

No request for non-forestry activities in Sonai Rupai: Centre

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Guwahati: Ministry of environment, forest and climate change, in an affidavit to the National Green Tribunal (NGT), said no proposal seeking forest clearance for non-forestry activities within the Sonai Rupai Wildlife Sanctuary in Sonitpur district was found.

The ministry stated in the affidavit that prior approval of the Central govt under Section-2 (1)(ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 is required for carrying out any non-forestry activity on forest land. "That as per sub office Guwahati of Regional Office Shillong, no proposal seeking forest clearance with respect to the instant matter is available with them," the deponent added.

Hemen Hazarika, posted as scientist "E" at the sub-office, Guwahati under regional office Shillong, ministry of environment, forest and climate change, stated in the affidavit that the land is a subject of state govt and the forest areas and the legal boundaries thereof are determined and maintained by the state govt concerned.

The deponent further stated that state govt has the primary responsibility to determine status of any parcel of land, giving due regard to gazette notifications, provisions under state and central acts and concerned judgments and directions of the Apex Court.

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