

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 as envisaged in guidelines notified by the Central Government on 29.11.2023 and 19.11.2024 under sub-section (2) of section 2 of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 – 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, Government of India, the guidelines issued by the Ministry on 29.11.2023 and 19.11.2024 have been reviewed by the Ministry and after due deliberations, the Central Government, in accordance with the provisions of sub-section (2) of section 2 of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 further amends the Guidelines issued on 29.11.2023 and 19.11.2024, and issues further additional guidelines and clarifications as under:

- i. In respect of survey and exploratory drilling proposals involving felling of trees, the Net Present Value (NPV), as per applicable rates, will be charged @ 0.1 ha per bore hole. The NPV deposited shall be adjusted against the estimated NPV to be levied, in case approval is obtained for the diversion of the same forest land for mineral extraction under the Adhiniyam.
- ii. In case no tree felling is involved in the proposal of survey and exploratory drilling, the same shall be exempted as per the guidelines referred to above and the provisions of NPV shall not be applicable.
- iii. Activities like pitting and trenching shall be considered as a part of initial reconnaissance surveys, as mentioned in para 1 of the guidelines dated 29.11.2023 and will be allowed without payment of any NPV and Compensatory Afforestation charges. In such case, the permission may be granted on a simple offline application submitted by the user agency providing details of the activities such as pitting and trenching along with the relevant KML files, and no application in form-C in such cases shall be needed.
- iv. The applications pertaining to survey and explorations in the forest areas, covered under exemption category shall, henceforth, be required to be submitted online in further simplified Form-C integrated with PARIVESH 2.0 (copy enclosed).
- v. The State Government or Union territory Administration, shall authorize an officer not above the rank of Divisional Forest Officer or Deputy Conservator of Forests, to grant permissions to proposals of survey and exploratory drilling in the forest area in all such cases which are exempted from the purview of Adhiniyam as per guidelines issued on 29.11.2023 by the Central Government under section 2(2) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

- vi. Based on the requirement of survey and investigations, the user agency will be allowed to collect samples from the forest area for their further analysis or for relevant purposes following the aforesaid procedure .
- vii. The User Agency shall ensure backfilling of pits and trenches, bore hole/ shot holes after survey/exploratory drilling and collection of sample or completion of the activity to reclaim the forest land close to its previous state and submit geo-tagged photographs /video of the same as proof of the same to the designated authority as mentioned in para (v) above within one month of the completion of survey/exploration.

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 exempted under subsection (2) of section 2 of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. The guidelines issued by the Central Government on 29.11.2023 and 19.11.2023 stands modified to the extent, as given above.

This issues with the approval of the competent authority.

Encl: As above.

Yours faithfully,

(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

Form – C

(For survey and exploratory drilling in the forest area, treated as non-forest purpose under section 2(2) of the Adhiniyam)

Part-I

1. State/District/Forest Division
2. Details of area proposed for Survey/prospecting/exploratory Drilling
 - a. Total area of the survey/prospecting (In Hectares)
 - b. Detail of License/ Letter of Intent (LOI), if applicable
 - c. Purpose of survey/prospecting/exploratory drilling
3. Details of forest land proposed to be explored/ surveyed (Village / Division / District Wise Breakup)
 - a. Legal Status of the Forest land, (if available or select from drop down)
 - b. Total period for which the forestland is proposed to be explored/ surveyed (No. of years)
 - c. Areas of forestland proposed for exploration/ survey
4. Details of activities proposed to be undertaken in forest land
 - a. Drilling of Boreholes
 - b. Other
5. Details of machinery or equipment to be deployed for prospecting
6. Details of existing paths/roads in the proposed area to be utilized for transport of the equipment or machines in the forest land
7. Number and duration of stay in the forest land of the persons proposed to be deployed for exploration/ survey
8. Estimated quantity of ore and other samples proposed to be collected during the exploration/ survey

9. Details of Additional information if any

Part-II (DFO)

1. Legal Status of forest land proposed for exploration/survey
2. Density of vegetation
3. Local/scientific names of the important species
4. Details of violation(s), if any, committed
5. Additional information, if any
6. Approval/Recommendation