Sir,

No.Ft. 48-3961/2019 (FCA), **Forest Department, Himachal Pradesh**

- From: Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Himachal Pradesh, Shimla-1.
- To: The Deputy Inspector General of Forest, Sub Office, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, CGO Complex, Shivalik Khand, Longwood, Shimla, HP.

Dated Shimla-1, the

Subject: Diversion of 4.6147 ha. of forest land in favour of HPPWD for construction of Gani to Bhorni Nala Road within the jurisdiction of Nachan Forest Division, at Gohar Distt. Mandi HP.(Online Proposal No. FP/HP/Road/41345/2019).

Kindly refer to your office letter No. 8B/HP/227643 dated 12.01.2024 on the subject cited proposal.

2. The pointwise reply to the observation as raised vide your above referred communication is submitted as below:-

- 1. DFO Nachan has intimated that, Gani to Surandhi Nalla Bridle path repair work has been done by the Forest Department during 2015- 16 and 2016-17 under 2406-01-07-01. Soon Maintenance/repair of building/road and path under NPV Scheme and Rs. 4.0 lakh have been incurred for the repair of aforementioned bridle path. So far as, the question with regard to physical and financial sanction of the competent authority is concerned, the undersigned is competent for purchase /procurement of material etc. for execution of all works funded by State Govt. up to 10.0 lakh. Hence, no legal action is required of to be taken against the officials under Section 3A and 3B of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 2023.
- 2. DFO Nachan has reported that the Forest Department has repaired the above bridle path only from the forestry point of view i.e. patrolling and protection of forests as well as forest fire and other happenings i.e. smuggling. Theft of timber etc. As per the sanction received from the competent authority this road is to be constructed from Gani to Bhurni Nala in the public interest and HPPWD had made a survey of this road. The HPPWD authority has explored this alignment FC-MND-G006/59/2024-MISC.-FOREST CIRCLE MANDI I/ 434413/2024 for the construction of this road as per the sanction received from

the Govt. of HP. So far as the question of role of forest officials and their failure in not getting the work stopped and taking action in time is concerned it is submitted that this bridle path has only been repaired by the Forest Department from forestry point of view. As such no violation occurred for the repair of this Bridle path.

Yours faithfully,

Nodal Officer-cum-APCCF (FCA) O/o Pr. CCF (HoFF), H.P.