

Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,

Jor Bagh Raod, Aliganj
New Delhi – 110003
Dated: 4th July, 2020

To

The Addl. Chief Secretary (Forest)
Department of Forest and Wildlife Preservation
Government of Punjab
Chandigarh

Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for use of 275.16 ha (instead of 109.64 ha of forest land originally proposed) [(211.06 ha protected forest) + (64.10 ha. PLPA area)] excluding de-listed area (58.75 ha) out of 333.91 ha of forest land for construction Reservoir of Shahpur Kandi Dam Project in Tehsil – Dhar Kalan under Forest Division and Distt. Pathankot. (Online proposal No. FP/PB/HYD/40592/2019)-reg.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to your letter No. FOREST-FCA0FC3P/8/2020-FCA dated 14.06.2020 regarding above mentioned subject. In this regard, it is to inform that the instant proposal has been examined as per provisions under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Following observations need to be addressed by the state prior to further action on the proposal:

- i. The revised proposal has not included 58.75 ha of PLPA land. The User Agency has given the justification that the project is of public utility and the Supreme Court has allowed such types of work on de-listed PLPA land. The State Government has not offered any comment on the justification given by the User Agency. Land being a state subject, clear recommendation may be provided by the State.
- ii. Whether such de-listed PLPA area has been diverted earlier in any public utility project like Road, Rail etc. in the State. The same may kindly be clarified with detail.
- iii. CA has been proposed over 35 different sites. Most of the sites are less than 5 ha which cannot be accepted as per guidelines No 11-423/2013-FC dated 22.05.2019. The same shall be revised and submitted as per the guidelines issued by the ministry from time to time. On DSS analysis it is found that most of CA patches are having different structures. All such patches shall be free from encroachment.
- iv. Approved R&R plan may be submitted.
- v. Approved CAT (Catchment Treatment plan) shall be submitted.

vi. The project involve Forest areas of Two states i.e Punjab and J&K. State Government may co ordinate with J&K government and explore possibility of preparing a composite proposal so that same can be analyzed in the Ministry comprehensively. The total land use of the project (including part of Punjab and J&K) may kindly be provided.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-

(Sandeep Sharma)

Asst. Inspector General of Forests

E-mail: Sandeep.sharma76@gov.in

Copy to:

1. The PCCF (HoFF), Department of Forest and Wildlife Preservation, Government of Punjab, Forest Complex, Sector 68-, SAS Nagar.
2. Dy. DGF (Central), RO Chandigarh- with request to carry out the site inspection and verify the revised land use of the area. Regional office shall analyze the proposal in toto and submit report for further analysis. Regional office Chandigarh may also Co-ordinate with Government of J&K and verify the total land use of the project. The status of balance area proposal pertaining to J&K may also be ascertained.
3. The Nodal Officer (FCA), Department of Forest and Wildlife Preservation, Government of Punjab, Forest Complex, Sector 68-, SAS Nagar.
4. User Agency.
5. Monitoring Cell (FC Division) of MoEF&CC, New Delhi.