

Government of India  
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change  
(Forest Conservation Division)

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Indira Paryavaran Bhawan  
Aliganj, Jor bagh Road  
New Delhi- 110003  
**Dated:19-12-2024**

To  
The Principal Secretary (Forests),  
Department of Environment and Forests,  
Government of Himachal Pradesh.  
Talland, Shimla.

**Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in favour of HP Education Department, Directorate of Higher Education, Himachal Pradesh for non-forestry use of 1.5298 ha. of Protected forest land for construction Govt. Degree College, Sihunta within the jurisdiction of Dalhousie Forest Division, District Chamba, Himachal Pradesh (Online proposal no. FP/HP/SCH/21873/2016)- regarding.**

Sir/Madam,

I am directed to refer to Government of Himachal Pradesh's letter No. Ft.48-3450/2016 (FCA) dated 08.03.2017 on the above mentioned subject, seeking prior approval of Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. After careful consideration of the proposal by the Advisory Committee constituted by the Central Government under Section-3 of the said Act, ***'in-principle'/Stage-I*** approval to the proposal was granted vide this Ministry's letter of even number dated 31.07.2024 subject to fulfillment of certain conditions prescribed therein. The State Government has furnished compliance report in respect of the conditions stipulated in the in-principle approval and has requested the Central Government to grant final approval.

2. In this connection, I am directed to say that on the basis of the compliance report furnished by the Government of Himachal Pradesh vide letter No. Ft.48-(FCA) dated 26.11.2024, ***'final approval'/Stage- II*** of the Central Government is hereby granted under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in favour of HP Education Department, Directorate of Higher Education, Himachal Pradesh for **non-forestry use of 1.5298 ha. of Protected forest land for construction Govt. Degree College, Sihunta within the jurisdiction of Dalhousie Forest Division, District Chamba, Himachal Pradesh**, subject to the following conditions:-

- i. Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged;
- ii. The State Government shall ensure that work of compensatory afforestation shall be started within two years of issue of Stage- II approval over degraded

forest land, double in extent to the forest land being diverted (**3.1 ha. Degraded forest land in Survey No. 52D/3/SW, Khasra No. 119/2, 137 in MohalBalu, Man Massi DPF, Bhattiyat Forest Range, Dalhousie Forest Division, Distt. Chamba**);

- iii. The land identified for the purpose of CA shall be clearly depicted on a Survey of India topo sheet of 1:50,000 scale;
- iv. **The State Govt. shall ensure that the minimum number of trees be felled in the project and the blank areas shall be enriched and maintained as green patches;**
- v. **Land use plan shall not be changed and no diversion of forest land will be allowed for any further expansion of this project work;**
- vi. **State Govt. shall take all measures and required permissions for the safety of the proposed building/infrastructure from seismic activity and any other natural exigencies;**
- vii. **No muck and debris disposal will be allowed in the forest area;**
- viii. The State Government shall ensure that tree felling is done only in built up area and bare minimum felling is permitted in other non-built up areas. Felling of trees before the start of construction is verified by the concerned DFO;
- ix. The KML files of diverted area and the CA areas shall be uploaded on the e-Green watch portal with all requisite details prior to Stage II approval;
- x. At the time of payment of the Net Present Value (NPV) at the present rate, the User Agency shall furnish an undertaking to pay the additional amount of NPV, if so determined, as per the final decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India;
- xi. The State Government shall ensure that process for settlement of rights under the Forest Rights Act, 2006 has been completed as per Rule 11 (7) of Handbook of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 issued by the Ministry in this regard on 29.12.2023;
- xii. The complete compliance report shall be uploaded on e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>);
- xiii. Trees should be felled in phased manner as per the requirement in the approved Plan with prior permission of concerned DFO;
- xiv. The cost of felling of trees shall be deposited by the User Agency with the State Forest Department;
- xv. The user agency shall explore the possibility of translocation of maximum number of trees identified to be felled and shall ensure that any tree felling shall be done only when it is unavoidable and that too under strict supervision of the State Forest Department;
- xvi. The User Agency, if required, shall obtain the Environment Clearance under the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 issued under the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986;
- xvii. No labour camp shall be established on the forest land and the User Agency shall provide fuels preferably alternate fuels to the labourers and the staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the nearby forest areas;
- xviii. No additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for transportation of construction materials for execution of the project work;

- xix. The boundary of the diverted forest land shall be demarcated on ground at the project cost, by erecting four feet high reinforced cement concrete pillars, each inscribed with its serial number, distance from pillar to pillar and GPS coordinates;
- xx. The period of diversion under this approval shall be co-terminus with the period of lease to be granted in favour of the user agency or the project life, whichever is less;
- xxi. The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government and the forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal;
- xxii. The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agency, department or person without prior approval of the Central Government;
- xxiii. No damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused;
- xxiv. The concerned Divisional Forest Officer, will monitor and take necessary mitigative measures to ensure that there is no adverse impact on the forests in the surrounding area;
- xxv. Any other condition that the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change may stipulate from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife shall be carried with by the State Government and user agency;
- xxvi. The State Government and User Agency shall ensure compliance to all conditions stipulated in the 'in-principle' approval letter dated 31.07.2024 for which undertakings have been obtained from the user agency and also the provisions of the all the Acts, Rules, Regulations, complete compliance of FRA, 2006 and Guidelines, relevant Hon'ble Court Order (S) and NGT Order (S), if any, or the time being in force, including compliance of the Schedule Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forests Rights) Act, 2006, before handing over the forest land to the user agency;
- xxvii. The User Agency shall submit the annual self-compliance report in respect of the above stated conditions to the State Government, concerned Regional Office and to this Ministry by the end of March every year regularly; and
- xxviii. Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and action would be taken as prescribed in para 1.16 of Chapter 1 of the consolidated guidelines and clarifications issued under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 as issued by this Ministry's letter No. 5-2/2017-FC dated 29.12.2023.

Yours faithfully,

*Sd/-*  
**(S. Sundar)**  
Assistant Inspector General of Forests

**Copy to: -**

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Government of Himachal

Pradesh, Shimla.

2. The DDGF (C), Regional Office, Chandigarh of MoEFCC.
3. The Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Himachal Pradesh, Shimla.
4. The User Agency.
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF & CC, New Delhi for uploading.