

NH/HOP/SHEP/Env/2022/Camp/

Date: 29.04.2023

The Divisional Forest Officer,
Udhampur Forest Division,
Udhampur.

Sub: Clarification regarding Forest area for Diversion & Fixing of Permanent Benchmarks in
Sawalkote HE Project (17856MW) (Proposal No.FP/JK/HYD/15591/2021)- Reply to EDS reg.

Ref: Your Office Letter No. 405-08/FDU dated 10.04.2023.

Sir,

Please reference to above cited subject, wherein you were requested to make necessary corrections and also for demarcation & delineation of project areas for finalization of forest land to be diverted for construction of Sawalkote HE project, the reply is as under:

1. In reply to point No. 1 it is submitted that the difference between the PBM's laid out for the total forest land required for the construction of Sawalkote HE Project (1856 MW), accordingly the KML for 189.75 ha has been prepared and uploaded on PARIVESH portal.

In this regard, It is submitted that an MOU was signed on 03/01/2021 between NHPC and JKSPDC for taking over of the Sawalkote HE Project (1856 MW) from JKSPDC. Subsequently, an agreement was signed on 11/12/2021 towards finalization of modalities for handing over / taking over with JKSPDC. Accordingly, forest proposal for diversion of 648.245 ha of forest land required for construction of said project was prepared and uploaded in PARVESH Portal on 31.12.2021, out of which an area measuring about 189.75 ha of forest land involved was in Panchari Range of Udhampur forest division in CO. 53 P & 73 as per details provided by the JKPDC.

During the execution of this project by JKSPDC, total Forest Land measuring about 14.661 has been diverted in 3 parts (i). Land measuring about 0.161 ha vide Govt. Order No. FST. 469 of 2011 dated 17.12.2011 additional land for construction of Bridge Abutment A-2 of Mandiyal Bridge Comptt. No. 71/P. (ii). Land measuring about 8.5 ha vide Govt. Order No. FST. 249 of 2006 dated 18.05.2006 for External Axis Road and tunnel in Comptt. No. 71/P, further Land measuring about 6 ha vide Govt. Order No. FST. 169 dated 07.07.2017 for construction of 1500-Meter-long Tunnel across Mandiyal Bridge Comptt. 71/P & 53 /P, Block Chai Lodhra, Panchari Range, Udhampur.

During the process of joint verification of the site, the DFO, Udhampur vide letter No. 3478-72/FDU dated 30.08.2022, has directed to conduct survey & installation of PBM's for entire land measuring about 205 h. Accordingly, the entire area was surveyed and PBM's were installed (which includes current area 189.75 ha).

Further, it is submitted that area proposed 189.75 ha fall in between PBM's No. 5 to 22 (except PBM, 21 which was laid out of boundary shall be treated as discarded), which also includes Submergence area which falls in between PBM's 1 to 9 only. Accordingly, the KML, SOI Map & Geo Reference was prepared and uploaded on PARIVESH Portal for diversion of land in Udhampur division.

Balance area 14.661 ha which was already diverted, the area falls in between PBM's 1 to 10 was made for reference only.

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