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**Jammu & Kashmir Forest Department**  
**Office of the Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF**  
**Government of Jammu & Kashmir**



**Commissioner Secretary to Government,  
Department of Forest, Ecology & Environment,  
Civil Secretariat, Jammu.**

No. PCCF/FCA/3434/945-46

Dated 22 - 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:** Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India's communications dated 01-01-2025 and 14-02-2025.

Madam,

This is with reference to the observations raised by MoEF&CC New Delhi. The point-wise reply has been given by concerned DFOs and user agency:

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.	The reply has been uploaded by user agency on PARIVESH Portal at Sr.No. 32 (additional documents)
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.	The user agency replied that since the River Chenab is falling in Indus Water Treaty, the data of the studies cannot be published due to Security reasons. Hence, the Cumulative Impact Studies in the instant proposal and river basin study shall not be possible due to the said reason. Further, the MoEF&CC has taken up the matter with Government of J&K. In this regard, the Government of J&K has made a communication with Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change requesting for exemption from carrying out the Cumulative Impact Assessment and Carrying Capacity Studies.

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.	The user agency replied that as intimated by Regional Director (North) Chandigarh, that there is no statutory requirement for clearance from State Dam Safety Authority (SDSA) and National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) for the under construction projects as per the provisions of Dam Safety Act, 2021.
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.	The user agency replied that the area of 2.4 ha has been proposed for Explosive Magazine, which is barest minimum and very essential. Further, it is submitted that, the Explosive Magazine should be located near to the project work place. Also no non-forest land available for placing it. Locating it in the forest area is safe from all angles. Hence, it is proposed to be located in the forest area.
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 explore the possibility of shifting the same to non-forest land and revised area, if any, may be intimated to the Ministry.	The user agency replied that the area of 9.00 ha has been proposed for dumping site, which is barest minimum and very essential. It is to be noted that most of the muck will be used in construction of dam itself. The minimum quantum of muck needs to be dumped in the selected location.
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.	The user agency has replied that conditional NOC has been issued by Geology and Mining department same has been uploaded by user agency at Sr. NO. 30 and 31 (additional documents)
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.	The user agency replied that the area of 1.0 ha has been proposed for Roads within Project site, above FRL, and is barest minimum and very essential.
8	As per information provided in the proposal, area proposed for compensatory afforestation is 2115.878 ha, whereas, as	The DFOs replied that the area of KML files of Compensatory Afforestation proposed on degraded forest land with respect to their Forest Divisions

	per DSS, area proposed for CA is coming upto 2009.416 ha. Complete KML files for land proposed for compensatory afforestation may be submitted.	has been calculated using the tools available on Google Earth. The CA patches have been re-verified and KML files uploaded.
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 of degraded forest area (Double the area to be diverted) has been proposed for Plantation activities along with adjacent forest area. It was observed that the additional area is vulnerable to encroachment and is having good scope of Natural Regeneration. Hence it was proposed to be closed for effecting protection from biotic interference. This would save the young crop.
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.	DFO Ramban has replied that the patch of 71 Ha, against which the CA programme has been covered under 11 individual CA plans 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.	

	<p><u>Udhampur Division:</u></p>	<p>DFO Udhampur replied that 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> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>Soil Conservation Measures:</u> To safeguard and enhance soil quality, a series of measures have been integrated into the plan. This proposal includes erosion control strategies such as DRSM and Crate work. They are proposed to be constructed as per site specification to prevent soil erosion. These measures aim to prevent soil erosion, improve soil structure, and preserve soil nutrients critical for healthy vegetation growth.</li> <li>2. <u>Trench planting:</u> The DFO Udhmapur has proposed trench plantation in the areas having sloppy terrain (wherever required) to conserve maximum moisture and prevent soil erosion. Trench planting is a 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.</li> <li>3. <u>Water Conservation Strategies:</u> 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.</li> </ol>
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	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> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>Soil Conservation Measures:</u> To safeguard and enhance soil quality, a series of measures have been integrated into the plan. DRSM and Crate work are effective in soil and moisture conservation. Hence, they have been proposed to be constructed wherever required, as per site specification.</li> <li>2. <u>Water Conservation Strategies:</u> The plan prioritizes water conservation by development of pond like water harvesting structures. Additionally, the plan emphasizes the preservation of natural water sources.</li> </ol>
	Batote Division	<p>The proposed silviculture interventions, encompasses soil and water conservation also.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>Soil Conservation Measures:</u> DRSM, Crate work, Construction of Inspection Path and Fire Protection measures as per site requirement would address the issue of soil erosion. These measures will prevent soil erosion, and preserve soil nutrients.</li> <li>2. <u>Water Conservation Strategies:</u> The plan prioritizes water conservation through construction of ponds and preservation of natural water sources.</li> </ol>
	Mahore Division:	<p>The proposed compensatory afforestation plan of the Mahore Forest Division 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> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>Soil Conservation Measures:</u> 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</li> </ol>

		<p>aim to prevent soil erosion, improve soil structure, and preserve soil nutrients critical for healthy vegetation growth.</p> <p>2. <u>Trench planting:</u> This office has proposed trench plantation in 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>3. <u>Water Conservation Strategies:</u> 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.	The field inspection has been conducted by Nodal Officer (FCA). The field inspection report is enclosed herewith.
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.	The user agency has uploaded the revised KML file.
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.	The revised KML file has been uploaded by DFO Ramban.

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.	The user agency replied that the River Chenab is passing through the Ramban Town/ Villages. The submergence area starts from Dam located at Tanger Village of Ramban District ends at CRPF Camp, zero point located at Chandrakote village of Ramban District. All the roads and solid structures such as building, pillars for flyover, etc. which are visible in the imagery, are coming (Fully/ Partially) under submergence area of the project.										
16	As per DSS, component wise KML file is not available for the extant proposal. The same needs to be submitted.	The component wise KML file is uploaded by user agency.										
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 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.											
	Udhampur Division:	<p>The FSI classifies the forests as per the canopy density.</p> <table><tr><td>Type of Forests</td><td>Canopy Density (%)</td></tr><tr><td>Very Dense Forests</td><td>More than 70%</td></tr><tr><td>Moderately Dense Forests</td><td>40% to 70%</td></tr><tr><td>Open Forests</td><td>10% to 40%</td></tr><tr><td>Scrub forests</td><td>Less than 10%</td></tr></table> <p>The Open forests and Scrub forests can be taken up for afforestation.</p> <p>Each patch is visited the field staff while preparing the CA plan. In each selected patch, total area, and area to be treated are estimated using satellite imagery and ground truthing.</p> <p>The DFO Udhampur replied that the area proposed for diversion in Udhampur is 189.75 Ha and hence an area of 379.50 ha needs to be treated. However, the total area of CA patches is</p>	Type of Forests	Canopy Density (%)	Very Dense Forests	More than 70%	Moderately Dense Forests	40% to 70%	Open Forests	10% to 40%	Scrub forests	Less than 10%
Type of Forests	Canopy Density (%)											
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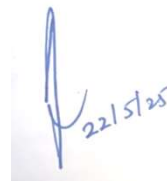
		468.55 Ha, out of which, 379.553 Ha will be planted.
	Mahore Division:	In compliance with Rule 13(1) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023, this division has proposed a comprehensive Compensatory Afforestation (CA) plan, which includes a detailed programme for the improvement of the forest 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 in respect of Mahroe Forest Division. It is also certified that CA area measuring 19 Ha, with respect to Mahore Forest Division is re-verified and is found suitable for plantation. Further, a site suitability certificate has been issued.
	Ramban Division:	DFO Ramban has 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 Ramban Forest Division, the total forest area proposed for diversion is 332.28 Ha, against which 61 patches measuring 772.14 Ha has been identified for CA. Out of this, plantation activities will be carried out over 665 Ha, while the remaining areas 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. 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 plantation 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 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. 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.
	Batote Division:	DFO Batote replied 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. Along with it, adjacent forest area vulnerable to encroachment and having good scope of Natural Regeneration has also 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 in the CA plans to safeguard the plantations and enhance their success rate. Further, the area proposed for Compensatory Afforestation includes adjoining Forest area for closing to enhance the natural regeneration and protect the forest land from encroachments.
<b>18</b>	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	
	Udhampur Division:	DFO replied that total number of trees falling under the alignment of project is 52,433, out of which 44,210 no. of trees falling under FRL are required to be felled.
	Ramban Division:	DFO Ramban replied that out of 2,72,029 Trees /saplings, 1,26,462 trees are required to be felled.

	Batote Division:	DFO Batote replied that out of 3,50,000 Trees /saplings, 50,590 trees are required to be felled.
	Mahore Division:	DFO Mahore replied that 819 trees/ saplings of both conifers and broad leaved species are coming under the project site in compartment no 74.
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/ CA schemes, KML file and DGPS maps have been uploaded by DFOs of Ramban, Mahore, Udhampur and Batote Forest Divisions.

Accordingly, It is requested to kindly accord necessary stage-I approval for the instant proposal please.

Yours faithfully,



**(Dr. K. Anandh) IFS  
Chief Conservator of Forests,  
& Nodal Officer (FCA)**

Copy to: Sr. PS to Pr.CCF & HoFF for kind information of the Pr.CCF & HoFF J&K





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

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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>





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

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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>

*Naresh*  
Divisional Forest Officer  
Udhampur Forest Division  
Udhampur





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



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Email- dforamban1@gmail.com

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 area 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.	
	<b>Ramban Division:</b>	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.	
	<b>Ramban Division:</b>	<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</p>



		<p>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. 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>
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 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.	
	<b>Ramban Division:</b>	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



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

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

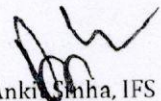
It is certified that in compliance with Rule 13(1) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023, this division has proposed a comprehensive Compensatory Afforestation (CA) plan, which includes a detailed programme for the improvement of the forest crop. With respect to the Ramban Forest Division, 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**



		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.	
	<b>Ramban Division:</b>	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 Udampur- 1 ha.), 533 ha moderately dense forest land (Batote Division- 223 ha, Mahore- 4 ha, Ramban- 179 ha and Udampur- 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

  
Ankit Sinha, IFS  
**Divisional Forest Officer**  
**Ramban Forest Division**  
**Ramban**

**Copy to:**

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

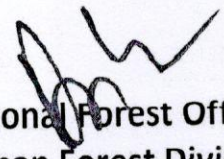


## Annexure "A"

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
<b>Total</b>				<b>772.14</b>

  
**Divisional Forest Officer**  
**Ramban Forest Division**  
**Office Seal**  
**Ramban Forest Division**  
**Ramban**



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/150591/2021EDS 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, Udhampur 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.	
	<b>Batote Division:</b>	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 <b>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 the in the area thereby increasing the area proposed under CA to 735 Ha.</b>
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.	
	<b>Batote Division</b>	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: <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, Inspection Path and Fire

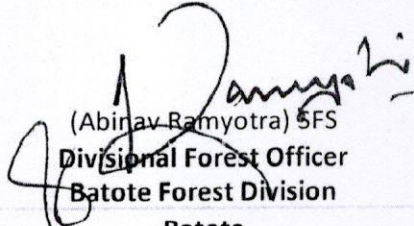
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		<p>Protection measures have been proposed (wherever required) as per site specification to prevent the area from soil erosion. These measures aim to prevent soil erosion, improve soil structure, and preserve soil nutrients critical for healthy vegetation growth.</p> <p><b>2. 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 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>	
	<b>Batote Division:</b>	<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>	
	<b>Batote Division:</b>	<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

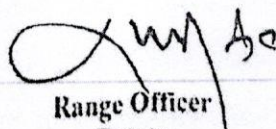


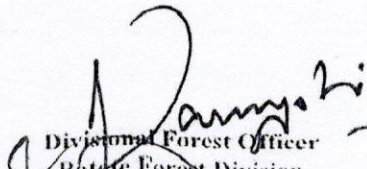
**Sawalkot HE Project (1856 MW)  
(FP/JK/HYD/150591/2021)**

**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**

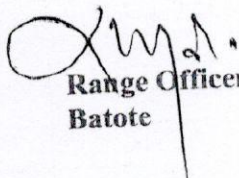
**Land Suitability Certificate by DFO (Territorial)**

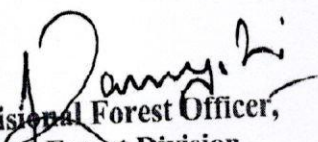
This is to certify that **124.54 Ha.** land bearing survey no./compartment No. (**Given below**) of village (**Given below**) Tehsil Ramban District Ramban identified for compensatory afforestation is suitable for plantation from management point of view and is free from all sorts of encumbrances and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

**Place:- Batote**

**Date:- 15-05-2025**

  
Range Officer  
Batote

  
Divisional Forest Officer,  
Batote Forest Division  
Officer in Charge  
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



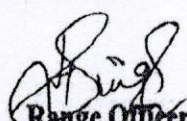
Divisional Forest Officer  
Batote Forest Division  
Batote

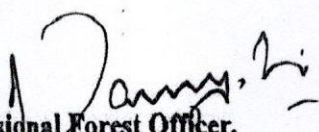


28	59/G	1.00	Gandhri	Ramban	Ramban
29	61/G	5.6	Dharamkund	Ramban	Ramban
30	62/G	7.68	Dharamkund	Ramban	Ramban
31	63/G	5.00	Gandhri	Ramban	Ramban
32	64/G-I	3.15	Kabbi	Ramban	Ramban
33	64/G-II	16.6	Kabbi	Ramban	Ramban
34	66/G-I	5.45	Kabbi	Ramban	Ramban
35	66/G-I	1.00	Kabbi	Ramban	Ramban
36	66/G-I	5.67	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





Govt of Jammu and Kashmir (Union Territory)

**OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER MAHORE**  
**HQ DHARMARI**

The Conservator of Forests,  
West Circle Rajouri

NO. DFO/MFD/ 308-09

dated 14-05-2025

**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: MoEF&CC New Delhi communication No. 01-01-2025 and No. 14-02-2025**

Sir,

On the subject matter cited above, point wise reply to the observations raised by the MoEF&CC in EDS dated 01-01-2025 and 14-02-2025 pertains to Mahore Forest Division, 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. The reply with respect to Mahore Forest Division is as under:-	
	<b>Mahore Division:</b>	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 Mahore 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.
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.	
	<b>Mahore Division:</b>	The Mahore Forest Division 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:  <b>1. Soil Conservation Measures:</b> To safeguard and enhance soil quality, a series

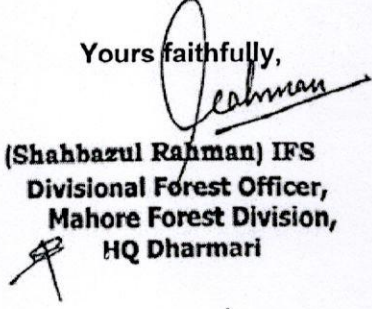


		<p>of measures have been integrated into the plan. This includes the implementation of erosion control strategies such as DRSM and Crate work have been proposed (wherever required) as per site specification to prevent the area from soil erosion. These measures aim to prevent soil erosion, improve soil structure, and preserve soil nutrients critical for healthy vegetation growth.</p> <p><b>2. Trench planting:</b> This office has proposed trench plantation in 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	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.	
	<b>Mahore Division:</b>	<p>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 in respect of Mahore Forest Division.</p>



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.	
	<b>Mahore Division:</b>	The joint verification of forest land coming under the alignment of the project in Comp. 74 has been conducted with user agency and during joint verification it is found that as per the enumeration list are 819 in nos which are both conifer and broad leaved are involved and user agency further certified that all 819 of trees actually required to cut or will be under submergence and get affected.
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.	CA site area measuring 19 Ha, with respect to Mahore Forest Division is re-verified and is found suitable for plantation. Further, a site suitability certificate in this regard is enclosed.

Yours faithfully,

  
**(Shahbazul Rahman) IFS**  
**Divisional Forest Officer,**  
**Mahore Forest Division,**  
**HQ Dharmari**

**Copy submitted the Chief Conservator of Forests (Nodal Officer FCA) o/o the Pr. CCF HoFF J&K UT for favour of information please**



NH/HOP/SHEP/Env/2025/Camp-Jammu/ 54

Date: 14.05.2025

The Chief Conservator of Forests,  
& Nodal Officer (FCA),  
FRMC, Narwal Jammu.

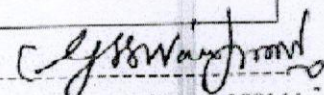
Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 (i) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in favour of National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) Ltd. for non-forestry use of 847.17 ha. of Reserved Forest and Jungle-jhari land for construction 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) - reg.

Ref: MoEF&CC New Delhi communication No. 01-01-2025 and No. 14-02-2025

Sir,


On the subject matter cited above, the point wise reply to the observations raised by the MoEF&CC in EDS dated 01-01-2025 and 14-02-2025 pertains to user agency is given 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.	In reply to point No. 1, it is submitted that there are three number of HEPs on River Chenab namely (i) 390 MW Dulhasti HE Power Station at Kishtwar (ii) 890 MW Baghliar HEP at Ramban and (iii) 690 MW Salal Hydro Electric Project at Reasi. KML files are annexure-I.
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.	In reply to point No. 2, it is submitted that Since the River Chenab and River Jhelum are falling in Indus Water Treaty; the data of the studies cannot be published due to Security reasons. Hence, the Cumulative Impact Studies in the instant proposal and river basin study shall not be possible due to the said reason.  Further, the MoEF&CC has taken up the matter with Government of J&K, in this regard the Government of J&K has made a communication with Minister Environment and Climate Change requesting for exemption from carrying out the CIA/CCS Studies.
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.	In reply to point No. 3, it is submitted that <b>there is no statutory requirement for clearance from the NDSA or SDSO for the under-construction projects as per the provisions of the Dam Safety Act, 2021.</b> As intimated by the Regional Director, (North) NDSA Chandigarh (Copy of the email enclosed Annexure-II).



सावलकोट जलविद्युत परियोजना, टंगर, जिला रामबन - 182144 (जेएंडके)/Sawalkote HE Project, Tanger, Distt. Ramban - 182144  
(J&K) दूरभाष/Tele: 0191-2490942; ई-मेल/Email: hop-sawalkote@nhpc.nic.in

पंजीकृत कार्या./Regd. Off.: एनएचपीसीपरिसर, गे. -33, फरीदाबाद-121003 (हरियाणा)/NHPC Office Complex, Sec-33, Faridabad-121003 (Haryana)

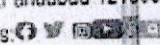
CIN No. : L40101HR1975GOI032564, WEBSITE : <https://www.nhpcindia.com> email: [webmaster@nhpc.nic.in](mailto:webmaster@nhpc.nic.in) Join us: 



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.	In reply to point No. 4, it is submitted that the area of 2.4 ha has been proposed for Explosive Magazine at Gandhri Forest Range, which is barest minimum and very essential. Further, it is submitted that, while selecting the site Explosive Magazine the project always selects the site, which are near to the work place and located in the forest area and safe from all angles. Keeping in view of the reasons explained above, the above, the shifting of Explosive Magazine on to non-forest land and revised area, if any, may not be possible.
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 explore the possibility of shifting the same to non-forest land and revised area, if any, may be intimated to the Ministry.	In reply to point No. 5, it is submitted that the area of 9.00 ha in Gandhri Range, has been proposed for dumping site, which is barest minimum and very essential. Further, it is submitted that due to non availability of Non Forest lands in nearby areas, shifting of the same on to non-forest land un avoidable and hence, the revised area, which is not possible due to hilly terrain.
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.	In reply to point No. 6, it is submitted that the area of 12.001 ha in Panchari Forest Range has been proposed for Quarry sites area above FRL. Further, it is submitted that, Land diverted for Quarry sites are located in near Dam area and are temporary in nature, the details of quarry site plan as proposed in DPR were submitted to Directorate of Geology and Mining Government of J&K by JKPDC. Further, the Directorate of Geology and Mining Government of J&K has issued NOC in favour of JKPDC (copy enclosed as Annexure-III and IV).
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.	In reply to point No. 7, it is submitted that the area of 1.0 ha has been proposed for Roads within Project above, FRL in Panchari Range, which is barest minimum and very essential.

*[Signature]*

सावलकोट जलविद्युत परियोजना, टंगर, जिला रामवन - 182144 (जिएडके)/Sawalkote HE Project, Tanager, Distt. Ramban - 182144 (J&K) दूरभाष/Tele: 0191-2490942; ई-मेल/Email: [hnp-sawalkote@nhpc.nic.in](mailto:hnp-sawalkote@nhpc.nic.in)

पंजीकृत कार्यालय/Regd. Off.: एनएचपीसीपरिसर, से. -33, फरीदाबाद-121003 (हरियाणा)/NHPC Office Complex, Sec-33, Faridabad-121003 (Haryana)  
CIN No.: L40101HR1975GOI032564, WEBSITE : <https://www.nhpcindia.com> email: [webmaster@nhpc.nic.in](mailto:webmaster@nhpc.nic.in) Join us: 



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.	In reply to point No. 13, it is submitted that the KML for 847.17 ha the area proposed for diversion is re-verified and no discrepancy has been found.  Further, the mismatched in the area is due to non inclusion of Dumping Site, after inclusion of the Dumping Site, the total area remains the same and diversion of 847.17 ha may be allowed. Hence, the revised KML is submitted. (Annexure-V(Forest) & VI(Non-Forest))
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.	In reply to point No. 15, it is submitted that the, River Chenab is passing through the Ramban Town/ Villages. The submergence area starts from Dam located at Tanger Village of Ramban District ends at CRP Camp, zero point located at Chandrakote village of Ramban District, which is around 40 Km's. As per DSS, observation based on high resolution Google Earth (GE) images: all the roads and solid structures such as building, pillars for flyover, etc. which are visible, are coming (Fully/ Partially) under submergence area of the project on non-forest land.
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 to the extent of proposal consolidate.  All the components are falling in and around the Dam area of Panchari range of Udhampur, Mahore and Gool range of Ramban. Further component wise KML file are submitted. (Annexure-VII)

It is requested to kindly grant in-principle approval for this project, which is of national importance at the earliest please.

Yours faithfully,

*(Signature)*  
(Dr. G.S.S.H. Nara Prasad)  
Senior Manager (Environment)

Copy to:

1. Executive Director, Regional Office, Jammu for kind information.
2. General Manager (HoP), Sawalkote HE Project for kind information.

सावलकोट जलविद्युत परियोजना, टेंगर, जिला रामबन - 182144 (जम्मू)/Sawalkote HE Project, Tanger, Distt. Ramban - 182144 (J&K) दूरभाष/Tele: 0191-2490942; ई-मेल/Email: [hnp-sawalkote@nhpc.nic.in](mailto:hnp-sawalkote@nhpc.nic.in)

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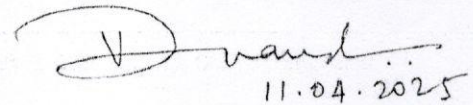
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In the backdrop of the above, Project requests your office to issue a certificate certifying that "no appropriate site specific alternate land is available for quarrying purposes in lieu of the proposed forest land". This certification is pre-requisite in response to said observation/EDS for further submission to Secretary Forest, GoJK as part for the approval process.

Thanking you,  
**Encls. As Above.**

Yours sincerely,



11.04.2025

**General Manager (I/c) HOP**  
**Pakal Dul HE Project**

CC:

**Internal:**

1. General Manager (HR/Env.) Pakal Dul HE Project: for information please.
2. General Manager (Dam) Pakal Dul HE Project: for information please.
3. Dy. General Manager (Geology) Pakal Dul HE Project: for information please

**External:**

1. Joint Director, Department of Geology and Mining, GoJK, Jammu - for information please.
2. District Mineral Officer, District Kishtwar - for information please.

Office Address

**Srinagar Office :** Forest Complex, Shiekh Bagh, Phone: 0194-2483937  
Lal Chowk, Sgr-190001  
**Jammu Office :** Forest Resource Mgmt. Centre, Phone: 0191-3511909  
Narwal Jammu-180006



URL Address: [www.jkforest.gov.in](http://www.jkforest.gov.in)

E-mail: [pccfjkforest@gmail.com](mailto:pccfjkforest@gmail.com)



**Jammu & Kashmir Forest Department  
Office of the Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF  
Government of Jammu & Kashmir**



**Subject: - Site Inspection Report of Hydro Electric Project Sawalkot by  
Dr. K. Anandh, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests and Nodal  
Officer FCA, J&K on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2025.**

**Sawalkot Hydroelectric Project** is proposed to be located at the downstream of Baglihar Hydroelectric Project and upstream of Salal Hydroelectric Project across the water Chenab River. The project area falls in the Ramban, Reasi and Udhampur districts of Jammu and Kashmir. The free draining catchment area of the project falls under administrative control of the Ramban Forest Division, Batote Forest Division, Udhampur Forest Division and Mahore Forest Division.

The upstream Coffor Dam of earth and rock fill with diversion channels is proposed to be constructed more than half kilometer in the upstream side of the proposed main Dam. The diversion channels located at the Right side of the river originating from U/S Coffor Dam will again release the water in the main river course at downstream of the main dam site. This will facilitate the construction activity of the main dam before it attains the full required strength by hindering the flow of river. U/S Coffor Dam proposed to fall in both Ramban Forest Division and Mahore Forest Division. After completion of dam work, said diversion channels will be plugged, and dam filling will be commenced.

Approach tunnel to the main dam site is located in the Panchari Range of Udhampur Forest Division provide connectivity to the main dam site which is already sanctioned under the provisions of J&K FCA 1997 vide Government Order No. 249-FST of 2006 dated 18-05-2006. Part of the construction work is completed and the remaining to be taken up, once the case is cleared.

Seize in the water flow of the main river course from U/S Coffor Dam to the main dam site and overall HEP, will hamper sustenance of biota and environmental degradation in the area.



Proposed Muck disposal sites were inspected and are appropriately chosen. User agency was advised to take bio-engineering measures to prevent the pilferage of the muck. In addition, proposed tunnel area, adjacent to the main dam site was also inspected which will serve as passage for the carrier of the muck upto the muck dumping sites.

Further, proposed quarrying site was also inspected. Although, it is located on the cliff but proper training proposal was made by the user agency so that it should not hamper the ecology of the site.



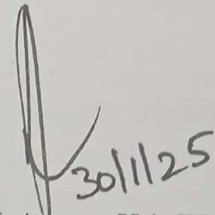
To counter the effects caused by the formation of said HEP and arrest the sediment deposition, provisions have been laid for the catchment area treatment involving various biological measures, soil conservation measures, etc. to the tune of Rs. 22525.77 lakh. The said CAT (Catchment Area Treatment) Plan already stands approved vide no. PCCF/FCA/3434-I/24-28 dated 01-04-2024.

Environmental Clearance of Sawalkot HEP was also accorded by the Ministry of Forests, Govt. of India (IA-I Division) dated 12<sup>th</sup> June 2013.

Forest Clearance under the provisions of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 also stands initiated and pending inspection by the Regional Office Chandigarh.

Proposed area of HEP Sawalkot does not include any protected area network involving occurrence RET (rare, endangered and threatened) species recorded for conservation and rehabilitation purposes.

It has also been found that no monument of historical importance is reported from the proposed area.

  
(Dr. K. Anandh) IFS  
Chief Conservator of Forests,  
& Nodal Officer (FCA)