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# Authorise forest officials to take action on mangrove destruction on private land: Aditya Thackeray to Centre

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MUMBAI: The state forest department must be empowered to take action against mangrove destruction on private land, said state environment minister Aditya Thackeray.

In a letter to union minister environment, forests and climate change Prakash Javadekar, Thackeray said forest officials are authorised to take action on cases of mangrove destruction on government land under the Indian Forest Act, 1927.

“However, the forest department has no authority to take cognizance of mangrove destruction on private land. Such violations are dealt under the Environment Protection Act, 1986 read with Coastal Regulation Notification, 2011. The officer authorised to take cognizance of such offences under the EPA are the district collector, sub-divisional officer,

state pollution control board and the state environment department,” reads the letter.

Thackeray has asked the Centre to incorporate the suggestion to authorise the forest department be incorporated in section 19 of the Environment Protection Act for effective protection of mangroves in Maharashtra.