

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bag Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi - 110003.

Dated: 09th November, 2023

To,

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

Subject: Diversion of 7.3722 ha of forest land as additional forest land requirement in already approved diversion in favour of Shongtong Karchham Hydro Electric Project, HPPCL under the jurisdiction of Kinnaur Forest Division, Distt. Kinnaur, Himachal Pradesh (Online Proposal No. FP/HP/HYD/40611/2019)- regarding.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the online proposal No. FP/HP/HYD/40611/2019 on the above subject matter and to convey that this proposal has been considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 20.10.2023. The detailed minutes of the AC meeting is available on PARIVESH portal at www.parivesh.nic.in.

2. The Advisory Committee after detailed discussion and deliberation decided to defer the proposal and sought the following information: -

- i. The copy of the approved muck management plan shall be submitted.
- ii. The State Govt. shall submit a detailed report regarding the slow progress in implementation of CAT plan and the failure of Compensatory Afforestation plantations.
- iii. There is a violation over an area of 0.5883 ha. as reported by the State. The detailed justification for violation and action taken report against those responsible for violation shall be submitted by the State.
- iv. The reservoir to be created due to dam construction and subsequent submergence is required to be declared as Reserve Forest under Indian Forest Act. 1927. A copy of notification for the same shall be submitted.
- v. The State Government shall examine the writ petition pertaining to the instant project which is pending before the Hon'ble High Court and ensure that the same has no bearing on the instant proposal for diversion of additional forest land.
- vi. The State Govt. has reported that there are six (6) approved dumping sites in earlier diverted area and accordingly submitted the area details of these six dumping sites but the said KML file includes eight (patches) out of which six are dumping sites and two (2) Job facility sites. Thus, it is not clear whether these two patches of Job facility have been mistakenly included in the KML file of approved dumping sites of earlier diverted area or being currently used for dumping sites. The same shall be clarified by the state government.

I/57310/2023

3. In view of above, Government of Himachal Pradesh is requested to furnish their response on the observation of AC as indicated in para (2) above for further consideration of the proposal in this Ministry.

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 Dy. Director General of Forests (Central). Regional Office, Chandigarh.
3. Sub-office of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shimla,
4. The Nodal Officer (FCA) O/o PCCF (HoFF), Government of Himachal Pradesh, Shimla.
5. User Agency.
6. Monitoring Cell of FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi.