

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
**OFFICE OF THE CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS,
CHENAB CIRCLE DODA**

Tel/Fax: 01996-233590

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The Chief Conservator of Forests,
Nodal Officer (FCA)

No: -10428/CFC

Dated: 24-01-2024

Name of the Project:-Sawalkot HE Project (1856 MW) in Ramban & Batote Forest Division.

Proposal No:-FP/JK/HYD/150591/2021

SITE INSPECTION REPORT

1. A proposal from NHPC Limited regarding Sawalkot HE Project (1856 MW) in Ramban District is recommended by DFO Ramban & Batote in Parivesh Portal for diversion of Forest land under Forest conservation Act, 1980 for non-forestry purpose. The project envisaged of 332.28 Hac & 285.54 Hac (165.40 Hac Reserve Forest & 120.14 Hac Gairmumkin Jhar) in Ramban & Batote Forest Division respectively. The site inspection of the spot involved in the proposal has been done by the undersigned at Dharamkund, Karol, Tanger, Ramban, Maitra, Kowbagh on 15-01-2024.
2. The requirement of the forest land and felling of trees as proposed by the user agency in col-2 part-I, is unavoidable.
3. No Rare/Endangered/Unique species of Flora and Fauna were found in the area during the visit. However as per Working Plan, some species falling in Schedule-I & III of the Wildlife Protection Act 1972 are found in the area namely Leopard (*Panthera pardus*), Khaleej Pheasant (*Lophurus leucomelana*), White Backed Vulture (*Gyps bengalensis*), Himalayan Griffon Vulture (*Gyps himalayensis*). Other Wildlife found in the area is Rhesus Macaque (*Mucaca mulatta*), Common fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), Jackal (*Canes aureus*), Grey Jungle Fow (*Gallus gallus*), Goral (*Naemorhedus Goral*) etc.
4. Defence establishment at Maitra is located along the current alignment. The establishment will be shifted to other side.
5. Whether site, where the forest land involved is located has been inspected by concerned Conservator of Forests (Yes).
6. Whether the concerned Conservator of Forests agree with the information given in Part-B and the recommendations of Divisional Forest Officer (Yes).

SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATION:-

The proposal may be accepted as per guideline of Govt. of India as the Forest land proposal for diversion of 332.28 Hac & 285.54 Hac (165.40 Hac Reserve Forest & 120.14 Hac Gairmumkin Jhar) in Ramban & Batote Forest Division respectively of Forest land is essentially required for Sawalkot HE Project (1856 MW) in Ramban District of the UT of J&K and is recommended for the forest clearance under Forest Conservation Act 1980. The location has been selected after detailed geo-technical and geological studies. 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, hence, paving the way for overall socio-economic development of different regions of Ramban, Reasi and Udhampur Districts. The project will also unleash the agricultural potential of the otherwise barren regions and will benefit thousands of souls.

The EIA Study suggests that the area of Dam and its surrounding including submergence zone are dominant by Dolomite rock and loose soil which are prone to landslides and sinking of land due to continuous contact with water especially in summer season and monsoon period when the water level would be high. This area is also seismically active and after construction of dam it may increase the seismic activities. The user agency need to plan robust mechanism in place for the safety of dam and surrounding area for any unforeseen crisis keeping in view the geological structure of this area.

Therefore, in view of the underlying urgency and fact that the project has national strategic importance, it is recommended that the project be granted the Stage-I or In-Principle approval subject to certain terms and condition as imposed by MoEF & CC after removal following shortcomings/deficiencies. 1. Approval of the Catchment Area Treatment (CAT) Plan. 2. Environment Clearance under the Environment (Protection) Act



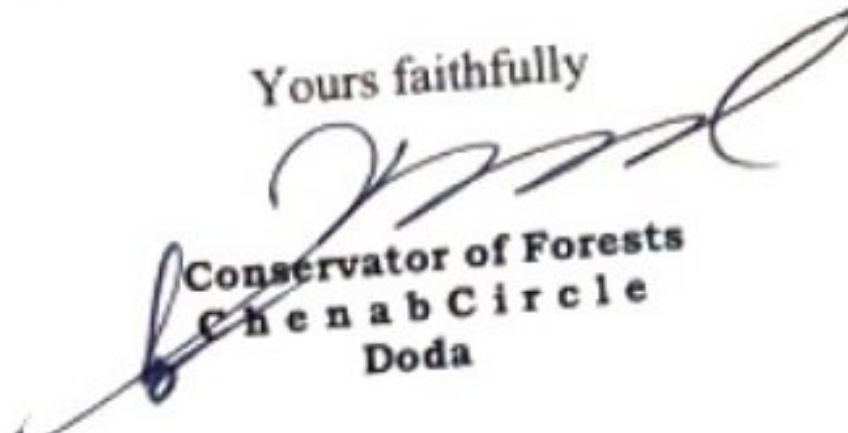
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1986 as per the actual area. 3. Submission of revised Cost Benefit Analysis document after reconciling of final figures of compensatory levies of NPV, CA, Addl CA etc of all Four Division. 4. Implementation of EIA study recommendations.

Hence Submitted by Divisional Forest Officer Ramban and Batote is recommended to be accepted.

Yours faithfully


Conservator of Forests
Chenab Circle
Doda

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Part-III

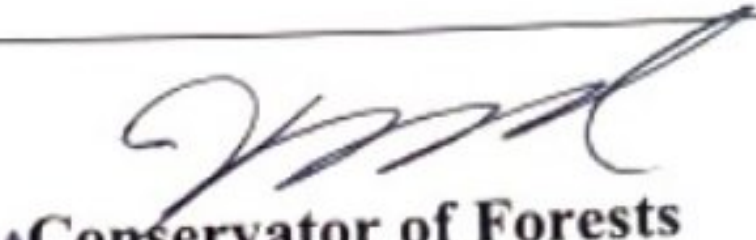
#	Subject	Reply
1	Whether site, where the forest land involved in the case is located has been inspected by the concerned Conservator of Forests?	yes
2	Whether the concerned Conservator of Forests agrees with the information given in Part-B and the recommendation of Deputy Conservator of Forests	Yes
3	Specific recommendation of concerned Conservator of forests for acceptance or otherwise of the proposal with detail reasons	<p>The proposal may be accepted as per guideline of Govt. of India as the Forest land proposal for diversion of 332.28 Hac & 285.54 Hac (165.40 Hac Reserve Forest & 120.14 Hac Gairmumkin Jhar) in Ramban & Batote Forest Division respectively of Forest land is essentially required for Sawalkot HE Project (1856 MW) in Ramban District of the UT of J&K and is recommended for the forest clearance under Forest Conservation Act 1980. The location has been selected after detailed geo-technical and geological studies. 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, hence, paving the way for overall socio-economic development of different regions of Ramban, Reasi and Udhampur Districts. The project will also unleash the agricultural potential of the otherwise barren regions and will benefit thousands of souls.</p> <p>The EIA Study suggests that the area of Dam and its surrounding including submergence zone are dominant by Dolomite rock and loose soil which are prone to landslides and sinking of land due to continuous contact with water especially in summer season and monsoon period when the water level would be high. This area is also seismically active and after construction of dam it may increase the seismic activities. The user agency need to plan robust mechanism in place for the safety of dam and surrounding area for any unforeseen crisis keeping in view the geological structure of this area.</p> <p>Therefore, in view of the underlying urgency and fact that the project has national strategic importance, it is recommended that the project be granted the Stage-I or In-Principle approval subject to certain terms and condition as imposed by MoEF & CC after removal following shortcomings/deficiencies. 1. Approval of the Catchment Area Treatment (CAT) Plan. 2. Environment Clearance under the Environment (Protection) Act 1986 as per the</p>

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