

Dated, the Shimla-02 5-12-18

From:

CCF Shimla

To: Nodal Officer-cum-APCCF(FCA)  
O/o Pr.CCF(HoFF) HP, Shimla.

Subject:

Diversion of 3.6593 ha of Forest land for the construction of Shimla Passenger Ropeway in favour of MC Shimla within the jurisdiction of Shimla (Urban) Forest Division.

Memo:

Kindly refer to your office endst. No. Ft. 48-3468/2016 (FCA) dated 16.11.2018 on the subject cited above.

The clarification desired vide above quoted reference is given point wise as under:

1. With regard to point it is submitted that the total trees coming in the alignment of Ropeway are 1361 number as has been shown in the abstract placed in the proposal. Out of these 1361 trees, 530 trees are proposed to be felled, whereas 831 trees will not be felled. The enumeration lists have been corrected accordingly, a copy of which is enclosed herewith as annexure-A.
2. With regard to point No. 2 it is submitted that necessary corrections in the enumeration lists have been made as mentioned supra. The total 1361 trees coming in the alignment of the Ropeway belong to the Forest Department and status of land is UPF. The trees coming in the alignment other than forest land will be processed separately by the User Agency as the land of CPWD is non-forest land and does not fall in the forest area.
3. With regard to point No. 3 it is submitted that ejectment orders in respect of four encroachments in forest land proposed for diversion have been passed by the Sub Division Magistrate, Shimla (Urban).
4. With regard to point No. 4 it is submitted that Hon'ble NGT vide order dated 25.05.2017 (copy enclosed as annexure-B) has ordered that the Forest Department of Government of Himachal Pradesh shall plant atleast 30 trees of the local species in the same vicinity. The Ld. Advocate General, HP has also admitted in the Hon'ble NGT on 31.08.2017 (copy enclosed as annexure-C) that the they would carry-out the directions issued by the Tribunal in its true spirit

and substance and would plant at least 30 trees at the place where they are to fell a tree, either under the order of the Hon'ble High Court or under the project, which is not questioned and proceedings are not pending before the competent forum. It is pertinent to mention here that only 530 Numbers of trees are to be felled and 831 numbers of trees will not be felled as these trees are only coming in the alignment of the Ropeway. Therefore, as per the order of Hon'ble NGT, the Forest Department has calculated numbers of plants to be planted on the purposed trees for felling i.e. 530, which comes to  $(530 \times 30)$  15,900 plants and area comes to 19.88 hac. (or say 20 hac.). The plants to be planted have been calculated as per norms of 800 plants per hac. applicable for enrichment planting scheme as approved by the State Government. So, as per Hon'ble order, 15,900 numbers of plants have to be planted in the vicinity where trees are to be felled and accordingly, site has been selected and proposed for planting. So far as the observation for non-suitability of 14 hac. for planting activities, it is informed that the site selected is very much suitable for planting second storey plants in Deodar Forest i.e. Ban, Khanoor, Brass, Kainth, Tuni, and some other native species of Shimla area, as per the land suitability Certificate as Annexure-D. It is pertinent to mention here that the area of 18 ha. reported earlier was calculated as per norms of 1100 plants/ha., which is applicable to the blank/degraded forests. Now, it has been felt appropriate to plant at the norms of 800 plants/ha., approved under Enrichment Planting Scheme. The revised Kml. file for 20 ha. is uploaded now and soft copy of the same is enclosed herewith.

Encl.: As above.

  
Chief Conservator of Forests  
Shimla Forest Circle, Shimla