

File No. 9-JKC-032/2023-Jammu
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 Special Secretary (Technical),
Department of Forests, Ecology and Environment,
Government of Jammu & Kashmir, Jammu.

Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (i) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 in favour of NHPC URI-ISTAGE-II, Baramula Jammu & Kashmir for non-forestry use of 17.00 ha. of forest land for underground work of URI-I Stage II HE Project, District- Baramula UT of Jammu & Kashmir (Online Proposal No. FP/JK/HYD/144277/2021)– regarding.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Jammu & Kashmir proposal no. FP/JK/HYD/144277/2021 dated 13.10.2023 submitted through PARIVESH 1.0 portal on the above subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980. After careful examination of the proposal by the Advisory Committee, constituted under Section-3 of the said Adhinyam, 'in-principle' approval to the proposal under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 was granted vide this Ministry's letter of even number dated 14.01.2025 subject to fulfillment of certain conditions prescribed therein. The State Government has furnished compliance report in respect of the conditions stipulated in the Stage-I approval and has requested the Central Government to grant final approval.

In this connection, I am directed to say that on the basis of the compliance report furnished by the State Government uploaded on PARIVESH 1.0 vide letter No. FST-Land0FC/1277/2023-02 dated 6th February, 2026 and letter No. PCCF/FCA/3386/8266-67 dated 28th March, 2026 uploaded on PARIVESH 1.0, 'final' approval of Central Government under Section 2 of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 is hereby granted in favour of NHPC URI-ISTAGE-II, Baramula Jammu & Kashmir for non-forestry use of 17.00 ha. of forest land for underground work of URI-I Stage II HE Project, District- Baramula UT of Jammu & Kashmir subject to fulfillment of the following conditions:-

(i) Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged;

(ii) The Compensatory afforestation over non-forest land in Compartment No: Uri-Kalgai, Khasra No. 184,203,488 of Revenue land (NFL), Range Uri, JV Forest Division, Baramulla (9.30 ha) and in Compartment No: Uri-Kalgai, Khasra No 184,203,488 of Revenue land (NFL), Range Uri, JV Forest Division, Baramulla (10

ha), shall be initiated by the State Forest Department at the project cost within two years from the date of grant of Stage- II approval;

(iii) The additional amount of the Net Present Value (NPV) of the diverted forest land if any becoming due after revision of the same by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in future, shall be charged by the State Government from User Agency and the same shall be transferred to the designated CAMPA Account;

(iv) The Compensatory levies to be realized from the User Agency under the project shall be transferred/ deposited, through e-challan, in to the account of National Authority, CAMPA pertaining to the State concerned through e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>);

(v) The State Government shall complete settlement of rights, in term of the Scheduled Tribes and Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, if any, on the forest land to be diverted as per the sub-rule (7) of Rule 11 of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023;

(vi) No Objection Certificate from the competent authority with reference to the CIA/CCS studies (Impact Assessment) of River Jhelum and its recommendations shall be obtained by the State Government along with any other environment related compliance/clearance;

(vii) The State Government shall ensure that the proposed HEP unit is within the stipulated carrying capacity;

(viii) The User Agency shall obtain the Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if required;

(ix) User agency shall provide free water for forestry related activities/ projects;

(x) No labour camp shall be established on the forest land and the User Agency shall provide fuels preferably alternate fuels to the labourers and the staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the nearby forest areas;

(xi) No additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for transportation of construction materials for execution of the project work;

(xii) The boundary of the diverted forest land shall be demarcated on ground at the project cost, by erecting four feet high reinforced cement concrete pillars, each inscribed with its serial number, distance from pillar to pillar and GPS coordinates;

(xiii) The period of diversion under this approval shall be co-terminus with the period of lease to be granted in favour of the user agency or the project life, whichever is less;

(xiv) The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government;

(xv) The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the project proposal;

(xvi) The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agency, department or person without prior approval of the Central Government;

(xvii) No damage to the flora, fauna or the environment of the adjoining area shall be caused; Adequate measures to ensure no damage to the adjoining areas should be taken by the User Agency at the project cost;

(xviii) The concerned Divisional Forest Officer, will monitor and take necessary mitigative measures to ensure that there is no adverse impact on the forests in the surrounding area;

(xix) The concerned Divisional Forest Officer, will monitor and take necessary mitigative measures to ensure that there is no adverse impact on the forests in the surrounding area;

(xx) The User Agency shall submit the annual self-compliance report in respect of the above stated conditions to the State Government, concerned Regional Office and to this Ministry by the end of March every year regularly;

(xxi) Any other condition that the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change may stipulate from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife shall be carried out by the State Government and User Agency;

(xxii) The User Agency shall comply all the provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, Hon'ble Court Order (s) and NGT Order (s) pertaining to this project, if any, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project;

(xxiii) Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 and action would be taken as prescribed in para 1.16 of Chapter 1 of consolidated guidelines and clarifications issued under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 and Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 issued on 29.12.2023.

(xxiv) The State Government and user agency shall ensure compliance to all conditions stipulated in the 'in-principle' approval letter dated 27.12.2025 for which undertakings have been obtained from the user agency; and

(xxv) As per Sub-rule 7 of Rule 11 of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 the State Govt. after receiving the 'Final' approval of the Central Government under sub-section (1) of section 2 of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 and after fulfilment and compliance of the provisions of all other Acts and rules made thereunder, as applicable including ensuring settlement of rights under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (2 of 2007), shall issue order for diversion of the forest land.

Yours faithfully,

(Aditi Bhardwaj)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. The PCCF (HoFF), Department of Forest, Government of Jammu & Kashmir, Jammu.

2. The Nodal Officer, Department of Forest, Government of Jammu & Kashmir, Jammu.
3. The Deputy Director General of Forests (Central), Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Chandigarh.
4. The User Agency.
5. The Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi.