



OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS,  
RAMPUR FOREST DIVISION, RAMPUR BUSHAHR,  
HIMACHAL PRADESH FOREST DEPARTMENT

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No. 2212  
H.P. Forest Department.

Dated Rampur, the 17-08-2024

To

✓ The Regional Manager,  
HRTC Rampur Bushahr,  
Distt. Shimla H.P.

Subject: - Diversion of 0.1666 hac. forest land in favour of HRTC for construction of Bus Stand at Taklech within the jurisdiction of Rampur Forest Division, Distt. Shimla H.P.

Sir,

In this context of subject stated above, during the visit to the site of the proposed Bus Stand at Taklech on 15/08/2024 and as per discussion held with dealing hand of your office on 16/8/2024, the undersigned has noticed a few issues that need immediate rectification at your end.


The proposed site adjoins the heritage Forest Rest House, Taklech built in 1919 and is an important component of promoting ecotourism in the state as per the Ecotourism Policy of 2017. It is also happens to be the biggest FRH of the Rampur Forest Division (with 6 rooms) and has been remained well occupied in the past (though has falled into disuse in the recent past). Thus, as you would appreciate, protecting this heritage FRH is a prime responsibility of the forest department for promoting ecotourism in the state. To balance the twin needs of building the bus stand and also protecting the important Forest Rest House following steps are required:

1. The existing road to heritage FRH at Taklech is going to be subsumed under the bus stand leaving the FRH disconnected from the main road. Thus, it is essential that the project component includes an alternative road to the FRH to keep the FRH accessible for ecotourists and visitors and the same may be be clearly marked on the map/ kml file.
2. As the bus stand will touch the boundary of the FRH located over it, it is essential that a strong retaining wall is provided, in absence of which the stability of the FRH could be compromised especially considering the recent spate of landslides that has engulfed the state owing to heavy precipitation. Adequate support to the boundary of the FRH be provided by a strong retaining wall.
3. The ecotourist who visits the state comes with the expectation of spending time in a serene, noise-free, and peaceful environment. The bus stand and the gamut of activities surrounding it that will come up in time have all the potential to distrub the serenity of the FRH and compromise its ecotourism potential. The way to balance this is two fold:

- a. Having a natural vegetative visual barrier so that the bus stand and its activity is not visible to the ecotourist from the FRH.
- b. Building an auditory barrier so that the noise from the bus stand does not reach the FRH. The bus stand should operate as a no-honking zone and the movement of the buses should be as silent as possible. The responsibility of ensuring the same shall lie with the operating authority, upon violating which, a provision of imposing suitable fines should be included in the proposal.

It is by incorporating such solutions that we can balance the twin imperatives of meeting developmental needs and at the same time preserving the pristine and priceless environment of the state.

The undersigned has no hesitation in recommending the project ahead, provided these concerns are suitably addressed.

  
Dy. Conservator of Forests,  
Rampur Forest Division,  
Rampur Bushahr, H.P.

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FRD  
Ashok  
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