

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Aliganj, Jor bagh Road
New Delhi– 110003
Dated:10-03-2025

To

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Department of Environment and 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 Sai Eternal Foundation (formerly known as Sai Engineering Foundation), Sai Bhawan, Sector-4, New Shimla-171009 (HP) for non-forestry use of 13.3082 ha of Protected Forest for the construction of Tundah-II HYDRO Electric project (24 MW) within the jurisdiction of Bharmour Forest Division District- Chamba in the State of Himachal Pradesh (Proposal No. FP/HP/HYD/49283/2020)– regarding.

Sir/Madam,

I am directed to refer to State Government of Himachal Pradesh letter No. Ft.48-5150/2020 (FCA) dated 25.08.2021 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 after examination of proposal the following shortcoming is observed:

- i. The DFO, Chamba Wildlife Division has mentioned in his certificate that the area proposed for diversion is 789 meters, whereas as per DSS report, the proposed forest area for diversion is located inside Tundah Wildlife Sanctuary. Since the area proposed for diversion is inside Tundah Wildlife Sanctuary, copy of SBWL/NBWL approval obtained, if any may be submitted by the State Government.
- ii. In component-wise break-up, an area of 4.347 ha has been proposed for 15 muck dumping sites. Justification for proposing 15 muck dumping sites needs to be submitted by the State Government. Possibility of reducing the area to the barest minimum may be explored by the State Government and revised area, if any, may be intimated to the Ministry.
- iii. In component-wise break-up, an area of 3.208 ha has been proposed for Roads within Project are above FRL. State Government may inform whether the area sought for the same is barest minimum. Possibility of reducing the area to the barest minimum may be explored by the State Government and revised area, if any, may be intimated to the Ministry.
- iv. The instant proposal falls under Not-in High conservation value (HCV) zone value as per decision Rule 2. However, as per Decision Rule 1 proposed

area falls in High Conservation Value Zone (as the proposed project is located in Tundah Wildlife Sanctuary). Comments from State Government in this regard needs to be submitted.

- v. Copy of approved CAT plan is not submitted along with the proposal. The same needs to be submitted.
- vi. 3 alternative alignments have been explored by the user agency for execution of the project, however, KML files are not submitted along with the proposal. The same needs to be submitted.
- vii. State Government is requested to intimate the status of approval of State Dam Safety Authority (SDSA) and National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) for the Tundah- II HEP. Other approvals received pertaining to Dam safety may kindly be intimated.
- viii. As per DSS report, Compensatory afforestation has been proposed over 26.62 ha. degraded forest land, out of which, 1 ha is classified as very dense forest (Compartment/Survey No. 52 D/16, Area- Mangarh- III, Block/Beat- Rujag/Tiun, Tehsil- Kullu, District- Kullu, Division- Kullu), 1 ha moderately dense forest land (Compartment/Survey No. 52 H/4, Area- Dugilag- III, Block/Beat- Rujag/Shalang, Tehsil- Kullu, District- Kullu, Division- Kullu). In this regard, it is to inform that, as per Rule 13 of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023, alternate CA sites along with CA details viz. site suitability certificate, site specific CA scheme, KML file and DGPS maps needs to be submitted by the State Government
- ix. Legal status of proposed diversion land and CA site cannot be verified due to unavailability of RF/PF boundary for the State of Himachal Pradesh on DSS. State Government is requested to submit KML file of concerned Protected Forest pertaining to area proposed for diversion and concerned degraded forest land proposed for Compensatory Afforestation.

In view of the above, the State Govt. is requested to submit the information, as indicated above, to this Ministry for further consideration of the proposal.

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