

**F.No. FC/HPB/01/177/2022**  
Government of India  
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change  
(Forest Conservation Division)  
\*\*\*\*\*

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan  
Aliganj, Jor bagh Road  
New Delhi- 110003  
**Dated:18-09-2025**

To,

**The Principal Secretary (Forests),**  
Department of Environment and Forests,  
Government of Himachal Pradesh.  
Shimla.

**Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 diversion of 0.4148 hectare of additional forest land in favour of Himachal Pradesh Power Corporation Pvt. Ltd for the construction of Integrated Kashang HEP Stage-II & III(130MW) for some modification in the Project component construction of Silt Flushing Tunnel (SFT) within the jurisdiction of Kinnaur Forest Division, Distt. Kinnaur, Himachal Pradesh. (Online Proposal No FP/HP/HYD/49387/2020)- regarding.**

Sir/Madam,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Himachal Pradesh's online proposal No. FP/HP/HYD/49387/2020 dated 31.10.2022 on the above mentioned subject, seeking prior approval of Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. After careful consideration of the proposal, **'in-principle'/Stage-I** approval to the proposal was granted vide this Ministry's letter of even number dated 30.09.2024 subject to fulfillment of certain conditions prescribed therein. The State Government has furnished compliance report in respect of the conditions stipulated in the in-principle approval and has requested the Central Government to grant final approval.

2. In this connection, I am directed to say that on the basis of the compliance report furnished by the Government of Himachal Pradesh through online PARIVESH portal on 31.05.2025 and 02.09.2025, **'final approval'/Stage- II** of the Central Government is hereby granted under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for non-forestry use of 0.4148 hectare of additional forest land in favour of Himachal Pradesh Power Corporation Pvt. Ltd for the construction of Integrated Kashang HEP Stage-II & III(130MW) for some modification in the Project component construction of Silt Flushing Tunnel (SFT) within the jurisdiction of Kinnaur Forest Division, Distt. Kinnaur, Himachal Pradesh subject to fulfillment of the following conditions:-

- i. Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged
- ii. The State Government shall ensure that Compensatory Afforestation over

0.8296 ha degraded forest land in Survey No. H44A6, UP Mohal Khawangi, Kalpa Forest Range, Kinnaur Forest Division is initiated within two years from the date of issue of Stage– II approval and maintained thereafter as per approved plan by the State Forest Department at the cost of the User Agency. Further, as far as possible, a mixture of local indigenous species shall be planted and monoculture of any species may be avoided;

- iii. ***The State Government shall ensure that KML file of diverted area is uploaded on e-Green watch portal;***
- iv. ***The State Government shall ensure compliance of extant laws, rules, and guidelines relevant to Hydel projects;***
- v. The State Government has realized the NPV of the forest area diverted under this proposal from the User Agency, as per the orders dated 28.03.2008, 24.04.2008 and 09.05.2008 passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 202/1995 and the guidelines given under para 3 of the Chapter- 3 of the Consolidate Guidelines and Clarifications issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 published by the Ministry on 29.12.2023, the user agency shall pay the additional amount of NPV, if so determined, as per the final decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India;
- vi. The State Government shall complete settlement of rights, in term of the Scheduled Tribes and Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, if any, on the forest land to be diverted as per the sub-rule (7) of Rule 11 of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023;
- vii. The user agency shall explore the possibility of translocation of maximum number of trees identified to be felled and shall ensure that any tree felling shall be done only when it is unavoidable and that too under strict supervision of the State Forest Department;
- viii. The User Agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance provisions of the as per the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if required
- ix. The State Government shall ensure that User agency shall provide free water for forestry related activities/ projects;
- x. The State Government shall ensure that no labour camp shall be established on the forest land and the User Agency shall provide fuels preferably alternate fuels to the labourers and the staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the nearby forest areas;
- xi. The State Government shall ensure that no additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for transportation of construction materials for execution of the project work
- xii. The State Government shall ensure that boundary of the diverted forest land

- shall be demarcated on ground at the project cost, by erecting four feet high reinforced cement concrete pillars, each inscribed with its serial number, distance from pillar to pillar and GPS coordinates.
- xiii. The period of diversion under this approval shall be co-terminus with the period of lease to be granted in favour of the user agency or the project life, whichever is less;
  - xiv. The State Government shall ensure that layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government;
  - xv. The State Government shall ensure that forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the project proposal;
  - xvi. The State Government shall ensure that forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agency, department or person without prior approval of the Central Government;
  - xvii. The State Government shall ensure that no damage to the flora, fauna or the environment of the adjoining area shall be caused; Adequate measures to ensure no damage to the adjoining areas should be taken by the User Agency at the project cost;
  - xviii. The User Agency shall submit annual self-compliance report in respect of the above stated conditions to the State Government, concerned Regional Office and to this Ministry by the end of March every year regularly;
  - xix. Any other condition that the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change may stipulate from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife shall be carried with by the State Government and User Agency;
  - xx. The State Government shall ensure that User Agency shall comply all the provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, Hon'ble Court Order (s) and NGT Order (s) pertaining to this project, if any, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project;
  - xxi. Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 and action would be taken as prescribed in para 1.16 of Chapter 1 of the consolidated guidelines and clarifications issued under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 and Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 as issued by this Ministry's letter dated 29.12.2023;
  - xxii. The State Government and user agency shall ensure compliance to all conditions stipulated in the 'in-principle' approval letter dated 30.09.2024 for which undertakings have been obtained from the user agency and also the provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations and Guidelines, relevant

Hon'ble Court Order (S) and NGT Order (S), if any, or the time being in force, including compliance of the Schedule Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forests Rights) Act, 2006, before handing over the forest land to the user agency; and

- xxiii. The monitoring report by the Regional Offices or State Government and annual self compliance report by the user agency shall be uploaded on e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>) regularly.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-

**(S. Sundar)**

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

**Copy to: -**

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Government of Himachal Pradesh, Shimla.
2. The DDGF (C), Regional Office, Chandigarh of MoEFCC.
3. The Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Himachal Pradesh, Shimla.
4. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF & CC, New Delhi for uploading.
5. User Agency.