

File No.: 8-04/2025-FC
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bag Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi – 110003
Dated: As per E-sign

To

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Government of Himachal Pradesh, 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 M/s Neel Kanth Mining for non-forestry use of 1.5452 ha Unclassed forest for extraction of Sand, Stone & Bajari at Sarshkan Tehsil- Dharampur, District- Mandi in the State of Himachal Pradesh (Online proposal No. FP/HP/MIN/118435/2021)- regarding

Sir/Madam,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Himachal Pradesh letter No. HPED-F05/95/2023 (FCA) dated 19.12.2025 on the subject cited above. In this regard, the proposal has been examined in the Ministry, and the State Government is requested to furnish the following information:

1. Impact on water flow of Son Khad:

As per the Site Inspection Report (SIR) of the Regional Office, the proposed mining activity is located on the bank of Son Khad, a seasonal river. The proposed mining lease area lies between the forest area and the mainstream of Son Khad, and access to the lease area requires crossing the mainstream of the river. During the inspection conducted in the last week of December, water flow was observed in Son Khad. Accordingly, the possible impacts arising from disturbance to the water flow due to crossing of the mainstream need to be evaluated, and appropriate mitigation measures are required to be adopted. Copy of the SIR is enclosed herewith.

In view of the above, the State Government is requested to furnish details regarding:

- a. the possible impacts of the proposed mining activity on the water flow of the Son Khad River; and
- b. the mitigation measures proposed to address such impacts.

Digitally signed by
KRISHNA DEVAN S
Date: 16-02-2026
18:31:59

Yours faithfully,
(Krishna Devan S)
Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. The PCCF (HoFF), Department of Forest, Government of Himachal Pradesh,

Shimla;

2. The Dy. DGF (Central), Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Chandigarh;

3. The Nodal Officer, Department of Forest, Government of Himachal Pradesh, Shimla;

4. User Agency;

5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF & CC, New Delhi for uploading on PARIVESH portal.

SITE INSPECTION REPORT OF 1.5452 HA. FOREST LAND PROPOSED FOR DIVERSION IN FAVOUR OF NEEL KANTH MINING (EXTRACTION OF SAND, STONE & BAJARI) AT SARSHKAN TEHSIL DHARAMPUR DISTRICT MANDI, HIMACHAL PRADESH. (ONLINE PROPOSAL NO. FP/HP/MIN/118435/2021).

Recommendations of the Deputy Director General of Forests (Central):

1. The MoEF&CC vide letter dated 13.08.2025 requested the Regional Office to carry out the inspection of the instant proposal. Accordingly, the Technical Officer of the RO, Chandigarh inspected the site on 23.12.2025.
2. The findings and recommendation of the inspecting officer of the RO, Chandigarh is attached herewith and same is agreed upon.
3. The proposal is for collection of Sand Stone and Bazari from right bank of Son Khad a seasonal river in Dharmpur Tehsil under Joginder Nagar Forest Division, Himachal Pradesh and same is recommended for consideration in the Advisory Committee as per the extant Rules and Guidelines issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

Digitally signed by
Satya Prakash Negi
Date: 07-01-2026
15:09:32

(Satya Prakash Negi)
Deputy Director General of Forest

SITE INSPECTION REPORT OF 1.5452 HA. FOREST LAND PROPOSED FOR DIVERSION IN FAVOUR OF NEEL KANTH MINING (EXTRACTION OF SAND, STONE & BAJARI) AT SARSHKAN TEHSIL DHARAMPUR DISTRICT MANDI, HIMACHAL PRADESH. (ONLINE PROPOSAL NO. FP/HP/MIN/118435/2021).

Name of the Inspecting Officer- N K Dimri, Technical Officer (Gr-I), MoEF&CC, Regional Office, Chandigarh on 23.12.2025.

Officials from the State Forest Department

1. Shri Naresh Kumar, Forest Range Officer, Sonipat.
2. Shri Vishal, BFO, Sonipat.

Officials from the User Agency

Not present

- I. Legal status of the forest land proposed for diversion:** Unclassed Forests.
- II. Item-wise break-up details of the forest land proposed for diversion:** Item-wise break-up: Extraction of minor mineral and river bed material
- III. Whether proposal involves any construction of buildings (including residential) or not. If yes, details thereof:** NO.
- IV. Wildlife:**
Whether forest area proposed for diversion is important from wildlife point of view or not
As per the forest officials present during the inspection; the proposed area is not important from wildlife point of view. Further as per the Part-II wildlife present in area are Monkey ,hare, porcupine, jungle fowl, pea-cock etc.
- V. Vegetation:**
 - i. Details of total number of trees to be felled:** Nil .
- VI. Background on the proposal:**
The User Agency has proposed diversion of 1.5452 ha forest land for collection of Sand Stone and Bazari at Muhal Sarskan, Khasra No. 2/2 on right bank of Son Khad a seasonal river in Dharpur Tehsil under Joginder Nagar Forest Division, Himachal Pradesh.
- VII. Whether proposal involves violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 or not. If yes, a detailed report on violation including action taken against the concerned officials.**

No violation has been reported by DFO in Part II, also no non-forestry work was observed during inspection in the proposed forest land.

VIII. Whether proposal involves rehabilitation of displaced persons. If yes, whether rehabilitation plan has been prepared by the State Government or not. Details be furnished specifically if rehabilitation plan would affect any other forest area by trans-locating outstees in and around the said forest:

No.

IX. Compensatory Afforestation:

Compensatory Afforestation has been proposed over double 3.10 ha Undemarcated Protected Forest in Compartment no. H43E13 under Range Dharampur, Dharampur Forest Division. The DFO, Dharampur has certified that the CA site is free from encumbrances and is suitable for plantation.

X. Reclamation Plan: Not Applicable

1. Details and financial allocation: Not Applicable.

XI. Details on catchment and command area under the project: Not Applicable.

XII. Whether land being diverted has any socio-cultural/religious value. Whether any sacred grove or very old grown trees/forests exists in areas proposed for diversion: The officials of the State Forest Department informed that the land being diverted has no socio-cultural / religious value.

XIII. Situation w.r.t. any Protected Area: There are No Protected Areas.

XIV. Recommendations:

- i. The proposed mining activity is proposed in bank of Son Khad, a seasonal River. The proposed mining lease falls between the forest area and the mainstream of the Son Khad and to approach the lease area the mainstream of Son Khad needs to be crossed. At the time of inspection during last week of December, the Son Khad was having water flow; accordingly, the possible impacts due to disturbance in water flow by crossing the mainstream needs to be evaluated and possible mitigation measures need to be adopted.



N K Dimri
Technical Officer (Gr-I)

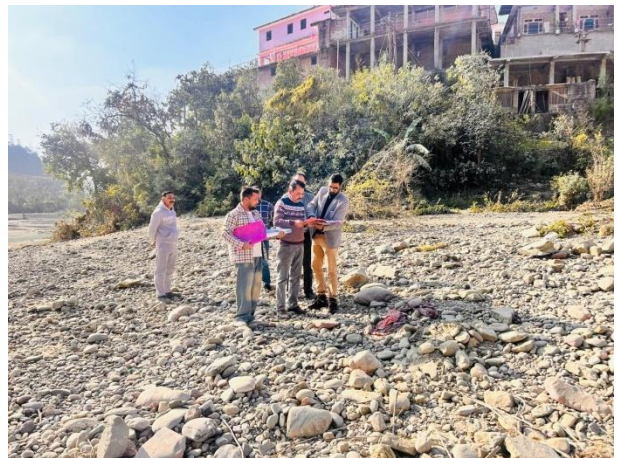
Photographs during the site visit



The project site



The current water flow in Son Khad



Inspecting team