

Reply to the queries in F. No. 4-KRC 4-KLB1437/2023-BAN dt 15-04-2026 of MoEFCC is as follows:

- 1. The State Government is requested to submit the CIA and CSS study for the said river basin:**

Reply:The user agency was instructed to conduct a Comprehensive Impact Assessment (CIA) of river basins and submitted CIA report. It has been uploaded in Parivesh portals by User Agency in *Form-A Part-1 Additional Information details Sl No. 25 as Environmental Assessment Report.*

- 2. The State Government has not taken any action against the officials responsible for approving/ allowing use of forest land for non-forestry purposes without prior approval of the Central Government.**

Reply:As soon as the information regarding the construction of Vellakayam Micro Hydro Electric Project by Mr.Y.Sleebachan was received, the then Mullaringad Range Forest Officer conducted an enquiry in to the matter and issued a stop memo on 01.03.2021. No further violation of Forest Conservation Act of any kind has happened in the area. Further the applicant filed an application for obtaining forest clearance application through Parivesh Portal. On the basis of the documents submitted by Mr. Y Sleebachan regarding the above matter, it was understood that NOC was obtained from Vannappuram Grama Panchayath for this project. The NOC was given, since the authority in the project lies with the Grama Panchayath. The names of the members of the committee that met on 09.02.2018 in Vannapuram GP were requested, and the Panchayath authorities have provided the names of the ward members who attended the above meeting. The name of the panchayath secretary was reported to your office vide letter dated 06.11.2024. The disciplinary action against the said officers has to be taken up with the respective department.

In the site Inspection report of Chief Conservator of Forests High Range Circle Kottayam on 21.08.2025, it is observed that i) timely adequate actions were taken by Forest Officials preventing commission of any offence or Violation of Forest Conservation Act, 1980.ii) the user agency inadvertently made arrangements for initiation of the project oblivious to the fact that the status of land was Forest.He did not willingly intend to commit any offence. Further, on receiving instructions from Forest Officer to stop the work he had complied with the same and took necessary actions for secure appropriate clearance for the project. Hence no offence or violations were committed under Forest Conservation Act, 1980 or Kerala Forest Act, 1961.

- 3. The powerhouse component of the project area of 0.012 ha and the road component area of 0.016 ha has been proposed in the Patta land. This Patta land has been purchased by the user agency from previous occupant whose Patta was issued in 2009 under Regularization of forest encroachment rule 1993.**

Reply:A hearing was conducted with Sleebachan before the DFO on 05.08.2025, and discussed the details in query raised by the MoEFCC letter dated 12.06.2025, he was directed to submit a revised DPR , sketch & plan, excluding the patta land. The user agency has submitted revised details via Parivesh portal. The power house component of the project area changed to 0.0162Ha, approach road- 0.0051Ha, weir(check dam)-

0.0104Ha, Forebay Tank-0.03275Ha, Penstock-0.02313Ha, Submergence area-0.048Ha, Transformer Yard-0.0019Ha. Total -0.1374Ha. The area of the power house and approach road components and total project area rearranged completely in Reserve Forest area, also no part of the proposal is planned to be executed in patta land.

4. **The clarity on the status of land (forest/panchayat patta lands) proposed for diversion is lacking. The State Government is required to clearly provide the status of land been proposed for the project.**

Reply: User Agency was directed to submit a revised DPR , sketch & plan, excluding the patta land which the user agency has submitted via the Parivesh portal. In the revised plan submitted by user agency the patta land was excluded from the project. The Range Forest Officer and Division Surveyer surveyed the proposed project land and reported that the land is completely under Reserve Forest area. The kml files and toposheet prepared after inspection of site on 11.02.2026 was submitted to APCCF & NO,F(C) Act and CCFHRC on 16.02.2026.

5. **As per to SIR of the Regional Office, there has been a change in layout plan proposed. The cross-sectional details of the project component and any change in lay out plan need to be provided along with component wise KML file.**

Reply: The change in the component of land has been submitted by user agency in *Form-A, Part-1, B-2.4 Component wise breakup* and kml files uploaded in *C-Maps of Forest land proposed to be diverted*.

6. **As per the proposal, felling of 18 number of trees is required, which are marked for felling. The details of area proposed for felling along with KML file has not been submitted.**

Reply: Details of 13 trees have been submitted on the Parivesh portal. These trees are standing in the submersible area of the project and need to be felled for the construction of the project. The kml file of the submergence area is uploaded in *Form-A, Part-1, C-Maps of Forest land proposed to be diverted Sl No.07*.




Divisional Forest Officer
Kothamangalam Division