

Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (i) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in favour of National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) Ltd. for non-forestry use of 847.17 ha. of Reserved Forest and Jungle-jhari land for construction of Sawalkot HEP (1856 MW) within the jurisdiction of Udampur, Mahore, Batote and Ramban Forest Divisions, Districts- Udampur, Reasi and Ramban in the State of Jammu & Kashmir (Online proposal No. FP/JK/HYD/150591/2021)- regarding.

Ref: Proposal No. hyd/150591/2021EDS dated 01-01-2025

Sir,

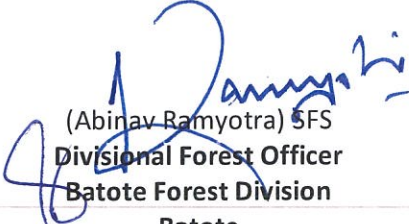
On the subject matter cited above, point wise reply to the observations raised by the MoEF&CC in EDS dated 01-01-2025 pertains to Forest Division, Udampur is submitted as under:

S. No.	EDS	Reply
8	As per information provided in the proposal, area proposed for compensatory afforestation is 2115.878 ha, whereas, as per DSS, area proposed for CA is coming upto 2009.416 ha. Complete KML files for land proposed for compensatory afforestation may be submitted.	
	Batote Division:	As per the list received with the EDS, it is submitted that the area of KML files of Compensatory Afforestation proposed on degraded forest land with respect to Forest Division Batote has been calculated using the tools available on Google Earth and has been taken accordingly for the calculation of Compensatory Afforestation Plan. Further Patch-Wise all the KMZ file of CA sites stands Re-uploaded with the proposal at appropriate column.
9	In Batote Forest Division, 735 ha has been proposed for CA out of which it is mentioned that 571 ha is planting area. Clarification from the State Government in this regard along with activities to be carried out in the remaining area may be submitted.	In reply to point No. 9, It is submitted that the total area to be diverted in Batote Forest Division is 285.54 ha. Accordingly, 571 ha degraded forest area (Double the area to be diverted) has been proposed for Plantation activites alongwith adjacent dense and moderately dense forest area vulnerable to encroachment and having good scope of Natural Regeneration has been proposed to be closed for protection from biotic interference to save the young crop coming the in the area thereby increasing the area proposed under CA to 735 Ha.
11	Soil and moisture conservation plan is not submitted for all four Forest Divisions i.e. Udampur Division, Ramban Division, Batote and Mahore Division. The same needs to be submitted.	
	Batote Division	The proposed compensatory afforestation plan incorporates significant silviculture interventions, specifically addressing soil and water conservation measures to ensure comprehensive ecosystem rehabilitation. These interventions have been strategically designed to promote sustainable forest management and enhance the overall health of the ecosystem: 1. Soil Conservation Measures: To safeguard and enhance soil quality, a series of measures have been integrated into the plan. This includes the implementation of erosion control strategies such as DRSM and Crate work, Inspection Path and Fire

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		<p>Protection measures have been proposed (wherever required) as per site specification to prevent the area from soil erosion. These measures aim to prevent soil erosion, improve soil structure, and preserve soil nutrients critical for healthy vegetation growth.</p> <p>2. Water Conservation Strategies: The plan prioritizes water conservation through various approaches. This involves the development of water harvesting structures, such as ponds to conserve and augment water availability. Moreover, the plan emphasizes the preservation of natural water sources.</p>
17	<p>As per DSS, Compensatory afforestation has been proposed over 2009.416 ha. degraded forest land, out of which, 79 ha is classified as very dense forest (Batote Division- 14 ha, Mahore- 19 ha, Ramban- 45 ha and Udampur- 1 ha.), 533 ha moderately dense forest land (Batote Division- 223 ha, Mahore- 4 ha, Ramban- 179 ha and Udampur- 127 ha.). As per Rule 13 (1) Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023, programme for improvement of forest crop needs to be submitted by the State Government for respective Divisions.</p>	
	Batote Division:	<p>As already submitted vide point No. 9, that the total area to be diverted in Batote Forest Division is 285.54 ha. Accordingly, 571 ha degraded forest area (Double the area to be diverted) has been proposed for Plantation activities alongwith adjacent dense and moderately dense forest area vulnerable to encroachment and having good scope of Natural Regeneration has been proposed to be closed for protection from biotic interference to save the young crop coming in the area thereby increasing the area proposed under CA to 735 Ha. Further, In compliance with Rule 13(1) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023, this division has proposed a comprehensive Compensatory Afforestation (CA) plan, which includes a detailed programme for the improvement of the forest crop. The CA plans have been designed with a 10-year maintenance schedule to ensure sustainability and long-term ecological benefits. Moreover, provisions for engaging labour for the watch and ward of closures has also been incorporated into the CA plans to safeguard the plantations and enhance their success rate. Further, as already submitted above vide 09, the area proposed for Compensatory Afforestation includes adjoining Forest area for closing to enhance the natural regeneration and protect the forest land from encroachments.</p>
18	<p>The basis of estimated number of trees affected may kindly be confirmed and the details may be provided whether they would be required to cut or will be under submergence and get effected.</p>	
	Batote Division:	<p>In reply to point No. 18, it is submitted that, Out of 350000 Trees /saplings, 50590 trees are required to be felled, accordingly extraction charges has been calculated and uploaded with the proposal at appropriate place.</p>

19	<p>Reply to Ministry's letter dated 14 02 2025 wherein it was mentioned that Compensatory afforestation has been proposed over 2009.416 ha. degraded forest land, out of which, 79 ha is classified as very dense forest (Batote Division- 14 ha, Mahore- 19 ha, Ramban- 45 ha and Udhampur- 1 ha.), 533 ha moderately dense forest land (Batote Division- 223 ha, Mahore- 4 ha, Ramban- 179 ha and Udhampur- 127 ha.). In this regard, it is to inform that, as per Rule 13 of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023, alternate CA sites along with CA details viz. site suitability certificate, site specific CA scheme, KML file and DGPS maps needs to be submitted by the State Government.</p>	Desired site suitability certificate uploaded with the proposal.
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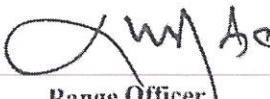

 (Abinav Ramyotra) SFS
 Divisional Forest Officer
 Batote Forest Division
 Batote


**Sawalkot HE Project (1856 MW)
(FP/JK/HYD/150591/2021)**

Certificate pertaining to point No.17 of the EDS dated 01-01-2025

It is certified that in compliance with Rule 13(1) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023, this division has proposed a comprehensive Compensatory Afforestation (CA) plan, which includes a detailed programme for the improvement of the forest crop. The CA plans have been designed with a 10-year maintenance schedule to ensure sustainability and long-term ecological benefits. Moreover, provisions for engaging labour for the watch and ward of closures have also been incorporated into the CA plans to safeguard the plantations and enhance their success rate. Further, it is clarified that while the areas surrounding the proposed CA patches may be dense forests, but the patches of forest land selected for Compensatory Afforestation falls below the 40% canopy density, in accordance with the eligibility criteria prescribed under the relevant rules. Hence, the selected sites are suitable for Compensatory Afforestation as per the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.


Range Officer
Gandhri


Range Officer
Batote


Divisional Forest Officer
Batote Forest Division
Batote

Full Title of the Project:- Sawalkot HE Project (1856 MW)

File No:- FP/JK/HYD/150591/2021

Date of Proposal:- 31-12-2021

Land Suitability Certificate by DFO (Territorial)


This is to certify that **124.54 Ha.** land bearing survey no./compartment No. **(Given below)** of village **(Given below)** Tehsil Ramban District Ramban identified for compensatory afforestation is suitable for plantation from management point of view and is free from all sorts of encumbrances and encroachments.

S.No.	Comptt. No.	Area (in Ha)	Village	Tehsil	District
1	27/Btt	11.6	Karma	Ramban	Ramban
2	34/Btt	41.5	Kriya Top	Ramban	Ramban
3	38/Btt	5.51	Billawat	Ramban	Ramban
4	40a/Btt	32.6	Maitra Kundi	Ramban	Ramban
5	25/Btt	24.1	Dhalwas	Ramban	Ramban
6	38/Btt	3.1	Billawat	Ramban	Ramban
7	39/Btt	4.32	Madhani	Ramban	Ramban
8	43/Btt	1.81	Maitra	Ramban	Ramban
	Total	124.54			

Place:- Batote

Date:- 15-05-2025


Range Officer
Batote


Divisional Forest Officer,
Batote Forest Division
Office Seal
Divisional Forest Officer
Batote Forest Division
Batote

Full Title of the Project:- Sawalkot HE Project (1856 MW)

File No:- FP/JK/HYD/150591/2021

Date of Proposal:- 31-12-2021

Land Suitability Certificate by DFO (Territorial)

This is to certify that **610.46 Ha.** land bearing survey no./compartment No. (Given below) of village (Given below) Tehsil Ramban District Ramban identified for compensatory afforestation is suitable for plantation from management point of view and is free from all sorts of encumbrances and encroachments.

S.No.	Comptt. No.	Area (in Ha)	Village	Tehsil	District
1	67/G	15.00	Bhattan	Ramban	Ramban
2	47/G-I	6.11	Kabbi	Ramban	Ramban
3	47/G-II	2.00	Kabbi	Ramban	Ramban
4	47/G-III	7.28	Kabbi	Ramban	Ramban
5	47/G-IV	6.81	Kabbi	Ramban	Ramban
6	48/G-I	24.00	Gugwal	Ramban	Ramban
7	48/G-II	26.5	Gugwal	Ramban	Ramban
8	49/G-I	3.7	Pernote	Ramban	Ramban
9	49/G-II	2.4	Pernote	Ramban	Ramban
10	49/G-III	3.00	Pernote	Ramban	Ramban
11	49/G-IV	1.00	Pernote	Ramban	Ramban
12	50/G	3.00	Kabbi	Ramban	Ramban
13	51/G	10.00	Thalwa Pernote	Ramban	Ramban
14	52/G	24.00	Pernote	Ramban	Ramban
15	53/G-I	13.00	Kanga Bishali	Ramban	Ramban
16	53/G-II	5.7	Kanga Bishali	Ramban	Ramban
17	53/G-III	15.00	Kanga Bishali	Ramban	Ramban
18	55/G-I	8.00	Kanga	Ramban	Ramban
19	55/G-II	13.00	Kanga	Ramban	Ramban
20	56/G-I	4.4	Kanga	Ramban	Ramban
21	56/G-II	12.5	Kanga	Ramban	Ramban
22	57/G	26.3	Kanga	Ramban	Ramban
23	58/G-II	16.4	Gandhri	Ramban	Ramban
24	58/G-I	1.00	Gandhri	Ramban	Ramban
25	58/G	1.82	Gandhri	Ramban	Ramban
26	58/G-III	13.00	Gandhri	Ramban	Ramban
27	58/G-IV	23.4	Gandhri	Ramban	Ramban





Divisional Forest Officer
Batote Forest Division
Batote

28	59/G	1.00	Gandhri	Ramban	Ramban
29	61/G	5.6	Dharamkund	Ramban	Ramban
30	62/G	7.68	Dharamkund	Ramban	Ramban
31	63/G	5.00	Gandhri	Ramban	Ramban
32	64/G-I	3.15	Kabbi	Ramban	Ramban
33	64/G-II	16.6	Kabbi	Ramban	Ramban
34	66/G-I	5.45	Kabbi	Ramban	Ramban
35	66/G-I	1.00	Kabbi	Ramban	Ramban
36	66/G-I	5.67	Kabbi	Ramban	Ramban
37	69/G	14.00	Bhattan	Ramban	Ramban
38	70/G-I	14.2	Tanger	Ramban	Ramban
39	70/G-II	10.00	Tanger	Ramban	Ramban
40	56/G-III	21.6	Kanga	Ramban	Ramban
41	71/G-II	8.5	Bhattan	Ramban	Ramban
42	72/G	5.15	Tanger	Ramban	Ramban
43	73/G	14.8	Tanger	Ramban	Ramban
44	74/G-I	27.6	Bhattan	Ramban	Ramban
45	74/G-II	10.72	Bhattan	Ramban	Ramban
46	74/G-III	34.00	Bhattan	Ramban	Ramban
47	75/G-I	6.72	Bhattan	Ramban	Ramban
48	75/G-II	5.3	Bhattan Soli	Ramban	Ramban
49	76/G-I	2.8	Bhattan Soli	Ramban	Ramban
50	76/G-II	1.5	Bhattan Soli	Ramban	Ramban
51	76/G-III	1.62	Bhattan Soli	Ramban	Ramban
52	78/G-I	1.86	Duthan	Ramban	Ramban
53	78/G-II	1.15	Duthan	Ramban	Ramban
54	55/G	11.00	Kanga	Ramban	Ramban
55	59/G	7.84	Gandhri	Ramban	Ramban
56	76/G	6.3	Bhattan Soli	Ramban	Ramban
57	60/G	9.31	Gandhri	Ramban	Ramban
58	58/G	18.7	Gandhri	Ramban	Ramban
59	75/G-III	2.32	Bhattan Soli	Ramban	Ramban
60	73/G	34.00	Tanger Pari	Ramban	Ramban
	Total	610.46			

Place:- Batote

Date:- 15-05-2025


Range Officer
Forest Range Officer
Forest Range
Gandhri


Divisional Forest Officer,
Batote Forest Division
Office Seal
Divisional Forest Officer
Batote Forest Division
Batote