



**OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER**  
**KATHUA FOREST DIVISION, KATHUA**

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**RECOMMENDATION OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER, KATHUA FOREST DIVISION:**

The Ujh Multipurpose project envisages to utilize water resource potential of river Ujh, a tributary of River Ravi, which is one of the three eastern Rivers of Indus Basin system. The Project has been declared as a **National Project** as it allows India to utilize its share of Indus River system as per provisions of **Indus Water Treaty** between India and Pakistan. The project entails not only hydro power generation in power-deficit region but also to cater to the drinking water requirement along with meeting the irrigation demand of the area, hence, paving the way for overall socio-economic development of the region. The instant project involves construction of 116 m high Concrete Face Rockfill Dam (CFRD) across the river Ujh, a power house of installed capacity 186 MW and one toe power house of 26 MW with a barrage 11.5 km downstream of the dam. The irrigation potential of the project is an annual area of 31380 ha. besides the drinking water supply to the Kandi region of Jammu and Kashmir.

Besides providing the geo-political strategic advantage in the form of much more effective utilization of the water of Ujh River, which otherwise flows straightaway to Pakistan, the project will also unleash the agricultural potential of the otherwise barren Kandi area. It will also be a boon in the dry Kandi belt which is already reeling under the peril of the impending water crisis. Therefore, in view of the underlying urgency and the fact that the project has national strategic importance, it is recommended that the instant Project be granted the Stage-I or In-principle approval subject to certain terms and conditions based on the deficiencies which have been noticed in the project proposal in its present form. It is further recommended that the Stage-II or Final Approval be granted only after the User Agency diligently removes the deficiencies associated with the present Indent which are enlisted below:

**1. VARIATION IN RESPECT OF THE AREA PROPOSED FOR DIVERSION BY THE USER AGENCY:**

The extent of forest land proposed to be diverted in the Ujh Multipurpose project in Kathua Forest Division as per the Indent has been shown to be **270 hectares** which however has been found to be **62.69 ha** as per the joint field verification and revision by the User Agency & Forest Department. Therefore, the difference in the forest land proposed for diversion by the User Agency and the forest land actually being utilized, must be noted by the User Agency and the corresponding changes thereof, must invariably be incorporated in the Indent by the User Agency.

**2. INCOMPLETE DELINEATION OF FRL-2m & FRL-4m BY THE USER AGENCY:**

Despite repeated reminders and EDS requests, the User Agency has still not been able to complete the process of delineation of FRL-2m and FRL-4m as well as that of the Right Main Canal, Left Main Canal, Power House & Head Race Tunnel on ground by installation of Permanent Benchmarks, which is a prerequisite as per the guidelines / circulars issued under the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 from time to time. Further this has negated the possibility of the enumeration of the trees at FRL-2m and FRL-4m in the submergence zone due to which:

i) The Enumeration Lists at FRL-2m & FRL-4m in the submergence zone as mandated in the PARIVESH Portal could not be uploaded presently.

ii) The exact number of trees/poles to be felled could not be ascertained with accuracy, thereby rendering the associated Costs of Marking, Felling and Transportation and the overall cost of CA Plan liable to changes and review.

**3. NON-HANDING OVER OF THE NON-FOREST LAND PATCHES FOR CA PLANTATION:**

The Compensatory Afforestation Plan on Degraded Forest Patches in its present form has been prepared in anticipation of the completion of the field demarcation & verification exercise of the non-forest CA land to be provided in lieu of the forest land proposed for diversion, which is currently underway. Therefore, the CA Plan on Degraded Forest Areas is subject to any revision as per the exact extent of the non-forest land actually made available by the User Agency based on ground truthing, mutation of the same in the revenue records in favour of the Forest Department, Jammu and Kashmir and notification thereof as RF PF under Indian Forest Act, 1927 as per extant provisions of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 .

Hence, in view of the foregoing account of deficiencies, the Project may be granted the Stage-I or In-principle approval subject to certain terms and conditions based on the deficiencies mentioned herein before. The Stage-II or Final Approval may be granted only after the User Agency removes the deficiencies and the necessary changes thereof are suitably incorporated in the Form A, Part-II being uploaded.

  
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