

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bagh Raod, Aliganj
New Delhi – 110003

Dated: 24th January, 2022

To

The Addl. Secretary (Forest)
Uttarakhand Forest Department
Government of Uttarakhand
Dehradun

Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for non-forestry use of 87.0815 ha of forest land for "Expansion of the Jolly Grant Airport" under Forest Division and District Dehradun of the State of Uttarakhand (Online Proposal No. FP/UK/Others/44884/2020)

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the APCCF & Nodal Officer, Uttarakhand's letter No. 1734/FP/UK/OTHERS/44884/2020 dated 26.12.2020 and 30.12.2021 on the above subject forwarding additional information as sought by the Ministry vide its letter of even number dated 30.01.2021 and to inform that examination of the said information in the Ministry revealed that issues raised by the Central Government in its letter dated 30.01.2021 have not been addressed completely by the State, it is therefore desired that information on the following may be provided by the state:

- i. As per the justification given by the State that there is no alternative available for expansion of the Airport, however, approximately 10.0 ha of land on the western side of the existing Runway seems to be available as blank. The State Government may submit its view to utilize this land for the expansion of runway or other ancillary facilities to minimize the use of forest land. As per the layout plan certain activities has been proposed on forest land which are non-site specific like parking (three numbers) and city side development activities. The same may be shifted on this land.
- ii. Site suitability certificate as stated by the State is not found in the Online additional information column in Part-II.
- iii. Certificate for non-availability of non-forest land in the entire State of Uttarakhand from Chief Secretary Uttarakhand has not been provided by the state as requested by the Ministry
- iv. The State may take up the case on priority basis in the the Hon'ble High Court Uttarakhand and may get final order to avoid a *fait accompli* situation.
- v. From the DSS analysis it has been observed that the the shape of revised boundary of 70 ha forest land is totally different from the shape of the previously provided boundary of 70 ha. More than half of the area of the existing runway has been excluded from the KML file provided now. Clarification be submitted by the State regarding huge difference in the shape of the KMLs.
- vi. As per the layout plan certain activities has been proposed on forest land which are non-site specific like parking (three numbers) and city side development activities. The same may be shifted on non-forest land.

vii. In addition to the above, it has been noticed that the plantation done against previous approval is not visible through the time series data of high-resolution GE images. Therefore, it is not clear whether, plantation exists or not? The survival rate of the plantation is also reported less than 40%. Therefore, the State Government is requested to submit evidence of the plantation carried out in 2003 with expenditure incurred.

In view of the above, I am directed to request the State Government to submit the information, as indicated above, to this Ministry for further necessary action in the matter.

Yours faithfully,



(Charan Jeet Singh)
Scientist 'D'

Copy to:

1. The PCCF (HoFF), Government of Uttarakhand, Dehradun
2. The Head of the IRO, MoEF&CC, Dehradun
3. The Nodal Officer, (FCA), O/o PCCF, Govt of Uttarakhand, Dehradun
4. User Agency
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF & CC, New Delhi
6. Guard File