

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Aliganj, Jor Bag Road,
New Delhi - 110003.
Dated: 5th March 2021

To,
The Additional Chief Secretary (Forests),
Government of Himachal Pradesh,
Shimla.

Subject: Permission for use of non-diverted degraded/blank 0.421 hectare of forest land in lieu of diverted dense forest land (part of 75.304 ha. diverted area) in favour of M/s GMR Bajoli Holi Hydro Power Private Ltd. in Tehsil Bharmour District Chamba, HP for the construction of 180 MW Bajoli Holi hydroelectric Project- (Online Proposal No.FP/HP/HYD/1009/2011)-regarding.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Himachal Pradesh letter Ft. 48-2232/2011 (FCA) dated 03.02.2021, vide which the compliance report of the conditions stipulated in the Stage-I approval dated 20.04.2020 has been submitted. It has been observed that on the recommendation of the Forest Advisory Committee the following specific condition was imposed in the **Stage-1/In principle approval**:

"The area, proposed to be surrendered in khasra number 4/1 and 24 shall be handed over to the State Forest Department prior to stage II approval".

The state government in compliance to the above condition has submitted the report of revenue authorities along with the revenue papers of the concerned area. In the revenue papers so submitted, the remarks column (केफ़ियत) mentions that the government land has been mortgaged for the purpose of raising loan (copy enclosed). The above remark indicates that the diverted forest land has been mortgaged by User agency for the purpose of raising loan. The state government is therefore requested to look into the matter and provide detailed information on following points:

1. *Whether the forest land diverted for the project vide this Ministry's letter dated 20.10.2012 has been mortgaged by the user agency?*
2. *Whether any permission in this regard has been obtained by the user agency from the forest department/state government?*

3. *Whether the legal status of the diverted forest land has been changed in the revenue record?*

In view of the above, the State Government of Himachal Pradesh is requested to furnish the required information to this Ministry for further consideration of the proposal.

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-

(Suneet Bhardwaj)

Asst. Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. PCCF (HoFF), Government of Himachal Pradesh, Talland, Shimla;
2. Regional Officer, Integrated Regional Office, MoEF&CC', Shimla;
3. APCCF (FCA) and Nodal Officer, Government of Himachal Pradesh, Shimla;
4. User Agency;
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF & CC, New Delhi.