

File No. 11/137/2024-FC
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road,
New Delhi – 110003
Dated: November, 2024

To,
The Addl. Chief Secretary (Forests)/Principal Secretary (Forests),
All State Governments/UT Administrations

**Sub: Construction of rope ways in the Hilly States of the Country ;
reinstatement of guidelines dated 5.08.2019 issued by the Central
Government – regarding.**

Sir,

I am directed to refer the DO No.No. TPT-F(10)-7/202 Dated 21st October, 2024 and DO No. 2555/MIN/RTH/VIP/2024 dated 24th October, 2024, received from the Government of Himachal Pradesh and Ministry of Road, Transport and Highway, Governemnt of India, respectively requesting this Ministry to reinstate the guidelines dated 5.08.2019 (copy enclosed) related to construction of ropeways in hilly areas. In this connection, it is to inform that matter was considered by the Advisory Committee in its meeting held on 6.11.2024 and the Committee inter-alia observed that construction of ropeways in hilly areas is an eco-friendly activity, involving minimum invasion in the forest area and almost negligible earth cutting or felling of trees leading to negligible or no erosion, thereby buttressing the ecological regimes of hilly areas besides providing safe and economical means of transport to the people living in the remote hilly areas. A copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Advisory Committee may kindly be accessed at <https://parivesh.nic.in/>.

Based on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee, approval of the same by the competent authority of the MoEF&CC, New Delhi, and keeping in view the larger public interests and eco-friendly nature of the rope ways, the Central Government, hereby reinstate the application of guidelines dated 5.08.2019 *in toto* for construction of ropeway in the hilly areas of the country including in the State of Himachal Pradesh.

This issue with the approval of Competent Authority of the Ministry.

Encl: As above.

**Signed by Charan Jeet
Singh**
Date: 29-11-2024 15:24:30

Yours faithfully,

(Charan Jeet Singh)
Scientist 'E'

Copy to:

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forest & Head of Forest Force, State

- Forest Department, all State Government/UT Administrations
2. The Dy. Director General Forest (Central), all Regional Offices of the MoEF&CC
 3. Nodal Officer (Van Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan), Forest Department, O/o PCCF, all State Government/UT Administrations
 4. Monitoring Cell, Forest Conservation Division, MoEF&CC, Nee Delhi
 5. Guard File

F. No. 5-2/2017-FC
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)

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

Dated: 11th July, 2019
Sh. Arif.

To

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

Sub: Exclusion of Ropeway Projects from the ambit of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and payment of NPV – reg.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the State Government of Himachal Pradesh's DO No. FFE-B-F(10)2/2018 dated 20th April, 2019 on the above subject requesting this Ministry to exempt the Rope way projects from the purview of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 citing the fact that ropeways are extremely useful for improving the connectivity and are an eco-friendly alternative as compare to construction of road which involves considerable forest land. In this connection, it is to inform that proposal of the State Government was considered by the Forest Advisory Committee in its meeting held on 27th June, 2019. Minutes of the meeting may kindly be seen at the website of the Ministry at www.parivesh.nic.in.

The FAC, after thorough deliberation and discussion with Nodal Officer, Himachal Pradesh, accepted the justification provided by the State Government. It was understood that the ropeway projects are eco friendly mode of connectivity and contribute to conservation if they are constructed at least 5 meters above the tree line and without felling of trees along the alignment of the cable way. Hilly terrains are more prone to erosion and landslides. Construction of roads augments the process of erosion and leads to ample destruction of natural resources whereas construction of ropeways is an alternate mode of connectivity with minimum destruction and without fragmentation of habitats. In this backdrop FAC recommended to accept the request of Government of Himachal Pradesh with following specific conditions.

- (i) The dispensation shall be allowed for construction of public utility ropeways.
- (ii) The lowest point of the proposed ropeway shall be atleast 5 meters above the tree line. The forest area under ropeway passage shall not be included in the total area requested for diversion for the project under the provisions of FCA 1980.
- (iii) The forest area under the terminal stations and intermediate line towers shall be considered for diversion under the provisions of FCA 1980.
- (iv) The user agency will have no claim on the forest land under the ropeway.
- (v) Permission of laying the ropeway above 5 meter of tree line do not give any right to the user agency to use the forest land, under the ropeway, for any non forestry purpose in future without approval under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Yours faithfully,

Sandeep
(Sandeep Sharma) 5.06.2019

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Himachal Pradesh, Shimla
2. The Dy Director General of Forests (Central), Regional Office, Dehradun
3. The Addl. PCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Office of the PCCF, Government of Himachal Pradesh, Shimla
4. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF, New Delhi
5. Guard File

Sandeep
(Sandeep Sharma) 5.06.2019

Assistant Inspector General of Forests