

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Aliganj, Jor bagh Road
New Delhi- 110003
Dated:23-06-2025

To

The Principal Secretary (Forests)
Government of Uttarakhand,
Dehradun.

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 Uttarakhand Jal Vidyut Nigam (UJVN) Ltd. for non-forestry use of 29.997 ha. of Forest land for Construction of Sirkari Bhyol Rupsiabagar HEP, District- Pithoragarh in the State of Uttarakhand (Online No. FP/UK/HYD/119861/2021)- regarding.

Sir/Madam,

I am directed to refer to Government of Uttarakhand letter No. FP/UK/HYD/119861/2021 dated 05.12.2022 and letter No. 2202/12-1 dated 11.03.2025 on the above mentioned subject, seeking prior approval of Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and to say that the said proposal has been examined by the Advisory Committee (AC) constituted by the Central Government under Section- 3 of the aforesaid Act.

2. After careful consideration of the proposal of the Government of Uttarakhand and on the basis of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee (AC), the Central Government hereby agrees to accord **Stage-I / In-principle** approval Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in favour of Uttarakhand Jal Vidyut Nigam (UJVN) Ltd. for non-forestry use of 29.997 ha. of Forest land for Construction of Sirkari Bhyol Rupsiabagar HEP, District- Pithoragarh in the State of Uttarakhand subject to the following conditions:-

- i. Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged;
- ii. The Compensatory afforestation over 60.06 ha of Civil Soyam degraded land in 8 patches as mentioned in State Government letter No. 2202/12-1 dated 11.03.2025, shall be raised by the State Forest Department at the project cost within two years from the date of grant of Stage- II approval;

- iii. The cost of compensatory afforestation at the prevailing wage rates as per compensatory afforestation scheme and the cost of survey, demarcation and erection of permanent pillars, if required, on the CA land, shall be deposited in advance with the Forest Department by the user agency. The CA will be maintained for 10 years. The scheme may include afforestation of indigenous species with appropriate provision for anticipated cost increase for works scheduled for subsequent years, into the account of National Authority, CAMPA managed by the State Government;
- iv. The civil soyam land identified for raising compensatory afforestation shall be transferred and mutated in favour of State Forest Department or notified as PF under section 29 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 of local Act before handing over the forest land to the user agency. Detail of documents pertaining to transfer/mutation or notification shall be submitted to the Ministry along with the compliance of in-principle approval;
- v. 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;
- vi. The State Government shall charge the Net Present Value (NPV) of the forest land being diverted under this proposal from the User Agency as per the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India dated 28.03.2008, 24.04.2008 and 09.05.2008 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 202/1995 and the guidelines issued by this Ministry vide its letter No. 5-3/2007-FC (pt.) dated 29.12.2023 in this regard;
- vii. 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;
- viii. The cost of felling of trees shall be deposited by the User Agency with the State Forest Department;
- ix. The Compensatory levies to be realized from the User Agency under the project shall be transferred/ deposited, through e-challan, in to the account of National Authority, CAMPA pertaining to the State concerned through e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>);
- x. The State Government shall complete settlement of rights, in term of the Scheduled Tribes and Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, if any, on the forest land to be diverted as per the sub-rule (7) of Rule 11 of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 before handing over the forest land to the user agency;
- xi. The complete compliance report shall be uploaded on e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>);
- xii. **A copy of the approved Catchment Area Treatment Plan shall be**

submitted along with the compliance of in-principle approval by the State and cost of implementation shall be realised from the user agency and deposited into the account of State CAMPA managed by the National Authority, CAMPA;

- xiii. ***A copy of the approval obtained from the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) for the construction, maintenance, and operation of the proposed HEPs shall be obtained and submitted along with the compliance of in-principle approval;***
- xiv. ***Requisite statutory approval for undertaking quarrying in the area during the construction phase of the project shall be obtained from the concerned Department of the State and a copy of the same along with the Mining Plan, shall be submitted to the Ministry along with the compliance of in-principle approval;***
- xv. ***A muck disposal plan, approved by the competent authority in the State to ensure safe disposal of muck at the designated sites shall be submitted along with the compliance of in-principle approval;***
- xvi. 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;
- xvii. The User Agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if required;
- xviii. User agency shall provide free water for forestry related activities/ projects;
- xix. 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;
- xx. No additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for transportation of construction materials for execution of the project work;
- xxi. 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;
- xxii. 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;
- xxiii. The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government;
- xxiv. The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in

the project proposal;

- xxv. 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;
- xxvi. No damage to the flora, fauna or the environment of the adjoining area shall be caused; Adequate measures to ensure no damage to the adjoining areas should be taken by the User Agency at the project cost;
- xxvii. 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;
- xxviii. 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;
- xxix. 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 out by the State Government and User Agency;
- xxx. The User Agency shall comply all the provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, Hon'ble Court Order (s) and NGT Order (s) pertaining to this project, if any, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project; and
- xxxi. 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 consolidated guidelines and clarifications issued under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 issued on 29.12.2023.

After receipt of compliance report on fulfilment of the conditions mentioned above, the proposal shall be considered for final approval under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. Transfer of forest land shall not be affected till final approval is granted by the Central Government in this regard.

faithfully,

Yours

Sd/-
(Charan Jeet Singh)
Scientist 'E'

Copy to: -

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Government of Uttarakhand, Dehradun.
2. The DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Dehradun of MoEF&CC.
3. The Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Uttarakhand, Dehradun.
4. The User Agency.
5. The Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF & CC, New Delhi for uploading.