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

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

To

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Government of Goa,
Panjim

Sub: Clarification on matters related to use of private forest land for Compensatory Afforestation and the transfer of approval granted to erstwhile lessee to new lessee – regarding.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the DO letter dated 25.06.2025 and letter no. 6-13(12)-2025-26-FD/386 dated 28.04.2025, received from Government of Goa requesting clarification from the MoEFCC on the matter related to i) use of private forest land for raising compensatory afforestation and ii) transfer of approvals granted under the Adhiniyam from an erstwhile lessee to a new lessee. In this regard it is to inform that matter has been examined by the Advisory Committee in its meeting held on 25.08.2025. Minutes of the Advisory Committee may kindly be accessed at https://parivesh.nic.in.

Based on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee and approval of the recommendation by the competent authority of MoEF&CC, New Delhi, the Central Government, hereby clarifies the following:

i. Private forest lands may be considered for the purpose of raising compensatory afforestation, provided these lands are recorded as forest lands in Government records and are treated as forest lands under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan), Adhiniyam 1980, Rules and guidelines made there under. In such cases, these private forest lands may be used for compensatory afforestation provided they are made available double in extent to the forest land being diverted, and are transferred and mutated in favour of Forest Department and subsequently notified as Protected Forest under the Indian Forest Act, 1927/ local forest Act, as per the provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 and Guidelines issued thereunder.
ii. The State Government had sought clarification regarding transfer of approval granted under the Adhiniyam to mining leases which were cancelled by the Hon'ble Supreme Court and subsequently auctioned to successful bidder. In this regard, it is clarified that the Stage-II approval granted under the Adhiniyan can be transferred from the erstwhile lessee to the new lessee by the Ministry in line with the provision of the guidelines given under para 7.4 (vi) of the Consolidated Guidelines issued by the Ministry on 29.12.2023.

This issues with the approval of the competent authority.

Yours faithfully,

Digitally signed by
CHARAN JEET SINGH
Date: 11-09-2025
14:11:15

(Charan Jeet Singh)
Scientist 'E'

Copy to:

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