

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Aliganj, Jor Bag Road,
New Delhi - 110003.
Dated: May, 2023

To,

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Department of Forest and Environment,
Government of Himachal Pradesh,
Shimla.

Subject: Diversion of 397.8863 ha forest land under Section 2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act,1980 in favour of SJVN Ltd for the construction of Sunni Dam Hydroelectric Project (382 MW) within the jurisdiction of Shimla, Kotgarh and Karsog Forest Divisions, in District Shimla and Mandi, Himachal Pradesh (ONLINE PROPOSAL NO. FP/HP/HUD/31019/2017) - Modification in condition of Stage-II approval- regarding.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to Government of Himachal Pradesh's letters No. Ft.48-3975/2019 (FCA) dated 09.02.2023 and No. Ft.48-979/2005 (FCA) dated 28.04.2023 requesting for modification in one of the condition of the Stage-II approval dated 23.08.2022 for above subject proposal and to convey that this proposal has been considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 18.05.2023. The minutes of the meeting is available on PARIVESH portal at www.parivesh.nic.in.

2. The Advisory Committee (AC) had detailed discussion and deliberation with Nodal officer (FCA), Himachal Pradesh and Regional Officer, IRO, Shimla. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer, the committee observed that the specific condition for retaining the trees of more than 60 cm girth was imposed on the recommendation of the sub-committee which visited the area. Accordingly, the said specific condition was stipulated in the Stage-I approval. The user agency has submitted an undertaking indicating that "the trees of girth more than 60 cm shall not be felled and their enumeration list shall be submitted to IRO Shimla". Based on the referred undertaking and other compliances, final approval for instant proposal was accorded by this Ministry on 23.08.2022 which includes the aforesaid specific condition. In view of the stated reasons, the request for modification in condition of Stage-II approval cannot be considered at this stage. Therefore, the State Govt. shall ensure that the trees of more than 60 cm girth shall not be felled.

In view of above, Government of Himachal Pradesh is requested to ensure the compliance of the conditions stipulated in Stage-II approval dated 23.08.2022 for instant proposal.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-

(Suneet Bhardwaj)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. The Principal Chief Conservation of Forests, Government of Himachal Pradesh, Shimla.
2. The Regional Officer, Integrated Regional Office, Shimla.
3. The Nodal Officer, O/o the PCCF, Government of Himachal Pradesh, Shimla.
4. User Agency.
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF & CC, New Delhi.
6. Guard File.