



**OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER, UDHAMPUR**

DFO Office, Near Sallain Talab, Udhampur, PIN Code: 182101  
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Conservator of Forests,  
East Circle,  
Jammu.

No.: 866/FDU

Dated: 16-05-2025

**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. FP/JK/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, Udhampur is submitted as under:

Query 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.	As per the list of Compensatory Afforestation Plans received with the EDS, it is submitted that area proposed for compensatory afforestation degraded forest land in Forest Division Udhampur have been calculated using Google Earth tools and rounded off to nearest two decimal places. Moreover, the values shown in the "Software Calculated Area (ha.)" column are in three decimal places.
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.	<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><b>1. Soil Conservation Measures:</b> 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 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><b>2. Trench planting:</b> This office has proposed trench plantation in</p>



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		<p>the areas having sloppy terrain (wherever required) to conserve maximum moisture and prevent from soil erosion. Trench planting is a proposed technique particularly suitable for areas with sloped terrain, implemented to conserve maximum moisture and prevent soil erosion. By strategically utilizing trenches in such terrains, this approach helps in retaining water, thereby aiding moisture conservation and mitigating soil erosion. This method is especially effective in areas prone to runoff, where the trenches act as barriers to minimize soil loss and facilitate better moisture retention, promoting healthier vegetation and supporting sustainable land management practices.</p> <p><b>3. Water Conservation Strategies:</b> 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 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.</p>	<p>It is submitted that as per the rules, patches having less than 40% canopy density are acceptable for plantation. Accordingly, this office has selected CA patches with less than 40% canopy density and prepared CA plans by excluding the existing canopy area from plantation.</p> <p>Further, it is submitted that the area proposed for diversion is 189.75 ha, and as per rules, double the area i.e. 379.50 ha is required for compensatory afforestation. However, this office has identified degraded forest land patches of <b>468.55 ha</b>, out of which <b>379.553 ha</b> is plantable, thereby meeting and exceeding the required area for compensatory afforestation.</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>	<p>Total no. of trees falling under the alignment of project is <b>52433</b>, out of which <b>44210</b> no. of trees falling under FRL are required to be felled.</p>

*Namast*  
Divisional Forest Officer  
Udhampur Forest Division  
Udhampur