

F.No. FC/HPB/06/85/2022
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),
Department of Forest & Environment,
Government of Himachal Pradesh, Shimla.

Subject: Proposal for seeking approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (i) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 4.7 ha of forest land for Construction of road from Kiari to Khinna within jurisdiction of Solan Forest Division, Distt. Solan, Himachal Pradesh(Proposal No: FP/HP/ROAD/28558/2017)-regarding

Sir,

Kindly refer to Proposal No.FP/HP/ROAD/28558/2017received through Regional Office, Chandigarh on the above mentioned subject. In this regard, the proposal has been examined in the Ministry. The observation of the Ministry are as follows:-

(i)The State Government has informed that the proposed road/path was constructed by local villagers. However, as per the details mentioned in the proposal, the link road was constructed in 1998. Further, the joint inspection report indicates that the work commenced in 2002. Thus, there is a discrepancy in the timeline of construction. The State Government is required to provide the correct facts and figures along with complete chronology of events.

(ii) As per the information furnished by the DFO, Solan, the track was initially constructed by local residents long ago, and the present proposal seeks regularization of the said violation. In this context, the State Government shall clarify whether the Himachal Pradesh Public Works Department (HPPWD) was involved in the construction of the road at any stage.

(iii) The proposal has been submitted after a considerable lapse of time. The State Government shall provide detailed and cogent reasons for the delay in submission of the proposal.

(iv)The State Government has uploaded a Wildlife Management Plan prepared by the User Agency and duly countersigned by the DFO, Solan. However, the same is required to be approved by the Chief Wildlife Warden, Himachal Pradesh. The State Government shall submit a copy of the duly approved Wildlife Management Plan.

(v) An area of 0.7 ha of forest land has been proposed for use as a dumping site. The State Government shall examine the feasibility of shifting the dumping site to non-forest land and submit its comments accordingly.

(vi) The State Government has reported that 215 trees are proposed to be felled for the instant proposal, despite the road already constructed. The State Government

shall explore the possibility of minimizing or avoiding tree felling, particularly in the hilly terrain, and submit its comments.

(vii) As per DSS analysis, the proposed road falls within the Chail Wildlife Sanctuary. The State Government shall furnish its specific comments in this regard, along with the status of requisite wildlife clearances, if applicable.

(viii) As per the forwarding letter of the Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Himachal Pradesh dated 19th July 2021, the said road does not appear in the list of 2183 road proposals constructed in violation of the FCA, 1980. In this context, the State Government shall clarify whether any action has been initiated against responsible officials under Sections 3A/3B of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for permitting non-forestry use of forest land.

Further necessary action on the instant proposal will be taken after receipt of the above information.

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 Nodal Officer, Department of Forest, Government of Himachal Pradesh, Shimla.
3. The Deputy Director General of Forests (Central), Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Chandigarh.
4. The User Agency
5. The Monitoring Cell, FC Division for uploading on PARIVESH Portal.