Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road,
New Delhi: 110003
Dated: July, 2025

To

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

Sub: Raising of compensatory afforestation as envisaged in the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 as amended on 20.09.2024 – reg.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to this Ministry's letter of even number dated 17.12.2024 and 17.03.2025 (copies enclosed) clarifying the provisions of the compensatory afforestation in respect of various proposals of Central PSUs and Central Government Agencies in accordance with the provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 as amended on 20.09.2024. In this connection, it is to inform that in respect of various proposals pertaining to the Central Government PSU and agencies, the provisions of raising compensatory afforestation shall be applicable as clarified in the guidelines issued on 17.12.2024 and 17.03.2025 (Copies enclosed). The same are re-iterated as under:

i. As per the provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Amendment Rules, 2024, projects of Central Government entities/CPSU and captive coal blocks of the State PSUs are eligible for raising CA over degraded forest land which will be double in extent of the forest land being diverted. Accordingly, the State Government/UT shall not insist for providing non-forest land as CA unless in cases wherein the Central Government Agencies/CPSUs or State Government PSUs with captive coal blocks are forthcoming to provide non-forest land available with them as CA or the State Government/UT Administration is willing to provide non-forest land on such terms and condition which is agreed by the Central Government Agencies/CPSUs or State Government PSUs in case of captive coal blocks.

ii. As per the provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Amendment Rules, 2024, there is no requirement of certificate from the State Government certifying the non-availability of the non-forest land for the projects of Central PSU/entities and captive coal blocks of the State PSUs.

iii. The provisions of the amendment Rules 2024, have further been clarified by the Central Government in its Guidelines issued on 17.12.2024 (copy enclosed). The same may be adhered to by the processing authorities in the State.

iv. Further, in light of directions contained in the Hon'ble Supreme Court's order dated 3.02.2025 and 4.03.2025, it is further to inform that no forest land should be diverted without compensatory afforestation for which land is to

provided in accordance with relevant provisions provided under the Van (Sanrakhan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 (as amended) and Guidelines issued thereunder.

This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.

Encl: As above.

Digitally signed by CHARAN JEET SINGH
Date: 04-08-2025 12:20:03

Yours faithfully,

(Charan Jeet Singh)
Scientist 'E'

Copy to:

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

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

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

To

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

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

Madam/Sir,

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

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

This issues with the approval of the competent authority.

Yours faithfully,

Digitally signed by
CHARAN JEET SINGH
Date: 17-03-2025
09:33:49

(Charan Jeet Singh)
Scientist 'E'

Copy to:

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

Government of Maharashtra, Nagpur
4. Guard File.

Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road,
New Delhi: 110003
Dated: December, 2024

To

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

Sub: Streamlining of the approval process with regards to compensatory afforestation as envisaged in the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 as amended on 20.09.2024 – reg.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the above subject and to inform that based on the references received from the Ministry of Mines, and Ministry of Coal, the provisions related to raising of compensatory afforestation, as envisaged in the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 as amended on 20.09.2024, have been reviewed by the Ministry and after due deliberations, the Central Government, in accordance with the provisions of section 3C of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 hereby issues the following clarifications:

i. Provisions of Rule 14(1) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023, provides that the non-forest land identified for raising Compensatory Afforestation (CA) is to be notified as Protected Forests before final approval (Stage-II) approval is granted by the Central Government. However, in cases where non-forest land identified for CA has been transferred and mutated in favour of the State Forest Department (SFD), the Central Government may accord final approval keeping in view the fact that provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 become applicable on such lands being entered as forest in government record/record of rights.
ii. In such cases, referred in para (i) above, the non-forest land forest land proposed for CA, shall be notified as Protected Forest under section 29 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 of local forest Act before handing over of forest land to the User Agency by the State Government. The Nodal Officer, after notification of such non-forest lands, shall upload a copy of said notification on the PARIVESH portal.
iii. For the purpose of rule 13(4)(a) of the States or Union territory Administrations, having forest area more than 33% of their total geographical area, concerned State Government/UT Administration may authorise a suitable officer to issue certificate of non-availability of the suitable non-forest land for raising CA.
iv. As per the provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Amendment Rules, 2024, projects of Central Government entities/CPSU and captive coal blocks of the State PSUs are eligible for raising CA over degraded forest land which will be double in extent of the forest land being diverted. Accordingly, the State Government/UT shall not insist for providing non-forest land as CA unless in cases wherein the Central Government

Agencies/CPSUs or State Government PSUs with captive coal blocks are forthcoming to provide non-forest land available with them as CA or the State Government/UT Administration is willing to provides non-forest land on such terms and condition which is agreed by the Central Government Agencies/CPSUs or State Government PSUs in case of captive coal blocks.

v. With regards to the applicability of the provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Amendment Rules, 2024 in respect of proposals of the Central Agencies/PSUs and captive coal blocks of the State PSUs which were granted 'in-principle' approval stipulating CA over non-forest land, the following clarification is given in this regard:
    a. Proposals, which were submitted by the States/UTs before notification of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Amendment Rules, 2024, along with the proposal of raising CA over degraded forest land (DFL) and were granted 'in-principle' approval stipulating CA over non-forest land (NFL), shall be allowed to submit compliance of 'in-principle' approval along with CA proposal over DFL in lieu of NFL. The Central Government will consider and grant final approval in such cases stipulating CA over DFL.
    b. Proposals, which were submitted by the States/UTs along with CA proposal over non-forest land and were granted 'in-principle' approval stipulating CA over non-forest land (NFL), can also be allowed to submit compliance of 'in-principle' approval along with CA proposal over DFL provided the non-forest land proposed for CA is not transferred and mutated in favour of the State Forest Department. In such cases, the Central Government or its Regional Office, based on the request of the State/UT Government or user agency, shall amend the condition of in-principle approval to raise CA over DFL on a case to case basis and subsequently the User Agency shall submit the compliance of in-principle for the obtaining the 'final' approval.

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

This issues with the approval of the competent authority.

Yours faithfully,

Signed by
Charan Jeet Singh
Date: 17-12-2024 13:56:41

(Charan Jeet Singh)
Scientist 'E'

Copy to:

1. Director, PMO, South Block, New Delhi
2. Secretary, Ministry of Mines /Coal /Steel/ Power/ Railways/ MoRT&H/ Defence/MHA
3. Secretary, Ministry of Defence, Government of India
4. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, All States Governments and Union territory Administrations
5. Dy Director General of Forests (Central) All Regional Offices of the MoEF&CC

6. Nodal Officers, dealing with the matters related to the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, All States Governments and Union territory Administrations
7. Head, NIC, MoEFCC for aligning the PARIVESH 2.0 as per above