

Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi: 1100 03,
Dated: February, 2024

To

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Department of Environment and Forests,
Government of Himachal Pradesh.
Shimla.

Subject: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 (1) (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 in favour of Shongtong Karchham Hydro Electric Project, HPPCL under the jurisdiction of Kinnaur Forest Division, Distt. Kinnaur, Himachal Pradesh, for non-forestry use of 7.3722 ha. of forest land as additional forest land requirement in already approved diversion, in the State of Himachal Pradesh (Online Proposal No. FP/HP/HYD/40611/2019)-regarding.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to Government of Himachal Pradesh letterNo. Ft.48-4019/2011 (FCA) dated 18.01.2024 on the above mentioned subject submitted additional information as sought vide this Ministry letter dated 09.11.2023, and to say that examination of the said information in the Ministry revealed following:

- i. Stage- II approval for earlier proposal i.e. 63.5015 ha was accorded on 14.12.2012, even after lapse of more than 11 years, CAT plan has not been implemented completely. Time required for implementation of CAT plan completely along with expenditure details for remaining amount needs to be submitted by the State Government.
- ii. State Govt. has informed that failure of Compensatory Afforestation plantation in one patch in question is rocky and near to the habitations. Further, it is also mentioned that the failure of plantation is due to grazing and drought. However, status of other CA patches is not submitted by the State Government. State Government may be requested to submit the progress of the CA of the other patches also.
- iii. There is a violation over an area of 0.5883 ha. as reported by the State Government. However, detailed violation report along with action taken against officers responsible for violation has not been submitted. The same needs to be submitted.
- iv. KML of dumping site stated to be enclosed along with the letter in the form of CD is not received in the Ministry. The same needs to be submitted.

In view of the above, the Government of Himachal Pradesh is requested to furnish the above mentioned information to this Ministry for further consideration of the proposal.

Yours faithfully,

(S. Sundar)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to: -

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Government of Himachal Pradesh, Shimla.
2. The DDGF (C), Regional Office, Chandigarh **with a request to carry out the Site Inspection of the diverted area as well as the CA cites and submit their report to this Ministry.**
3. The Nodal Officer (FCA), Government of Himachal Pradesh, Shimla.
4. User Agency.
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF & CC, New Delhi, for uploading.