

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi – 1100 03

Dated: As per e-Signature

To

The Additional Chief Secretary (Forests),
Government of Punjab.
Chandigarh.

Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in favour of Executive Engineer Spk Dam Project Shahpurkandi Township, for non-forestry use of 275.16 ha (instead of 109.64 ha of forest land originally proposed) [(211.06 ha protected forest) + (64.10 ha. PLPA area)] excluding de-listed area (58.75 ha) out of 333.91 ha of forest land for construction Reservoir of Shahpur Kandi Dam Project in Tehsil –Dhar Kalan under Forest Division and District Pathankot in Punjab (Online Proposal No. FP/PB/HYD/40592/2019). –regarding.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Punjab letter No. FCA/1980/135/2019/170 dated 19.06.2019 on the above mentioned subject, seeking prior approval of Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. After careful consideration of the proposal by the Advisory Committee (AC) constituted by the Central Government under Section-3 of the said Act, **‘in-principle’/Stage-I** approval to the proposal was granted vide this Ministry’s letter of even number dated 02.11.2020 subject to fulfillment of certain conditions prescribed therein. The State Government has furnished compliance report in respect of the conditions stipulated in the in-principle approval and has requested the Central Government to grant final approval.

2. In this connection, I am directed to say that on the basis of the compliance report furnished by the Government of Punjab vide their letter No. FCA-I/839985/2024 dated 13.05.2024, **final approval (Stage- II)** of the Central Government is hereby granted under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in favour of Executive Engineer Spk Dam Project Shahpurkandi Township, for non-forestry use of 275.16 ha (instead of 109.64 ha of forest land originally proposed) [(211.06 ha protected forest) + (64.10 ha. PLPA area)] excluding de-listed area (58.75 ha) out of 333.91 ha of forest land for construction Reservoir of Shahpur Kandi Dam Project in Tehsil –Dhar Kalan under Forest Division and District Pathankot in Punjab, subject to fulfillment of the following conditions:-

- i. Legal status of the forest land shall remain unchanged;
- ii. The State Government shall ensure that Compensatory Afforestation over

non-forest land i.e. 276.8539 ha, already notified by the State Government as Protected Forests, communicated by the Nodal Officer vide Letter No. FCA-I/839985/2024 dated 13.05.2024 shall be raised.

- iii. The State Government shall ensure that the CA area is free from encroachment and encumbrances and the plantations are raised within two years from the date of issue of this final approval and maintained thereafter as per approved plan by the State Forest Department at the cost of the User Agency as per various notifications submitted by the State Government. As far as possible, a mixture of local indigenous species shall be planted and monoculture of any species may be avoided with provision for ten years on subsequent maintenance;
- iv. The State Government shall ensure that the minimum number of trees/plants/poles in any case not more than mentioned in the applied forest area will be removed and the trees should be felled under strict supervision of the State Forest Department;
- v. The State Government shall ensure that Catchment Area Treatment (CAT) is carried out as per approved CAT Plan;
- vi. The State Govt. shall ensure the complete compliance on FRA, 2006; It should also be ensured that the FRA certificate issued by District collector is complete with letter number, date, name, signature and official seal, as required in the certificate;
- vii. The State Govt. shall ensure that 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 co-ordinates;
- viii. The User Agency shall obtain Environment Clearance as per the provisions of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, if required;
- ix. The State Govt. shall ensure the User Agency will undertake comprehensive soil conservation measures at the project cost in consultation with the State Forest Department;
- x. The User Agency shall pay the additional amount of NPV, if so determined, as per the final decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India;
- xi. The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without prior approval of Central Government;
- xii. No labour camps shall be set up inside the forest area. Labour management plan should be implement with emphasis that no labour camp be set up in the close vicinity of the eco-fragile and sensitive areas;
- xiii. The Sufficient firewood, preferably the alternate fuel, shall be provided by the User Agency to the labourer after purchasing the same from the State Forest Department or the Forest Development Corporation or any other legal source of alternate fuel;
- xiv. No additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for transportation of construction materials for execution of the project work;
- xv. The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the project proposal;
- xvi. 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;
- xvii. The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be

- transferred to any other agencies, department or person without prior approval of Govt. of India;
- xviii. 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;
- xix. The State Govt. shall ensure that the Compliance report of this approval is uploaded on e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>);
- xx. State Government and User Agency shall ensure that the CA areas are kept free of encroachment and encumbrances before handing of forest land to the User Agency;
- 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 with by the State Government and user agency;
- xxii. The State Government and user agency shall ensure compliance to all conditions stipulated in the Stage-I approval letter dated 02.11.2020 for which undertakings have been obtained from the user agency and also the provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations and Guidelines, relevant Hon'ble Court Order (S) and NGT Order (S), if any, pertaining to this project for the time being in force, as applicable to the project;
- xxiii. The Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and action would be taken as per the para 1.16 of comprehensive guidelines issued vide this Ministry F. No.5-2/2017-FC dated 29.12.2023.

Yours faithfully

Sd-

(S. Sundar)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to: -

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Government of Punjab, Chandigarh.
2. The DDGF (Central) Regional Office, Chandigarh of MoEF&CC.
3. The Nodal Officer, Government of Punjab, Chandigarh.
4. The User Agency.
5. The Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF & CC, New Delhi, for uploading.