

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road
New Delhi-110003

Dated: April, 2024

To

The Principal Secretary (Forest),
Government of Uttarakhand,
Dehradun.

Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2(1)(ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Savardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for non-forestry use of 29.997 ha of forest land in favour of UJVN LTD for Construction of Sirkari Bhyol Rupsiabagar HEP in Distt. Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand-regarding.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Uttarakhand's letter no. FP/UK/HYD/119861/2021 dated 05.12.2022 on above subject proposal seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and to say that examination of the proposal in the Ministry revealed the following:

- i. Land identified for raising compensatory afforestation has been changed and accordingly, revised KML file and CA scheme with requisite attributes viz. suitability certificate, financial outlay etc. need to be submitted and uploaded online.
- ii. Given the density of 0.2 of the forest land proposed for diversion number of project affected trees i.e. 104 in 29.997 ha appears to be underestimated. The same may be revisited and accordingly, confirmed by the State.
- iii. Cost benefit Ratio has been estimated as 1:207.63 appears to be exorbitantly high. the same may be revisited to assess the accuracy of estimates of various parameters and revised or refined analysis, if needed, may be submitted to the Ministry.
- iv. A copy of the approved Catchment Area Treatment Plan may be submitted by the State.
- v. Recommendation of State Government in Part-V of Form A is not available in the proposal. The same need to be furnished and uploaded online.
- vi. The State Government shall inform the status of carrying capacity and cumulative impact assessment study of a river basin, if any conducted for the river basin recommendation made with regards to the extant proposal along with details of all hydel project(s) approved till date, if any.

In view of above, the State Government is requested to submit the information, as indicated above, for further consideration of the proposal.

Yours faithfully,

(Amit Anand)

Signed by Amit Anand

Date: 24-04-2024 10:05:59

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. The PCCF (HoFF), Department of Forest, Government of Uttarakhand, Dehradun
2. The Dy. DGF (Central Officer), Regional Office at MoEF&CC, Dehradun
3. The Nodal Officer (FCA) Department of Forest, Government of Uttarakhand, Dehradun
4. User Agency
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC