



Government of J&K (UT)
Office of the Divisional Forest Officer
Ramban Forest Division, Ramban.



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The Conservator of Forests
Chenab Circle, Doda

No. RFD/24-25/872-73

Dated: 15/05/2025

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 Udhampur, Mahore, Batote and Ramban Forest Divisions, Districts- Udhampur, Reasi and Ramban in the State of Jammu & Kashmir (Online proposal No. FP/JK/HYD/150591/2021) - regarding.

Ref: Proposal No. Hyd/150591/2021 EDS 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, Ramban is submitted as under:

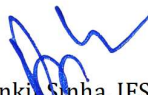
S. No.	EDS	Reply
1	List of existing HEPs on Chenab River Basin along with details viz. name of tributary on which the said HEPs have been built, power generation capacity and their KML files may be submitted.	Does not pertain to this division.
2	Carrying Capacity Studies and Cumulative Impact Studies in the instant proposal which is on Chenab River Basin has not been submitted along with the proposal. Status of the river basin study along with the copy of the report if done may be provided.	Does not pertain to this division.
3	State Government is requested to intimate the status of approval of State Dam Safety Authority (SDSA) and National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) for the Sawalkot HEP. Other approvals received pertaining to Dam safety may kindly be intimated.	Does not pertain to this division.
4	In component-wise break-up, an area of 2.4 ha has been proposed for Explosive Magazine. State Government may inform whether the area sought for the same is barest minimum. Further, State Government may also explore the possibility of shifting the same to non-forest land and revised area, if any, may be intimated to the Ministry.	Does not pertain to this division.
5	In component-wise break-up, an area of 9.0 ha has been proposed for Muck Disposal Area MDS-1 and MDS-2 above FRL. State Government may inform whether the area sought for the same is barest minimum. Further, State Government may also	Does not pertain to this division.

	explore the possibility of shifting the same to non-forest land and revised area, if any, may be intimated to the Ministry.	
6	In component-wise break-up, an area of 12.001 ha has been proposed for Quarry Sites above FRL. A copy of approval obtained from mining department along with supporting document like approved mining plan may be provided.	Does not pertain to this division.
7	In component-wise break-up, an area of 1 ha has been proposed for Roads within Project are above FRL. State Government may inform whether the area sought for the same is barest minimum. Possibility of reducing the area to the barest minimum may be explored by the State Government and revised area, if any, may be intimated to the Ministry.	Does not pertain to this division.
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.	
	Ramban 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 Ramban has been calculated using the tools available on Google Earth. Further, the area mentioned in the column as "Software Calculated Area (ha.)" has been rounded off to two decimal places by Google Earth. Further, the 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.	Does not pertain to this division.
10	In Ramban Division, suitability certificate for one of the patch has been submitted for 71 ha, where as CA scheme is submitted for 7.0151 ha. Clarification along with revised suitability certificate and CA scheme needs to be submitted.	In reply to point No. 10, The patch of 71 ha. Against which the CA programme has been covered under 11 CA plan which already stand uploaded. The suitability certificate and CA scheme already uploaded in Parvaish Portal in Part II S.No. 13 (II) is correct.
11	Soil and moisture conservation plan is not submitted for all four Forest Divisions i.e. Udhampur Division, Ramban Division, Batote and Mahore Division. The same needs to be submitted.	
	Ramban Division:	<p>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:</p> <p>1. Soil Conservation Measures: To safeguard and enhance soil quality, a series of measures have been integrated into the plan. This</p>

		<p>includes the implementation of erosion control strategies such as DSRM and Crater work 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>
12	As per Rule 9 (12) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023, every proposal that involves diversion more than hundred hectares of forest land, field inspection by Nodal Officer shall be undertaken. Field inspection report of Nodal Officer may be submitted.	Pertain to Higher Authorities
13	As per DSS report, calculated area of shape file/ KML file of Forest land proposed for diversion is 838.473 ha. Whereas area proposed for diversion is 847.17 ha. There is a discrepancy of 8.697 ha. Revised KML file for exact area needs to be submitted.	Do not pertain to this division.
14	As per DSS, KML file of CA land proposed in Ramban Range Gajpat Forest, Compartment No. 65/R) over 12.1755 ha. is not opening. Revised/correct KML file needs to be submitted.	In reply to point No. 14 , it is submitted that the revised KML file of CA land proposed in Ramban Range Gajpat Forest, Compartment No. 65/R over 12.1755 ha is re-submitted.
15	As per DSS, observation based on high resolution Google Earth (GE) images: road and solid structure such as building, pillars for flyover, etc. is visible. Comments from State Government in this regard needs to be submitted. Further, approvals obtained, if any, in the past may also be submitted along with compliance report.	Do not pertain to this division.
16	As per DSS, component wise KML file is not available for the extant proposal. The same needs to be submitted.	In reply to point No. 16, it is submitted that the component wise KML file is submitted for the extant proposal division wise. All the component coming in and around the Dam area.
17	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 Udhampur- 1 ha.), 533 ha moderately dense forest land (Batote Division- 223 ha, Mahore- 4 ha, Ramban- 179 ha and Udhampur- 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.	
	Ramban Division:	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.
18	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.	
	Ramban Division:	In reply to point No. 18, Out of 272029 Trees /saplings, 126462 trees are required to be felled, accordingly extraction charges has been calculated and uploaded with the proposal at appropriate place.
19	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.	Land suitability certificates on the prescribed format of each selected patch of forest land selected for compensatory afforestation have been uploaded.

Yours faithfully


Anki Sinha, IFS
Divisional Forest Officer
Ramban Forest Division
Ramban

Copy to:

1. The Nodal Officer, FCA O/o PCCF (HoFF), Jammu for kind Information.

**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. With respect to the Ramban Forest Division, the total forest area proposed for diversion is 332.28 hectares. Against this diversion, a total of 61 patches (copy enclosed as **Annexure A**) measuring area of 772.14 hectares of double degraded forest land have been identified for Compensatory Afforestation. Out of this, plantation activities will be carried out over 665 hectares, while the remaining area consist of contiguous Very Dense Forest and Moderately Dense Forest to the CA patches which will also be fenced as it will significantly safeguard the regeneration there from immense nomadic grazing pressure in the region . Thus, it is clarified that while the areas surrounding the proposed CA patches may be dense forests, the specific patches of forest land selected for planation activities fall below the 40% canopy density, in accordance with the eligibility criteria prescribed under the relevant rules. The CA plans have been designed with a 10-year maintenance schedule to ensure sustainability and long-term ecological benefits. Moreover, provisions for engaging labor for the watch and ward of closures have also been incorporated into the CA plans to safeguard the plantations and enhance their success rate. Hence, the selected sites are suitable for Compensatory Afforestation as per the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. Additionally, Land Suitability Certificates in the prescribed format for each selected patch of forest land selected for Compensatory Afforestation have been uploaded.


**Divisional Forest Officer
Ramban Forest Division
Ramban**

Annexure “A”

S. No.	Range	Block	Name of the Compartment and Unit	Area (In Hectare)
1	Banihal	Banihal	43/B, Arandar/Kaskoot	7.0327
2	Banihal	Doligam	47/B, Chanjloo	20.0371
3	Banihal	Doligam	51/B, Guthal/Doligam Lower	10.0298
4	Banihal	Mohu	34/B, Bajnari/Mohu Upper (I)	15.9999
5	Banihal	Mohu	34/B, Bajnari/Mohu Upper (II)	9.0362
6	Banihal	Mohu	39/B, Tanka/Trigam Upper	10.0738
7	Banihal	Mohu	23b/B, Buzlla/Trigam Upper	9.9961
8	Banihal	Mohu	25/B, Hijwa/Trigam Upper	6.0995
9	Banihal	Mohu	37a/B, Mangit	7.0357
10	Banihal	Sarbangi	9b/B, Gadnallah/Shagan	24.9851
11	Banihal	Sarbangi	4/B, Palbass/Sarbangi (I)	30.0474
12	Banihal	Sarbangi	4/B, Palbass/Sarbangi (II)	12.9644
13	Banihal	Sarbangi	1/B, Lorna/Sumber (I)	22.0529
14	Banihal	Sarbangi	1/B, Lorna/Sumber (II)	23.9763
15	Gool	Gool	25/Ar, Muthgala/Kalimasta	22.0448
16	Gool	Gool	35/Ar, Dugsar/Gool-Parthmulla	7.00942
17	Gool	Gool	26/Ar, Narsinga/Gool Jamman	10.4039
18	Gool	Gool	29/Ar, Google Pathri/Gool-A	13.0689
19	Gool	Dhedha	59/Ar, Dagantop/Dachan (I)	10.9864
20	Gool	Dhedha	59/Ar, Dagantop/Dachan (II)	14.0434
21	Gool	Dhedha	59/Ar, Soomwali/Gool-C	11.027
22	Gool	Dhedha	61/Ar, Chamwali/Gool-C	18.9011
23	Gool	Dhedha	64/Ar, Darsa/Dhedha	6.0245
24	Gool	Dhedha	62/Ar, Kathiawali/Dedha Dachan	4.0279
25	Gool	Sangaldan	8/Ar, Meghdhar/Sumber Upper-B	11.0914
26	Gool	Sangaldan	7/Ar, Muradbass/Sumber Upper-A (I)	9.9986
27	Gool	Sangaldan	7/Ar, Muradbass/Sumber Upper-A (II)	25.0712
28	Gool	Sangaldan	8/Ar, Jignabass/Sumber Upper-B	27.9519
29	Gool	Sangaldan	8/Ar, Gagar/Sumber Upper-B	10.0939
30	Gool	Sangaldan	51/Ar, Sharora Brala/Seripura	15.2903
31	Gool	Sangaldan	38/Ar, Gwadi/Dalwah Lower	15.0734
32	Ramban	Ramban	46/R, Taraag/Kainthi	9.0368
33	Ramban	Ramban	53/R, Gullel	5.0694
34	Ramban	Ramban	40/R, Phaglla/Gam	5
35	Ramban	Ramban	45/R, Shargali/Kainthi	10.1002
36	Ramban	Ramban	51/R, Karoot/Demote	5.9976
37	Ramban	Ramban	40/R, Gam	6.0117

38	Ramban	Ramban	36/R, Bradgadi	7.0073
39	Ramban	Bhangara	35/R, Dardhaee/Sujmatna	10.9533
40	Ramban	Bhangara	35/R, Ahama/Sujmatna	6.0105
41	Ramban	Bhangara	24/R, Chilwee/Senabetti	5.0371
42	Ramban	Bhangara	27/R, Dal/Bhangara	16.0981
43	Ramban	Bhangara	31/R, Chamhal/Bhangara	9.0016
44	Ramban	Neel	9/R, Daganbass/Neel-D	14.9838
45	Ramban	Neel	9/R, Daing Pathri/Neel-D	8.0488
46	Ramban	Neel	9/R, Digwan Sargali /Neel-D	12.213
47	Ramban	Pogal	17a/R, Panjwalli Behak/Maligam-A	10.0565
48	Ramban	Pogal	19a/R, Googlidhar/Hoochak	13.0865
49	Ramban	Pogal	19a/R, Gall Katai/Hoochak	20.092
50	Ramban	Rajgarh	48/R, Kanabathi/Jhtgali-B	6.1083
51	Ramban	Rajgarh	61/R, Noshi Dhandrath/Dhandrath-B	13.0659
52	Ramban	Rajgarh	65/R, Batta (Kundi)/Chakka A 1	12.1755
53	Ramban	Rajgarh	63/R , Marag, Chabla/Dhandrath-B (I)	10.0444
54	Ramban	Rajgarh	47/Ramban, Chakwa Nallah/Sildhar	21.0933
55	SC Banihal	SC Banihal	46/B, Zaban (I)	6.0336
56	SC Banihal	SC Banihal	46/B, Zaban (II)	2.1911
57	SC Banihal	SC Ramban	42/B, Khundartop Lal Pathar/Krawa Chachal	20.0199
58	SC Banihal	SC Ramban	17/R, Sanaseri/Basin (I)	25.0983
59	SC Banihal	SC Ramban	17/R, Sanaseri/Basin (II)	24.9896
60	SC Banihal	SC Ramban	46/R, Neera	10.0215
61	SC Banihal	SC Ramban	39/R, Digdole (II)	6.019
Total				772.14


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