

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Aliganj, Jorbagh Road,
New Delhi – 110003

Dated: the 14th May, 2020

To,

The Additional Chief Secretary (Forests),
Department of Forests and Environment,
Government of Himachal Pradesh,
Talland, Shimla.

Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for non-forestry use of 54.668 ha. of forest land for extraction of sand, stone and bajri from bed of river Yamuna mining project by Randeep Singh, Mauza and Mohal Bhagani, District Sirmour, within the jurisdiction of Paonta Forest Division, District, Sirmour Himachal Pradesh (Online Proposal No. FP/HP/MIN/34137/2018)- regarding

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Himachal Pradesh, Forest Department's letter No.Ft.48-3758/2018 (FCA) dated 18th January, 2020 on the above mentioned subject seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section -2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The said proposal was placed before Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) in its meeting held on 23.04.2020 and the detailed minutes of the FAC meeting are placed on the website of this Ministry: www.parivesh.nic.in.

2. FAC after thorough deliberations and discussions, has deferred the proposal with following observations:

- i. The State Government to confirm that the proposed mining conforms to the DSR [as per EMSMG-2020 (*guidelines for Enforcement and Monitoring of Sand Mining in January 2020*) and SSMMG-2016 (*Sustainable Sand Mining Management Guidelines (SSMMG) issued in 2016*) issued by MoEF&CC] of the concerned district.
- ii. The State Government to confirm that the issue of conservation of riverine wildlife biodiversity will be fully addressed during the proposed mining as per direction given by the CWLW of the state Government.
- iii. As trees are important constituent of a riverine ecosystem, the State Government shall explore the possibility of marking barest minimum number of trees for felling.
- iv. On analysis of CA area through DSS it is observed that a part of the proposed CA area is MDF (Medium Dense Forest). This area cannot be considered as Degraded Forest suitable for CA. Moreover, some patches of CA fall in river bed area. It is not clear from the proposal how the CA, so raised could be protected from inundation and damage during high flood instances. Specific clarification in this regard shall be submitted.
- v. A representation has been received from BNHS (Bombay Natural History Society) wherein it has been highlighted that the Asan Barage Conservation Reserve (in Uttarakhand state) is about 6 km from the proposed mining area

and the proposed mining would have adverse impact on such conservation area. Specific comments of State Government in this regard shall be submitted

In view of the above, the State Government of Himachal Pradesh requested to submit the information/Justification, as indicated above, to this Ministry for further consideration of the proposal.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-

(Sandeep Sharma)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. The PCCF (HoFF), Government of Himachal Pradesh, Talland, Shimla.
2. The DDGF (Central), Regional Office (NCZ), Dehradun.
3. The Nodal Officer (FCA), Forest Dept., Himachal Pradesh, Talland, Shimla.
4. User Agency.
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF & CC, New Delhi.
6. Guard File.