



Govt of Jammu and Kashmir (Union Territory)

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER MAHORE HQ DHARMARI

**The Conservator of Forests,
West Circle Rajouri**

NO. DFO/MFD/ 308-09

dated 14-05-2025

Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (i) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan E�am Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in favour of National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) Ltd. for non-forestry use of 847.17 ha. of Reserved Forest and Jungle-jhari land for construction of Sawalkot HEP (1856 MW) within the jurisdiction of Udhampur, Mahore, Batote and Ramban Forest Divisions, Districts- Udhampur, Reasi and Ramban in the State of Jammu & Kashmir (Online proposal No. FP/JK/HYD/150591/2021)- regarding.

Ref: MoEF&CC New Delhi communication No. 01-01-2025 and No. 14-02-2025

Sir,

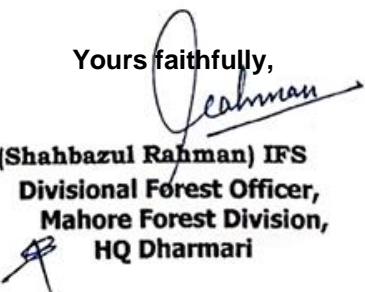
On the subject matter cited above, point wise reply to the observations raised by the MoEF&CC in EDS dated 01-01-2025 and 14-02-2025 pertains to Mahore Forest Division, is submitted as under:

S. No.	EDS	Reply
8	As per information provided in the proposal, area proposed for compensatory afforestation is 2115.878 ha, whereas, as per DSS, area proposed for CA is coming upto 2009.416 ha. Complete KML files for land proposed for compensatory afforestation may be submitted. The reply with respect to Mahore Forest Division is as under:-	
	Mahore Division:	As per the list received with the EDS, it is submitted that the area of KML files of Compensatory Afforestation proposed on degraded forest land with respect to Forest Division Mahore has been calculated using the tools available on Google Earth. Further, the area mentioned in the column as “Software Calculated Area (ha.)” has been rounded off to two decimal places by Google Earth.
11	Soil and moisture conservation plan is not submitted for all four Forest Divisions i.e. Udhampur Division, Ramban Division, Batote and Mahore Division. The same needs to be submitted.	
	Mahore Division:	The Mahore Forest Division proposed compensatory afforestation plan incorporates significant silviculture interventions, specifically addressing soil and water conservation measures to ensure comprehensive ecosystem rehabilitation. These interventions have been strategically designed to promote sustainable forest management and enhance the overall health of the ecosystem: 1. Soil Conservation Measures: To safeguard and enhance soil quality, a series

		<p>of measures have been integrated into the plan. This includes the implementation of erosion control strategies such DRSM and Crate work have been proposed (wherever required) as per site specification to prevent the area from soil erosion. These measures aim to prevent soil erosion, improve soil structure, and preserve soil nutrients critical for healthy vegetation growth.</p> <p>2. <u>Trench planting:</u></p> <p>This office has proposed trench plantation in the areas having sloppy terrain (wherever required) to conserve maximum moisture and prevent from soil erosion. Trench planting is a proposed technique particularly suitable for areas with sloped terrain, implemented to conserve maximum moisture and prevent soil erosion. By strategically utilizing trenches in such terrains, this approach helps in retaining water, thereby aiding moisture conservation and mitigating soil erosion. This method is especially effective in areas prone to runoff, where the trenches act as barriers to minimize soil loss and facilitate better moisture retention, promoting healthier vegetation and supporting sustainable land management practices.</p> <p>3. <u>Water Conservation Strategies:</u></p> <p>The plan prioritizes water conservation through various approaches. This involves the development of water harvesting structures, such as ponds to conserve and augment water availability. Moreover, the plan emphasizes the preservation of natural water sources.</p>
17	<p>As per DSS, Compensatory afforestation has been proposed over 2009.416 ha. degraded forest land, out of which, 79 ha is classified as very dense forest (Batote Division- 14 ha, Mahore- 19 ha, Ramban- 45 ha and Udhampur- 1 ha.), 533 ha moderately dense forest land (Batote Division- 223 ha, Mahore- 4 ha, Ramban- 179 ha and Udhampur- 127 ha.). As per Rule 13 (1) Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023, programme for improvement of forest crop needs to be submitted by the State Government for respective Divisions.</p>	
	<p>Mahore Division:</p>	<p>In compliance with Rule 13(1) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023, this division has proposed a comprehensive Compensatory Afforestation (CA) plan, which includes a detailed programme for the improvement of the forest crop. The CA plans have been designed with a 10-year maintenance schedule to ensure sustainability and long-term ecological benefits. Moreover, provisions for engaging labour for the watch and ward of closures have also been incorporated into the CA plans to safeguard the plantations and enhance their success rate in respect of Mahore Forest Division.</p>

18	The basis of estimated number of trees affected may kindly be confirmed and the details may be provided whether they would be required to cut or will be under submergence and get effected.	
	Mahore Division:	The joint verification of forest land coming under the alignment of the project in Comp. 74 has been conducted with user agency and during joint verification it is found that as per the enumeration list are 819 in nos which are both conifer and broad leaved are involved and user agency further certified that all 819 of trees actually required to cut or will be under submergence and get affected.
19	Reply to Ministry's letter dated 14.02.2025 wherein it was mentioned that Compensatory afforestation has been proposed over 2009.416 ha. degraded forest land, out of which, 79 ha is classified as very dense forest (Batote Division- 14 ha, Mahore- 19 ha, Ramban- 45 ha and Udhampur- 1 ha.), 533 ha moderately dense forest land (Batote Division- 223 ha, Mahore- 4 ha, Ramban- 179 ha and Udhampur- 127 ha.). In this regard, it is to inform that, as per Rule 13 of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023, alternate CA sites along with CA details viz. site suitability certificate, site specific CA scheme, KML file and DGPS maps needs to be submitted by the State Government.	CA site area measuring 19 Ha, with respect to Mahore Forest Division is re-verified and is found suitable for plantation. Further, a site suitability certificate in this regard is enclosed.

Yours faithfully,


(Shahbazul Rahman) IFS
Divisional Forest Officer,
Mahore Forest Division,
HQ Dharmari

Copy submitted the Chief Conservator of Forests (Nodal Officer FCA) o/o the Pr. CCF HoFF J&K UT for favour of information please