

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Aliganj, Jor Bag Road,
New Delhi - 110003.

Dated: 29th March, 2023

To

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

Subject: Diversion of 7.3722 ha of forest land as additional forest land requirement in already approved diversion in favour of Shongtong Karchham Hydro Electric Project, HPPCL under the jurisdiction of Kinnaur Forest Division, Distt. Kinnaur, Himachal Pradesh (Online Proposal No. FP/HP/HYD/40611/2019)- regarding.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Himachal Pradesh's online proposal no. FP/HP/HYD/40611/2019 dated 16.03.2023 regarding diversion of 7.3722 ha of additional forest land for the construction of Shongtong Karchham HEP (due to enhancement in the existing capacity of HEP 402 to 450 MW), seeking prior approval of the Central Government in accordance with Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. After preliminary scrutiny of the proposal, the following observations are made:

- i. The Part-1 of the application form mentions that the forest land is required due to enhancement in the existing capacity of HEP from 402 to 450 MW, due to change in the river course during flood and also usage of already diverted dumping site used by BRO and restriction imposed by the Army Authorities for construction activities within the boundary of 1200 yards. In this regard the details along with the KML files of the project area affected by floods and the already diverted dumping site used by shall be submitted long with the detail of relevant approvals.
- ii. The State Govt. has reported violation of 0.5883 Ha. but the nature of violation is not furnished. The detail of violation needs to be provided. Further, it has also been mentioned that it is encroachment. The same needs clarification.
- iii. It is noted that the letter dated 12.12.2013 from PCCF (HoFF) to Pr. Secretary (Forest) has been uploaded on PARIVESH in lieu of revised Catchment Treatment (CAT) Plan. Therefore, the revised Catchment Treatment Plan may be uploaded on PARIVESH. Govt. of Himachal Pradesh may also confirm the status of implementation of the CAT plan.
- iv. The point wise status of compliance of the conditions stipulated in the Stage-II approval dated 14.11.2012 1980 for diversion of 63.5015 ha of forest land for construction of 402 MW Shongtong Karchham Hydro Electric Project under FCA,1980 and Environment Clearance dated 19.05.2011 shall be furnished.
- v. The shape file/KML files for diverted area and Compensatory Afforestation (CA)/Green Belt Plantation done in case of Stage-II approval dated 14.11.2012 for diversion of 63.5015 ha of forest land shall be provided.

- vi. The status of implementation of the R&R plan in in case of instant project shall also be submitted.
- vii. As per DSS analysis, Sangla Valley (Raksham Chitkul) Wildlife Sanctuary is located at a distance of 9.78 Km. from proposed area of diversion which is less than 10 KM. The status of notification of ESZ around the said protected area shall be submitted. Further,it shall be ascertained that the proposed area of diversion does fall within the eco-sensitive zone.
- viii. Legible copy of Survey of India (Sol) toposheet map showing proposed diversion may be uploaded on PARIVESH.

In view of above, Govt. of Himachal Pradesh is requested to furnish their response on the above observation for further consideration of the proposal in the Ministry.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-
(Suneet Bhardwaj)
Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. The Principal Chief Conservation of Forests, Government of Himachal Pradesh, Shimla.
2. The Regional Officer, Integrated Regional Office, Shimla: **with a request to intimate whether any monitoring of FC/EC conditions stipulated in approval dated 14.11.2012/19.05.2011 has been done recently, if so, the copy of the same with their comments be furnished to this Ministry, if not done, the monitoring may be done and report be submitted to this office for further action.**
3. The Nodal Officer, O/o the PCCF, Government of Himachal Pradesh, Shimla.
4. User Agency.
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF & CC, New Delhi.
6. Guard File.