streams or Nalas.

- x. The State Government shall ensure that catch drains and siltation ponds be constructed within mine lease to check flow of surface runoff as well as to prevent siltation of nearby area and excess water will also be diverted to mined out pits for harvesting and recharging of ground water regime.
- xi. The State Government shall ensure regular monitoring of surface water quality be carried out and end use of this water will not be disturbed.
- xii. The State Government shall ensure that the approved Wildlife Management Plan be implemented at the cost of user agency.

***(Confirmed through E-mail)***

Dr. KR Sree Harsha  
(non-official Member)

***(Confirmed through E-mail)***

Shri Nityanand Srivastava  
(non-official Member)

***(Confirmed through E-mail)***

Shri Manoj Pant  
(non-official Member)

***(Confirmed through E-mail)***

Shri Ramesh Kumar Pandey  
Additional Director General of Forests (WL)  
(Member)

***(Confirmed on file)***

Shri R. Raghu Prasad  
Inspector General of Forests  
(Member Secretary)

***(Approved)***

Shri Sushil Kumar Awasthi  
(Director General of Forests and Special Secretary)  
(Chairperson)