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: July, 2019

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,

5.06.2019
(Sandeep Sharma)
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

5.06.2019
(Sandeep Sharma)
Assistant Inspector General of Forests