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No./RK./-3738

Dated-03-08-2023

From :- D.C.F. Mandi

To:- CCF (T),Mandi

Subject :- Diversion of 23.97 ha of Forest Land for setting up of National Disaster Response Forest (NDRF) battalion in favour of Sub Divisional Officer (Civil) at Balh, Tehsil Balh Distt. Mandi H.P within the jurisdiction of Mandi Forest Division, Distt. Mandi H.P (Online Proposal No. FP/HP/Others/122895/2021 Dated 20.03.2023).

Madam,

Kindly refer to GOI letter No. FC/HPC/09/53/2022 dated 06.04.2023 on the subject cited above.

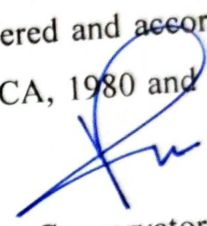
2. The observation as pointed out vide letter under reference has been attended by the user agency & this office and reply of the same is given in annotated manner as under :-

Point No.	Reply
1	The Land Revenue Records verifying the legal status of the proposed diversion Area has been attached as Annexure-I and uploaded the same in the MOEF portal.
2	The KML file has been revised and uploaded on the portal in part-I.
3	The total area of the project has been revised and the area for residential components has been reduced to less than 1 ha. Also, the residential component is an essential part of the project as per norms of NDRF Battalion is proposed as per the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) guidelines dated 10.08.2011. As per the guidelines the area proposed for different buildings is being adhered to. However, in respect of the FCA guidelines the residential area (Quarters) has been restricted to less than 1 hectare. Undertaking has been uploaded and enclosed as Annexure-II
4	i) As per norms of NDRF the minimum area requirement for establishment of NDRF Battalion in Hilly/Mountainous Area is 70 Acres (i.e. 28.328) ha Which is well within the norms and copy of office memorandum has been attached and uploaded on the portal for clarification. The norms fixed by MHA regarding constructed/build up area does not include the provisions of setback, roads, open area and other utilities etc. Hence the revised proposal the diversion of 23.97 ha of forest land has been proposed for NDRF battalion. However, considering the importance of forests and green cover in ecological

	<p>balance, the total area of this project has been reduced to 23.97 ha which 4.358 ha less than the permissible limit of 28.328 ha Furthermore, the area covered under dense forests has been excluded in the revised proposal.</p> <p>ii) Legible copy of norm and office memorandum with revised Part-I & Part-II have been uploaded on the portal and the same are enclosed as Annexure-III</p>
5	Revised Layout plan has been attached as Annexure-IV and uploaded in online portal part-I.
6	<p>The total trees has been reduced from 1100 to 1035 by revising the diversion area from 27.5709 ha to 23.97 ha. Out of which only 450 to 550 trees will be felled for built up structure and roads. The trees coming in boundary of the proposed site will not be felled and will be retained for view cutter facility from the civil area. To save the large number of trees of ecological importance, the plan has been revised in consultation with NDRF and accordingly thickly forest area has been excluded from the original proposal. The revised enumeration list is enclosed herewith as Annexure-V</p> <p>As NDRF being maintained on Army guidelines, the NDRF structures needs dense foliage as view cutters and boundary from the civilian living in the surrounding area. Thus the user agency has undertaken that the forest area along the periphery would be maintained as such and no trees would be fallen in 5 meter wide boundary setback area and buildings setback as well. Undertaking attached as Annexure-VI.</p>
7	The detail of CA area with revenue record is uploaded on the portal and enclosed herewith as Annexure-VII
8	User Agency has replied that necessary correction has been done in online Part-I, Para-H.
9	<p>The total area of proposed project has been reduced to 23.97 ha. Accordingly the area for setback & open area has also been reduced to minimize the use of forest land. As per the Ministry of Home Affairs guidelines only the specification of built up area has been given. Rest of the areas under the setback, vegetation, green cover, roads & street etc. has been provisioned as per prevailing norms of Town & Country Planning Department as this area has been notified as TCP area as per the HP Govt. notification No. TCP-A(3)-1/2018 dated 20.03.2021.</p> <p>Thus, the components like setbacks, streets, green cover, open area etc. have been provisioned so as to make while complex livable and ecologically sustainable. As pointed out the diversion of forest area for the above said purpose has been kept to bare minimum and the revised layout has been prepared in consultation with HPPWD keeping in mind the actual requirement and the purpose of the project. It is also worth mentioning here that in hilly terrains/slope a sizeable portion of land is wasted in land</p>

	development, hill cutting, provision of retaining wall etc. Therefore, such factors have also been taken care of while preparing the revised proposal. Undertaking for the same is uploaded and enclosed as Annexure-VIII
10	The component wise detail has been attached as Annexure-IX and uploaded in the online portal Part-I.
11	Revised component detail has been uploaded and the component "Land for Vegetative (1.4418 ha)" has been removed from online Part-I

In view of the reply given above, may please considered and accordingly report be transmitted to higher office to obtained necessary approval under FCA, 1980 and conveyed to this office please.


Deputy Conservator of Forests,
Mandi Forest Division, Mandi, H.P