

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

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Indira Parayavaran Bhawan  
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj,  
New Delhi-11003  
**Dated: March, 2024**

**To**

**The Additional Chief Secretary (Forests),**  
Government of Assam,  
Guwahati

**Sub: In Suo motu matter in re: News item appearing in The Northeast Now dated 25.12.2023 entitled "Assam: PCCF MK Yadava accused of illegally clearing protected forest for Commando Battalion" pending before Hon'ble NGT (PB)-Reg.**

Madam/Sir,

This is the above stated matter wherein the Hon'ble Tribunal based on the media report tilted Assam: *PCCF MK Yadava accused of illegally clearing protected forest for Commando Battalion* took suo motu cognizance of the matter. In this regard the reply of the State Government has been received vide letter dated 11.03.2024.

The Ministry also asked its Regional Office, Shillong to examine the matter and submit a detailed factual report in the above captioned matter. The Regional Office vide its letter no. F.NO.-RONE/E/O.A.No. 61/24/PB/S/4081 dated 12.03.2024 furnished a Site Inspection Report and *inter alia* submitted the following with respect to the forest area in question:

*i) The construction is large-scale and of permanent concrete structures, considering the area of build-up area is 11.5 ha and the plinth area being close to 30,000 sq. metre. The area of 11.5 ha does not appear to have much semblance to any of the activities mentioned in the explanation (b) of Section 2 of the Forest (C) Act, 1980 about ancillary activity for conservation, development and management of forest and wildlife, namely, establishment of and Checkpost, firelines, wireless communications and construction of fencing, bridges and culverts, dams, waterholes, trench marks, boundary marks, pipelines or other like purposes.*

Further, it has also been mentioned that *the word 'and other like purposes' appear to allude to such purposes similar to the ones aforementioned namely,*

*Checkpost, firelines, wireless communications and construction of fencing, bridges and culverts, dams, waterholes, trench marks, boundary marks, pipelines but it is observed that the extent (of 30,000 sq mt of build-up over 11.5 ha of area) and type of structures being permanent concrete does not have much similarity to those.*

The report of the Regional Office has been examined in the Ministry and *prima facie* it has been observed that the use of forest land for non forestry activities has been allowed without prior approval of the Central Government which is in contravention of the statutory provisions and rules under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

Taking into account the aforesaid, the State Government is urged to stop all construction activities in the aforementioned area/ land in question, with immediate effect, till further orders or decision in the matter.

It is pertinent to mention here that continuation of construction activities as above will amount to violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and attract penal provisions.

Yours sincerely,

**Sd/-**  
**(Suneet Bhardwaj)**  
Assistant Inspector General of Forests