

GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM

OFFICE OF THE PCCF-cum-PRINCIPAL SECRETARY

FORESTS, ENV. WL MANAGEMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE DEPARTMENT
FOREST SECRETARIAT, DEORALI, GANGTOK-737 102 Phone No. 281145 [FAX No. 03592-281145]

Ref. No. 1768/FCA/FEWMD/.....897

Dated: 24/12/2018.

To,

✓ The Conservator of Forests (Central),
Ministry of Env., Forests & Climate Change,
North Eastern Regional Office,
LAW – U – SIB LUMBATNGEN,
Near M.T.C. Workshop,
Shillong – 793 021 (Meghalaya).

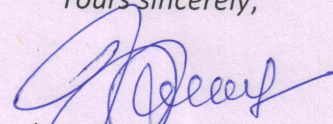
Sub : Proposal for diversion of 4.50 ha of Forest land for establishment of SRM University, Sikkim Campus at Lingdum, Ranka in East District of Sikkim by SRM University - Additional information-reg.

Sir,

In accordance with reference letter No. 3-SK B 048/2018-SHI/1182-83 dated 03.07.2018, please find enclosed herewith the justification furnished by the user agency vide their letter No. SRMUS/Reg/GC/2018-303 dated 11.12.2018 and which is self explanatory.

Therefore, it is requested to kindly consider the aforesaid proposal for seeking forest clearance under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, at the earliest, please.

Yours sincerely,


(Y.P. Gurung, IFS),
CCF-cum-Nodal Officer (FCA)

Prof Ch Satish Kumar

MIM (Mc Gill Canada), Ph. D

(i/c) Vice Chancellor & Registrar



SRM

UNIVERSITY SIKKIM
(Estd. Under SRMUS Act, 2013)

SRMUS/Reg/GC/2018 - 303

Date- 11th Dec, 2018

Shri Y.P Gurung, IFS
CCF- cum- Nodal Officer/FCA
FE & WM Department
Govt. of Sikkim

Sub:Proposal for diversion of 4.50 ha of Forest land for establishment of SRM University Sikkim, Campus at Lingdum, Ranka in East District of Sikkim by SRM University Additional Information - reg

Dear Sir,

With reference to your letter No.1768/FCA/FEWIMD/735 dated 5/10/2018, we are hereby giving the responses to the queries on complete justification for establishing the university in the proposed forest land.

1. In order to develop Sikkim as an Education hub, SRM University Sikkim was established under the Government of Sikkim Legislative Act vide Shri Ramasamy Memorial University, Sikkim Act no 13 of 2013, as a State Private University. With its Academic journey of 32 years as SRM Educational Institutions, SRM in Sikkim has completed its four years. Despite being a private firm, the university is functioning aligning with the HRDD norms under the Government of Sikkim. Having this university in Sikkim has also eased many aspiring students for getting admitted to the courses of their choice, which SRM as an institution is providing currently.
2. With the vision and mission that SRM University has started their Educational journey here, its development would definitely benefit the State. For any University to progress and grow in infrastructure, a certain amount of land is required. When SRM approached the government, we did try to find a suitable land. However, Sikkim, because of the hilly terrains, has very less land which could be used for construction of a University. Also, the continuous land in one area, to fulfil the requirement of the University, is not available.

Prof Ch Satish Kumar

MIM (Mc Gill Canada), Ph. D

(i/c) Vice Chancellor & Registrar



SRM
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3. SRM's priority was to acquire private lands as far as possible and practicable but since Sikkim has over 82 % forest land amount of private lands available is meagre. It is difficult for the University to get continuous private lands in block for setting up campus since people in Sikkim have marginal piece of land and not all are willing to sell off their lands.
4. Even if SRM acquires those marginal lands there are every chances that people will get landless which is again restricted by government policies.
5. This particular land has been identified only after many failed attempt to acquire private lands with minimal required block area. This proposed site has atleast the minimum block area required though the University had to compromise in many aspects by keeping the requirement to the barest minimum.

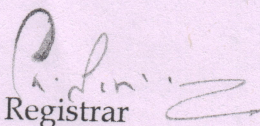
However this diversion of forest land is not going to reduce the forest or the forest cover of the state as SRM itself is committed to conserve the greenery of its compound and as such shall keep the majority forest area as it is for the study purpose and for the aesthetics. On top of that SRM shall provide funds for compensatory afforestation which would rather improve the forest coverage of the Sikkim State.

Constructions are identified to be carried out in degraded areas and the architecture of the structures shall be such that they blend well with the topography and ecology of the area.

We hope that the above mentioned points would suffice and will be able to move forward with the formalities of processing with the proposal.

Thank you

With Regards


Registrar