

Sanction Order No. 4/2024-25/FPD

F. No. 3/2/2024-FPD (**Computer No. 236113**)
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Forest Protection Division)

5th Floor, Agni Wing,
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
JorBagh Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi - 110003
Dated the 16th May 2024.

To,
The Pay & Accounts Officer,
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change,
New Delhi.

Subject: Ad-hoc release to the State of Maharashtra under the CSS: Forest Fire Prevention & Management for the financial year 2024-25.

Sir,

I am directed to convey the administrative approval for an ad-hoc release of Rs. 99.00 Lakhs (Ninety nine Lakhs) under the **CSS: Forest Fire Prevention & Management Scheme** to the State of Maharashtra during 2024-25 for carrying out activities related to Forest Fire Prevention & Management Scheme.

2. The expenditure incurred is adjustable to Demand No. 28. (Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change) under the following Heads during Financial Year 2023-24 (Plan):

| Scheme | Budget Head | Amount (Rs. in Lakh) |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| Forest Fire Prevention & Management Scheme | 3601.06.101.01.03.31 | 99.00 |
| | TOTAL | 99.00 |

3. This ad-hoc release may specifically be utilized under the following activities only:

- Procurement of fire fighting equipment/technologies used.
- Maintenance of fire lines and creation of fire lines during fire season.
- Engagement of fire watchers
- Incentivizing Villages/Communities for protection against forest fire, under the participatory forest management approach during fire season

4. This release amount is to be utilized subject to adherence of the following terms and conditions:

- The sanction is provisional and is subject to adjustment on the basis of the audited figures of expenditure.

श्री. सविता जगदीश
सहायक वन निरीक्षक
Assistant Inspector General of Forests
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन विभाग
Min. of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
भारत सरकार, नई दिल्ली
Govt. of India, New Delhi

- ii. State Government should make adequate Budget provisions to contribute its share as per the revised funding pattern as communicated by the D/o Expenditure vide D.O. No. 32/PSO/FS/2015 dated 28.10.2015. The funding pattern (matching share of states) as per the category of states, is as below:

| Category of States/UTs | Central Share | State Share |
|---|---------------|-------------|
| Union Territories | 100% | 0 |
| NE States and Special category States of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand | 90% | 10% |
| Rest of the States | 60% | 40% |

- iii. A separate bank account shall be opened for the purpose and the account shall be open for audit by C&AG.
- iv. The GFRs 2017 is followed along with the economic instructions issued by the Government of India from time to time.
- v. Payments are to be made by bank transfer and no cash payment is made.
- vi. The payment for the engagement of labour for various works such as fire watchers, creation & maintenance of fire lines etc. should be made only through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) and the details of the same with the supporting documents should be submitted along with the utilization certificate and progress report.
- vii. In case of employment through contract, a copy of the PF & ESI of employees shall be furnished, wherever applicable.
- viii. Evidence of deposit of TDS/Service Tax in case of contract payments and CST in case of purchase of leviable goods are obtained along with a Utilization Certificate and compliance of the DBT scheme has to be ensured.
- ix. The UCs (as prescribed in GFR-19A), Progress Report along with satellite photographs of physical deliverables with date and latitude-longitude coordinates before and after implementation shall be submitted in time.
- x. A strict economy should be observed so as to keep the actual expenditure to a minimum. The works are to be executed as per the Sanctioned Schedule of Rates applicable in the area.
- xi. The expenditure is to be incurred as per the allocation of funds. There shall be no diversion of earmarked funds from one item to another one except in case of unavoidable circumstances and only with the prior approval of MoEF&CC. If the implementing agency does not use the fund for the purpose for which it was given, it has to refund the same with interest.
- xii. There should not be any overlapping of activities under the scheme with the activities of other ongoing schemes of the Central / State Govt.
- xiii. The programme is to be monitored by the State regularly and the **quarterly progress report** shall be submitted by the State on the progress of implementation of the scheme in the format given in Annexure – VII of the Operational Guidelines of the Scheme, for every quarter of the year.
- xiv. The infrastructure created will be fully utilized for the purpose for which they have been sanctioned and all recurring cost in respect of all items sanctioned will be borne by the State Government.

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भारत सरकार, नई दिल्ली
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- xv. For the proposed infrastructure works including the construction of water tanks, the location of the site along with the details of GPS details may be submitted to this office.
- xvi. The fixed assets created out of this grant shall not be disposed off without the concurrence of this Ministry.
- xvii. The outcome of the money released under the Scheme should be submitted as per the format given below:

| Outcome | Indicator | Periodicity | Data Source/Method | Responsible Agency |
|---|---|-------------|--|-------------------------------|
| Less fire incidences | Number of forest fires | Annual | Satellite data | FSI, Dehradun |
| Reduction in damage to forest resources | Total estimated area affected due to forest fire | Annual | Satellite data and Information from States/UTs | FSI, Dehradun and States/UTs |
| Capacity development for forest fire fighting | A number of field forest staff and members of JFMCs / villages trained. | Annual | State / UT Forest Departments | State / UT Forest Departments |

- xviii. As this is an ad-hoc release of funds therefore a revised Annual Plan of Operation (APO) from the concerned State will be required to adjust the ad-hoc funds for calculating further release of funds to the State.
- xix. **The State shall carry out monitoring & evaluation of the works undertaken. The proposal for subsequent release of funds should also include a utilization certificate and progress report of 75% of the ad-hoc release amount released both (Central Share and State Share) along with the details of mid-term monitoring & evaluation report, number of alerts, actual fire incidences and the losses due to the forest fire.**

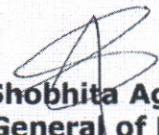
5. The accounts of the Forest Fire Prevention & Management Scheme shall be open for inspection by the sanctioning authority and audit, both by the Comptroller & Auditor General of India under the provision of the C&AG (DPC) Act, 1971 and internal audit party by the Principal Accounts Office of the Ministry whenever it is called upon.

6. In accordance with the revised procedure the Reserve Bank of India may please be advised to pass on the credit to the Central Accounts Section, Nagpur for transferring the funds to the accounts of the Government of **Maharashtra** and to debit the amount to the Account of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India, New Delhi.

श्री. शशिभक्त जयसिंग
सहायक जन प्रशासक
आसिस्टन्ट इन्स्पेक्टर जनरल ऑफ फॉरेस्ट प्रशासन, एन एच जलवायु परिवर्तन क्षेत्र
Min. of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
भारत सरकार, नई दिल्ली
Govt. of India, New Delhi

7. This issue with the concurrence of the Internal Finance Division vide their **Dy. No. E-236113 dated 06.05.2024** under the powers delegated to the Ministries/Departments.

Yours faithfully,


(Dr. Shobhita Agarwal)
Assistant Inspector General of Forests
Email:- fpd-moefcc@gov.in
Tel No. 011-20819406

Copy to:

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Government of Maharashtra, Nagpur.
2. The Secretary, Department of Finance, Government of Maharashtra, Nagpur.
3. The Secretary, Forests Department, Government of Maharashtra, Nagpur.
4. The Manager, Reserve Bank of India, Central Accounts Section, Nagpur
5. Director Audit, Scientific Deptt. AGCR Building, New Delhi
6. Ministry of Finance, Deptt. of Expenditure, Plan Finance Division, New Delhi
7. Sr. PPS to AS&FA, MoEF&CC
- ✓ 8. Consultant (IT), MoEF&CC (for uploading on Ministry's website)
9. Sanction folder.