

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

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Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,  
Jor bagh Road, Aliganj,  
New Delhi: 1100 03,  
Dated: January, 2023

To  
The Principal Secretary (Forests),  
Department of Forest and Environment,  
Government of Arunachal Pradesh  
Itanagar

**Sub: Diversion of 1165.66 ha (including 91.331 ha underground area) of forest land for construction of Etalin Hydro Electric Project (EHEP) (3097 MW) in Dibang Valley District of Arunachal Pradesh by M/s Etalin Hydro Electric Power Company Limited, Arunachal Pradesh. -regarding.**

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Arunachal Pradesh's letter No. FOR.279/CONS/2010/10012-18 dated 27.10.2014 on the above mentioned subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 which envisages construction of Etalin Hydro Electric Project (3097 MW) in Dibang Valley District of Arunachal Pradesh by M/s Etalin Hydro Electric Power Company Limited, Arunachal Pradesh.

2. The said Proposal was considered in the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) meeting held on 27.12.2022. The detailed minutes of the meeting is available at [www.parivesh.nic.in](http://www.parivesh.nic.in).

3. The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with Nodal officer (FCA), Arunachal Pradesh. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, the Committee observed that: -

- i. It was noted that since the original proposal was sent by the State Govt. way back in 2014 it is imperative to review the facts and figures presented by the State Govt. especially w.r.t. number of trees which requires to be felled. In this regard, a robust empirical estimate is needed and the State Govt. may seek consultation with FSI in this regard. Further, the concerns regarding the biodiversity and protection of wildlife needs further assessment and safeguards. The Sub-Committee headed by Dr. Sanjay Deshmukh had observed that the multi seasonal replicate bio-diversity study may be carried further to include multi-seasonal replicate study as desired by the FAC earlier. A cumulative impact assessment is needed considering other projects (hydropower) in the Dibang valley. In addition, the IRO had made certain observations vide letter dated 6<sup>th</sup> October 2020 regarding the cost and benefit analysis, the State Govt. may offer comments on this matter or submit a revised cost and benefit analysis considering the present fact and figures.
- ii. It was highlighted that in the earlier approved projects where in Forest Clearance has been accorded there is poor record of compliance w.r.t. conditions stipulated by FAC while according the forest clearance. Further, FAC took note of the

submission made by the State Nodal Officer that there are lot of representations objecting to the present proposal and with regard to already approved projects as well. Due to which already approved projects have not yet started and certain project are not yet being completed. In view of the above, the FAC requested the State Govt. to review the status of all approved projects (operationalization/execution of the projects, commencing & completion of the project and there after compliance with regard the Stage-I and Stage-II conditions) and submit a status report to this Ministry at the earliest.

- iii. With regard to the 424.83 ha of land which has to be handed over to the State Forest Dept. after commissioning of the project as proposed by the User Agency and State Govt, further details such as KML files of various pockets of land to be handed over back to State Forest Dept., R&R plan for reclamation of the proposed area are required.
- iv. The State Govt. may consider the recommendations of the report submitted on 06.12.2022 by the Sub-Committee under the chairmanship of Dr. Sanjay Deshmukh and take necessary action accordingly with regard to the aspects related to the instant proposal and offer its comments.
- v. The present proposal there are large no. of representation voicing concerns against the project. To resolve the issues raised in various representations the State Govt. may constitute a high level empowered committee to look into the various concerns received and come up with resolution therein. The Sub-Committee constituted by FAC earlier in the Chairmanship of Dr. Sanjay Deshmukh has looked into the representations received and submitted a report with recommendations. However, there are more representations which were received by this Ministry after the visit of the Sub-Committee as well and the same have been communicated to the State Govt. The representations are generally raising concerns against the instant proposal and need proper redress by the State Govt. in totality.

Considering the above, FAC opined that the instant proposal cannot be considered in the present form and the revised proposal may be submitted for further consideration by the State Government.

In view of the above, the State Government of Arunachal Pradesh is requested to take appropriate action in the matter as per recommendation of the FAC.

Yours faithfully,

**(Dr. Dheeraj Mittal)**  
Assistant Inspector General of Forests

**Copy to: -**

1. The PCCF (HoFF), Government of Arunachal Pradesh, Itanagar.
2. The Nodal Officer, FCA, Government of Arunachal Pradesh, Itanagar.
3. The Regional Officer, Integrated Regional Office, Guwahati of MoEF&CC.
4. The User Agency.
5. The Monitoring Cell of FC division MoEF&CC, New Delhi.