

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL,  
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI**

**ORIGINAL APPLICATION No. 1217 OF 2024**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

Public Action Committee

...Applicants

**Versus**

The Deputy Inspector General of Forests (Central) & Ors.

...Respondents

**INDEX**

S.No.	PARTICULARS	PAGE
1.	ADDITIONAL AFFIDAVIT ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT NO. 1, THE DEPUTY INSPECTOR GENERAL OF FORESTS (CENTRAL), REGIONAL OFFICE, MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE, CHANDIGARH	1-4
2.	COPY OF THE QUERY RAISED BY THIS OFFICE ON PARIVESH PORTAL IS ANNEXED AS (ANNEXURE R1)	5-7

**Place: New Delhi**

**Date: 20.01.2026**

**Respondents**

*Nidhi Jaswal*

**Through Counsel**

**Nidhi Jaswal**

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL,  
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI  
ORIGINAL APPLICATION No. 1217 OF 2024**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

Public Action Committee

...Applicants

**Versus**

The Deputy Inspector General of Forests (Central) & Ors.

...Respondents

**ADDITIONAL AFFIDAVIT ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT NO. 1, THE  
DEPUTY INSPECTOR GENERAL OF FORESTS (CENTRAL), REGIONAL  
OFFICE, MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE  
CHANGE, CHANDIGARH**

**MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:**

I, Nand Kishor Dimri, son of J P Dimri, aged 37 years, working as Technical Officer (Forestry) in the Regional Office, Chandigarh of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, do hereby solemnly affirm and state as under:

1. That I am working in my official capacity as the Technical Officer (Forestry), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Regional Office, Chandigarh, and I am duly competent and authorized to swear this additional affidavit on behalf of Respondent No. 1 (Union of India, MoEF&CC). I am well conversant with the facts and circumstances of the case and, therefore, competent to depose to the same.

**STATEMENT OF FACTS:**

2. The Hon'ble NGT vide order dated 11.12.2025 in the instant matter directed as follows:





## 2

"3. Thus, it needs to be clarified by the Respondent No. 1 if the said aspect or the issue of avoiding felling of trees at all at the stage of passing the impugned order was considered.

4. Learned Counsel appearing for the Respondent No. 1 submits that the procedure as described in the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 has been followed. She further submits that in terms of the Rule-9, the proposal needs to be examined by the Project Screening Committee at the State level and it is forwarded to the Central Government in terms of Sub-Rule (18) of Rule-9. The Respondent No. 1 is required to clarify if there was due application of mind considering all the aspects while accepting the proposal and passing the impugned order and also if the feasibility of alternate option adopting which the diversion of felling of tree could be avoided was considered by the Respondent No. 1.

5. Learned Counsel appearing for the Respondent No. 1 seeks two weeks' time to obtain instructions in this regard.

6. At this stage, the Applicant has pointed out that though the Application is pending since October 2024, but, the concerned respondents have now cut a large number of trees and if not protected by the next date all the trees will be cut.

7. Learned Counsel for the State of Punjab has informed that out of 392 trees which are to cut, 207 trees have already been cut.

8. In such circumstances, we restrain the Respondents No. 2 to 6 from further felling of trees till the next date of hearing. However, the respondents may continue with the work without further felling of trees.

9. List on 21.01.2026."

The present additional affidavit is being filed in compliance of the aforesaid order.

3. That, in response to the concerns regarding minimizing tree felling, it is submitted that as per the information available on PARIVESH 2.0 portal, after submission of proposal by the project proponent to Divisional Forest



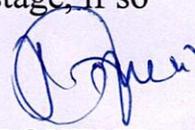
*J. Kaur*

## 3

Officer, the Divisional Forest Officer after examining the same, has certified that the forest area proposed for diversion is bare minimum.

4. It is humbly submitted that as a part of due diligence, the Answering Respondent after examining the proposal, requested the State Government to revisit the proposal with regard to the possibility of retaining large trees thereby reducing the number of trees proposed to be felled.
5. The State Government in response to the said request of the Regional Office, revised the proposal and reduced the number of trees proposed to be felled from original 433 to 392 and the same was accepted while considering the completeness of proposal by the Regional Office. (True Copy of the query raised by this office on Parivesh Portal is annexed as "Annexure R1")
6. It is humbly submitted that this office has examined the proposal based on merits and documents submitted by Project proponent and State Forest Department of Punjab as per provisions of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and has ensured that minimum felling of trees are to be undertaken where it is unavoidable.
7. It is humbly submitted that with regard to the examination for the feasibility of alternate options, it is stated that since the project involves the modernization and concrete lining of an existing distributary (2-R Distributary off-takes at RD 88000/R of Sidhwan Branch) with an intent to prevent breaches and ensure water reaches tail-end farmers, the project was found to be site-specific and in site specific proposals, alternate options are not explored.
8. Lastly, it is submitted that abundant precaution has been taken by the Answering Respondent for granting the approval under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
9. That it is respectfully submitted that the answering respondents, without that prejudice, reserve the right to file an additional affidavit at a later stage, if so necessary.



  
DEPONENT

#### VERIFICATION

Verified at Chandigarh on this 19th day of January 2026. I, the above-named deponent, do hereby verify that the contents of paragraphs 1 to 11 of this affidavit

4

are true and correct to my knowledge, information, and belief, and nothing material has been concealed therefrom.

DEPONENT

*I have identified the deponent/executor who sign/thumb marked in my presence.*



एन. के. डिमरी /N.K. DIMRI  
तकनीकी अधिकारी (वानिकी) ग्रेड-1  
Technical Officer (Forestry) Gr.-I  
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय  
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate  
क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, चंडीगढ़ /Regional Office, Chandigarh

**ATTESTED**  
RAMANJIT KAUR  
Notary, Distt. Courts, Chandigarh

The contents of this Affidavit/Document has been explained to the deponent/accendants. He/She has admitted the same to be correct. The deponent/executor has signed Register at Sr. No. 162 P. No. 30 Date.....

19 JAN 2026

19 JAN 2026

## 5

S.No.	Query	Description	Raised By	Raised On	Reply	Document	Replied By	Replied On
1	Violation of the FCA, 1980	The DCF concern in the Part-II have mentioned the no violation of the FCA, 1980, however, in the Site Inspection Report it has been mentioned that UA has done violation of the FCA, 1980. Detail report on the violation including the nature and extent of the violation along with name of the officials responsible for violation and action taken thereof needs to be submitted.	IRO	20/11/2023	Query Cleared		State Secretary (SS)	12/12/2023
2	Justification of project	Prima facie it appears from the justification submitted under Part-I that State Government require desired forest land for movement of machinery for cleaning of existing water channel/canal and not for the construction of new channel/canal. The detail project note specifically describing the project and its entire components along with justification of requiring more than 1 hectare forest land and felling of established large trees needs to be submitted.	IRO	20/11/2023	Query Cleared		State Secretary (SS)	12/12/2023

6

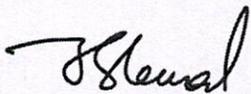
S.No.	Query	Description	Raised By	Raised On	Reply	Document	Replied By	Replied On
3	Felling of trees	Examination of the proposed site over google satellite imaginary and further as per the tree enumeration details it is ascertained that the proposed patch has dense vegetation with 433 trees including many established multi-purpose trees species. Accordingly, the State Government may revisit the proposal and possibility of retaining large trees need to be explored; a report in this regard needs to be submitted.	IRO	20/11/2023	Query Cleared		State Secretary (SS)	12/12/2023
4	Forest Land	Item wise break-up of forest land involved and area calculation sheet not provided, same along with the project layout map needs to be submitted.	IRO	20/11/2023	Query Cleared		State Secretary (SS)	12/12/2023

NOTE

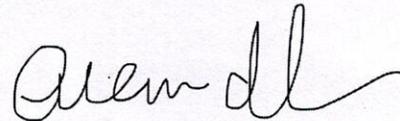
Sidhwan Branch off takes at RD 194444/R of Sirhind Canal which meets irrigation needs of district Ludhiana, Moga and Ferozpur. In district Ludhiana, 2-R Distributary oftakes at RD 88000/R of SIDHWAN BRANCH having discharge carrying capacity of 49.08 cusecs and a total length of 46266 feet. There is proposal for concrete lining of 2-R distributary from RD 1050 to 46266 providing cup shaped section of cement concrete having thickness of 60 mm and side slope of 1:1. The project estimate of 2-R distributary is sanctioned vide file no. WR-IRWR01/31/2022-IW5 dated 23/08/2022 by Government of Punjab.

Currently, 2-R distributary is unlined having trapezoidal section. Due to its unlined section, there is heavy growth of weeds in the inner section of distributary which requires lots of maintenance, causes obstruction to the flow of water and hence make it difficult to run distributary at its design discharge capacity. In peak paddy season, it becomes difficult to make sufficient water available to tail end farmers. Due to its unlined section, there is always a possibility of breach of distributary during peak paddy season.

Considering as explained above, concrete lining of 2-R distributary is proposed in order to provide irrigation water to the farmers as per design. During its survey, it is noticed that, with due course of time, a number of trees are grown in the waterway and patrolling/ non-patrolling bank of the distributary. But for the execution of work of lining, a sufficient working space is required for the movement of construction machinery. For this purpose, a forest clearance is required from RD 1050 to 5090 of 2-R distributary so that project of lining of 2-R distributary will be completed timely in public interest.



Sub-Divisional Officer  
Sidhwan Canal Sub Division  
Ludhiana



Executive Engineer,  
Ludhiana Canal and  
Ground Water Division,  
Ludhiana