

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL PRINCIPAL BENCH  
AT NEW DELHI.

Original Application No. 652/2022

**IN THE MATTER OF:-**

R. D. Singh Bandral V/S Union of India and others.

**IN THE MATTER OF:-**

Reply in terms of the order dated 16-09-2022 on behalf of Deputy  
Commissioner, Doda.

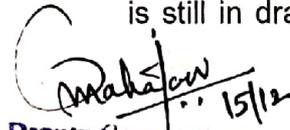
**May it please your Lordships:-**

The answering respondent most respectfully submit as under:-

1. That, it is submitted the office of the answering respondent had received a copy of Original Application alongwith order dated 16-09-2022 passed by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal Principal Bench New Delhi. The operative part of the said order is reproduced as under:

*"Notices along with copies of the application and documents attached therewith, be issued to respondents requiring them to file their response/reply to the averments made in the application within two weeks at judicial-ngt@gov.in preferably in the form of searchable PDF/OCR Supported PDF and not in the form of Image PDF.*

2. That, it is submitted, the applicant namely Sh. R.D. Singh Bandral had filed a application under sections 14 and 15 of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010 seeking indulgence of the Tribunal in protecting the flora and fauna of the Kailash Kund-Seoz Dhar region by declaring the same as protected area and not to allow construction of the road in the said region as the same will have an adverse impact on the environment. Accordingly in light of the above order dated 16-09-2022, the office of answering respondent vide letter No. 668-73/ARA dated 03-10-2022 had directed the concerned officers to furnish the report/response.
3. That the Wildlife Warden Kathua, vide letter No. WLK/K/2022-23/1574-77 dated 10-10-2022 had submitted his report to the office of answering respondent wherein he had stated that the proposal for wildlife clearance is still in draft phase and no work with respect to said project has been

  
Deputy Commissioner  
DODA

started on ground by the user agency. That Wildlife Warden Kathua raised EDS to the Executive Engineer, PWD (R&B) Division Bhaderwah from time to time as the application for Wildlife Clearance on PARIVESH Portal is still incomplete as per the guidelines of the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL). That the proposal No. FP/JK/Road/147229/2021 dated 07-04-2022 received on PARIVESH Portal for Wildlife Clearance and Forest Clearance under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 shall be considered for processing further under rules by this office based upon the above mentioned facts and only after the required essential details are fulfilled by the user Agency i.e Executive Engineer, PWD (R&B) Division Bhaderwah.

**A copy of the letter dated 10-10-2022 is annexed as R-1 for your reference.**

4. That the Divisional Forest Officer, Forest Division Bhaderwah, vide letter No. DFO/Bhad/3687-89 dated 12-10-2022 had submitted his report to the office of answering respondent wherein he had stated that the proposal for forest clearance is under process on PARIVESH Portal. That the proposal No. FP/JK/Road/147229/2021 dated 07-04-2022 is received on PARIVESH Portal for Forest Clearance and Wildlife clearance under section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. However as per report submitted by Divisional Forest Officer, Forest Division Bhaderwah has further stated that no forest clearance has been accorded for the same project until today. Neither the forest department has allowed to construct this road nor the User Agency had started any construction work in this area.

**A copy of the letter dated 12-10-2022 is annexed as R-2 for your reference.**

5. That the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) B.C Road Division Doda vide his office letter No. 2836-38 dated 12-10-2022 had submitted his report to the office of answering respondent wherein he had stated that PWD (R&B) Division Bhaderwah had proposed the construction of road from Chattergalla to Kailash kund via Seoj Dhar having length = 11:00 km under CRF. That the tender was floated and subsequently the construction work was allotted in favour of M/S D-K Projects House No.

  
Deputy Commissioner  
DODA

29 Rama Lane Talab Tillo Jammu vide Chief Engineer allotment No. CEJ/G/20566-68 dated 25-02-2019 amounting to Rs. 107426248/-. That the work of construction of the proposed road was subject to the authority issued by Hon'ble Minister for works and Mech. Engg. Govt. of Jammu and Kashmir received through Chief Engineer PW (R&B) Department Jammu vide his endorsement No. CEJ/DB/12762-82 dated 28-09-2013. That the road was proposed for construction keeping in view the religious importance of Kailash Kund and to promote tourism and hence generate employment in the area. That the clearance from Forest department and Wildlife is under process. However, it is pertinent to mention here that although the road is proposed through high altitude, but very minimum number of trees (Kharshn species) fall under the alignment. Since the road for a length of 11km proposed does not connect the Holy Kailash Kund and is far away from the Kund as such will have no effect on water loss if the said road is connected. Since the road had been proposed for holy pilgrimage and tourist destination it has nothing to do with the enroute habitation whether it passes through the habitation or not. Moreover the tourist destination connected will enhance employment and economic development of the area.

A copy of the letter dated 12-10-2022 is annexed as R-3 for your reference.

**IN THE PREMISES**

Therefore, it is respectfully prayed that in view of the submission made herein above and those to be urged during the course of the argument, the Hon'ble Tribunal may very kindly be pleased to consider above response/reply in the interest of justice.

  
15/10/2022

Deputy Commissioner

DODA  
Vishesh Paul MahajanJKAS  
Deputy Commissioner,  
Doda

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL PRINCIPAL BENCH  
AT NEW DELHI.

Original Application No. 652/2022

IN THE MATTER OF:-

R. D. Singh Bandral

V/S

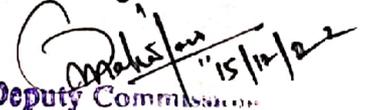
Union of India and others.

In the matter of:- Affidavit in support of the reply.

I Vishesh Paul Mahajan, JKAS Age 48 years presently posted as Deputy Commissioner, Doda do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that being well conversant with facts of the case on the basis of records available with me, do hereby swear this affidavit in support of reply.

I do hereby further declare as under:-

1. That the accompanying submission of reply has been drawn and drafted by the deponent on the basis of information and material available with the deponent.
2. That the Deponent has gone through the contents of the accompanying the reply and the same are related to the records of the case available with the Deponent and are true to the best of my knowledge and available information.

  
Deputy Commissioner  
DODA  
Deponent

**Verification:-**

Verified at Doda on                      December, 2022 that the contents of the above affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

  
Deputy Commissioner  
DODA  
Deponent



**Department of Wildlife Protection J&K Government**  
**OFFICE OF THE WILDLIFE WARDEN KATHUA**

Tel/Fax No. 01922-234622, Email: [wildlifekathua1@gmail.com](mailto:wildlifekathua1@gmail.com)  
 \*\*\*\*\*

The Deputy Commissioner,  
 Doda.

No. WLW/K/2022-23/1574-77.

Dated: 10.10.2022.

Subject: - Case bearing OA No. 652/2022, titled R.D Singh Bandral V/S Union of India & Ors. -reply reg.

Ref: Your Office No. 668-73/ARA dated 03-10-2022.

Sir,

On the above captioned subject, the reply pertaining to this office with respect to OA No. 652/2022, titled R.D Singh Bandral V/S Union of India & Ors to be listed before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal for further consideration on 14-10-2022 is submitted as under:

**Brief background:**

1. The Executive Engineer, PWD (R&B) Division Bhandarwah vide proposal No. FP/JK/Road/45691/2020 dated; 21-09-2020 applied for Wildlife Clearance for Construction of road Chattergala to Kailash Kund via Seojdhar on PARIVESH Portal.
2. The undersigned along with user agency i.e Executive Engineer, PWD (R&B) B.C Road Division Bhandarwah conducted a joint inspection on 26.07.2021 regarding said Proposal.
3. The Executive Engineer, PWD (R&B) Division Bhandarwah vide office no. 3879 Dated 07-01-2022 requested for deleting for proposal No. FP/JK/Road/45691/2020 dated 21-09-2020 from PARIVESH Portal based upon some bonafide mistake.
4. On 07-04-2022, the User agency again submitted an application on PARIVESH Portal vide proposal No. FP/JK/Road/147229/2021 for Wildlife Clearance and Forest Clearance under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for the said road project.
5. Total length of the said proposed road is 11 kms with 6 mtrs width which requires 7.4 Ha. of total Forest land for forest clearance under section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Out of 7.4 Ha. Forest Land, 6.17 Ha. Forest Land falls under Bhandarwah Forest Division and 1.23 Ha. forest land falls in comptt. 49/BNI of the Bani Wildlife Sanctuary. The 6.17 Ha. falling under Bhandarwah Forest Division is also part of Eco-sensitive Zone of Bani Wildlife Sanctuary.

That the KMZ submitted by the user agency reveals that the road shall take off at an elevation of 3035 mt. MSL from Chattergala at the boundary of Basholi Forest Division & Bhandarwah

*ALO  
ARA  
12/10/22  
Be shared with SE R&B and he may be asked to complete the required balances. Details of the project be also shared with me.*

*Signature  
11/10/22*

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Forest Divisions and shall pass through Eco-sensitive Zone of Bani Wildlife Sanctuary ending at 3800 mts. MSL. The KMZ file also shows that not a single house/habitation is likely to get connectivity with the completion of said road project.

**Biodiversity of the area under Project:**

7. That Singh D. (2019), studied “Ecological attributes and vegetation responses to environmental variables in timberline ecotones of upper Bhaderwah Valley, J&K” for award of Doctor of Philosophy in Environment Science from the University of Jammu. His study was focused on the composition, distribution, and pattern along the elevational gradient around the montane forests and timberline ecotones of upper Bhaderwah from Chattergalla (32°45'14" to 32°53'55" N) to Kailash Lake (75°37'50" to 75°50'10" E) along an elevational gradient of 1200m (2800m to 4000m) during 2014 to 2017. As per studies of Singh D. (2019), the area comprises of a mix of temperate, sub-alpine and alpine type of forests, broadly grouped into Spruce-Blue pine, Oak-Fir, Oak-Blue pine, Oak-Birch, Rhododendron scrub and Alpine scrubs classified by Champion & Seth (1968). During his study period, he recorded 253 plants species belonging to 170 genera and 62 families along with their familial description, habit, life form, threat status and elevational distribution.

He also observed that the alpine landscapes beyond tree line are rich repositories of medicinal and aromatic plants currently reeling under myriad of natural and anthropogenic stressors. Twenty-six species figure out in different categories of threat as per IUCN (22 species) and CAMP (4 species) listing. Among these, four species are critically endangered, 8 endangered, 9 vulnerable, 1 near threatened, 2 rare and 2 intermittent. *These include Aconitum heterophyllum, A. violaceum, Arnebia benthamii, Artemisia maritima, Atropa acuminata, Bergenia stracheyi, Betula utilis, Colchicum luteum, Cypripedium cordigerum, C. himalaicum, Dactylorhiza hatagirea, Fritilaria roylei, Hypericum perforatum, Dolomiaea macrocephala, Meconopsis aculeata, Picrorhiza kurroa, Polygonatum verticillatum, Rheum australe, R. spiciforme, Rhodiola heterodonta, Rhododendron anthopogon, R. companulatum, Saussurea atkinsonii, Saussurea roylei, Sinopodophyllum hexandrum, and Taxus wallichiana.*

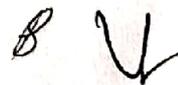
8. That Singh D. (2019), also recommended that being a rich repository of Biodiversity, the area needs to be declared as protected area.
9. That vide SO 13 dated:10-12-2019, the Govt. of Jammu and Kashmir declared the said area under Bani Wildlife Sanctuary based upon the presence of important flora and fauna including **Himalayan Tahr (Karth) *Hamitragus jemlabicus*** (Near Threatened category species/Schedule-I), **Musk Deer (Kastura/Rauns) *Moschus moschifera***

(Endangered/Schedule-I), **The Grey Himalayan Goral (Pijjar)**, *Nemorhaedus goral* (Near Threatened category species/Schedule-III), **Serow (Urred)** *Nomoraedus sumatrensis* (Vulnerable/Schedule-I), **The Barking Deer (Kakkar)** *Montiacus montjak* (Vulnerable Schedule-I), **The Hog Deer (Parra)** *Axis porcinus* (Endangered/Schedule-IV), **Brown Bear (Lal Bhalu or reech)**, *Ursos thibetanus* (Least Concern/ Schedule-I), **Common Leopard (Chitra)**, *Panthera pardus* (Vulnerable/ Schedule-I), **Red fox** *Vulpus vulpus montana* (Least Concern/ Schedule-IV), **Snow leopard** *Panthera uncia uncia* (Vulnerable/Schedule I), **Himalayan Monal Pheasant (Neel)** *Lophophorus imjojanus* (Least Concern/Schedule-I), **Koklass pheasants (Ceriomis macrolophus)**, **Western Tragopan (Mancheor)**, *Tragopan melanocephalus* (Vulnerable/Schedule-I), **White-crested Khaleej Pheasant (Chamman)** *Lophura leucomelanos* (Least Concern/Schedule-I), **Himalayan Griffon Vulture** *Gyps himalayensis* (Near Threatened), **Himalayan Golden Eagle** *Aquila chrysaetos dephanea* (Least Concern/Schedule-I), **Cheer Pheasant** *Catreus wallaichi* (Vulnerable/Schedule-I).

10. That *Lyaz Quyoom* (2021), University of Kashmir also carried studies in Bani Wildlife Sanctuary for his research work and has got (direct/indirect) sightings of diverse fauna in the Bani Wildlife Sanctuary viz, Snow leopard, Black Bear, Brown Bear, Jackal, Red fox, Yellow throated martin, Himalayan Ghoral, Himalayan serow, Musk Deer, Himalayan tahr, Sambar, Hog-Deer, Royles Pika, Himalayan Monal, Koklas Pheasant, Cheer Pheasant, Western tragopan, Khalij Pheasant, Himalayan Griffon, Bearded Vulture, Himalayan Buzzard, Common kestrel, Jungle crow, Red billed chough, Snow pigeon, Rock Pigeon, Asian barred owl, Collared owl.

Keeping in view of the aforementioned observations, it is submitted that diversion of 1.23 Ha of the project area, passing through comptt. 49/Bani of the Bani Wildlife Sanctuary requires necessary Forest and Wildlife Clearance for the said project. The project is involving Bani Wildlife Sanctuary and Eco-sensitive Zone of Bani Wildlife Sanctuary in toto. Therefore, it is submitted that the permanent glaciers at the height of (3800-4000 mts) in Bani Wildlife Sanctuary are the key source of water for river Sewa and its tributaries passing through Bani Wildlife Sanctuary. Any Anthropogenic activity in the alpine zone of Bani Wildlife Sanctuary and adjoining area shall disturb the alpine flora and fauna and shall be a serious threat to the existence of glaciers, Rare Endangered and Threatened (RET) flora and fauna present in Bani Wildlife Sanctuary and its Eco-sensitive Zone.

The Rare, Endangered and Threatened species found in the project and adjoining area are submitted as under:



### Rare, Endangered and Threatened Fauna

S.No.	Species	IUCN Status
1.	<i>Axis porcinus</i>	EN
2.	<i>Hemitragus jemlahicus</i>	NT
3.	<i>Montiacus montjak</i>	VU
4.	<i>Moschus moschifera</i>	EN
5.	<i>Nemorhaedus goral</i>	NT
6.	<i>Nemorhaedus sumatrensis</i>	VU
7.	<i>Panthera pardus</i>	VU
8.	<i>Panthera uncia uncia</i>	VU
9.	<i>Ursos thibetanus</i>	VU

### Rare, Endangered and Threatened Flora

1.	<i>Aconitum heterophyllum</i>	EN
2.	<i>Aconitum violaceum</i>	VU
3.	<i>Arnebia benthamii</i>	CR
4.	<i>Artemisia maritima</i>	NT
5.	<i>Atropa acuminata</i>	CR
6.	<i>Bergenia stracheyi</i>	VU
7.	<i>Betula utilis</i>	CR (CAMP)
8.	<i>Colchicum luteum</i>	VU
9.	<i>Cypripedium cordigerum</i>	R
10.	<i>Cypripedium himalaicum</i>	R
11.	<i>Dactylorhiza hatagirea</i>	CR
12.	<i>Dolomiaea macrocephala</i>	EN
13.	<i>Fritilaria roylei</i>	EN
14.	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	VU
15.	<i>Meconopsis aculeata</i>	EN
16.	<i>Pickrorrhiza kurroa</i>	EN
17.	<i>Polygonatum verticillatum</i>	VU
18.	<i>Rheum australe</i>	EN (CAMP)
19.	<i>Rheum spiciforme</i>	VU
20.	<i>Rhodiola heterodonta</i>	VU
21.	<i>Rhododendron anihopogon</i>	VU (CAMP)
22.	<i>Rhododendron companulatum</i>	VU (CAMP)
23.	<i>Saussurea atkinsonii</i>	I
24.	<i>Saussurea roylei</i>	I
25.	<i>Sinopodophyllum hexandrum</i>	EN
26.	<i>Taxus wallichiana</i>	EN

EN-Endangered Category of IUCN.

NT- Near Threatened.

VU- Venerable

CR- Critically Endangered.

R - Rare.

I - intermittent category.

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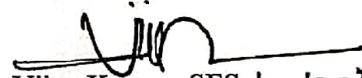
**CAMP\*** To accomplish the prioritization of medicinal plants within a reasonable time and cost, the Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG) of Species Survival Commission has developed a rapid assessment methodology called CAMP, the Conservation Assessment and Management Plan.  
*Reference: Ecological attributes and vegetation responses to environmental variables in timberline ecotones of upper Bhaderwah Valley J and K, Singh, Dinesh 2019.*

**Present status of the Proposal:**

11. The proposal for Wildlife Clearance is still in draft phase and no work with respect to said project has been started on ground by the user agency. Wildlife Warden Kathua raised EDS to the Executive Engineer, PWD (R&B) Division Bhaderwah from time to time as the application for Wildlife Clearance on PARIVESH Portal is still incomplete as per the guidelines of the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL). The proposal No. FP/JK/Road/147229/2021 dated 07-04-2022 received on PARIVESH Portal for Wildlife Clearance and Forest Clearance under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 shall be considered for processing further under rules by this office based upon the above-mentioned facts and only after the required essential details are fulfilled by the User Agency i.e Executive Engineer, PWD (R&B) Division Bhaderwah.

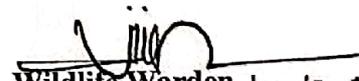
Hence, submitted for favour of kind information and further necessary action at your end please.

Yours faithfully,

  
Vijay Kumar, SFS 10-10-22 .  
Wildlife Warden  
Kathua

**Copy submitted to:**

1. The Pr.CCF/Chief Wildlife Warden, J&K Govt. Jammu for kind information please.
2. The Chief Conservator of Forest, Nodal Officer, (FCA) J&K for kind information please.
3. The Regional Wildlife Warden Jammu for kind information please.

  
Wildlife Warden 10-10-22 .  
Kathua



Government of Jammu & Kashmir  
**OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER**  
FOREST DIVISION, BHADERWAH

Tele/Fax No. 01997-244158 Email - dfobhaderwah@gmail.com



**The Deputy Commissioner,**

**Doda.**

**No: DFO/Bhad/3687-89**

**Date: 12/10/2022**

**Subject:-** Case bearing OA No. 652/2022 titled R.D.Singh Bandral V/S  
Union of India &Ors-reply reg.

**Reference:** Your Office No.668-73/ARA Dated 03-10-2022.

**Sir,**

On above caption subject, the reply pertaining to this office with respect to OA 652/2022 titled R.D.Singh Bandral V/S Union of India &Ors to be listed before Hon'ble National Green Tribunal for further consideration on 14-10-2022 is submitted as under:-

**Brief Background:-**

1. The Executive Engineer, PWD (R&B) Division Bhaderwah vide Proposal No. FP/JK/Road/45691/2020 dated 21-09-2020 applied for clearance of construction of road from Chattergala to Kailash Kund via Seoj Dhar on PARIVESH Portal.
2. The User Agency deleted the proposal No.FP/JK/Road/45691/2020 dated 21-09-2020 from PARIVESH Portal due to some mistake.
3. On 07-04-2022 the User Agency again submitted online on PARIVESH Portal vide Proposal No. FP/JK/Road/147229/2021 for Forest clearance under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for the said project.
4. The undersigned deputed a team of the Range Officer, Forest Range Neeru of this Division along with User Agency i.e PWD (R&B) to conduct a joint inspection on 23-05-2022 vide this office No. DFO/Bhad/FCA 914-15 dated 09-05-2022.
5. Total length of the said proposed road is 11 Kms with 06 Mtr width which requires 7.4 ha. of total forest land for forest clearance under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Out of 7.4 ha forest land, 6.17 ha forest land falls within the territorial jurisdiction of Forest



Division Bhaderwah and remaining 1.23 ha forest land falls in Comptt. 49/Bni of Bani Wildlife Sanctuary.

**Biodiversity of the area under Project:**

The complex physiography and topography of the mountain ranges of upper Bhaderwah valley has resulted in extreme habitat and microclimatic heterogeneity. These complex landscapes play an important role in the distribution of habitat heterogeneity and biota as it is broadly characterized by a mix of temperate, sub-alpine and alpine type of forests. Geographically, the area mainly lies in the Pir-Panjol and Dhauladhar Ranges of Lesser Himalayas and forms the south-western part of Chenab catchment namely Kailash-Kund circuit between Chattergala and Kaplash ridge. The whole Kailash circuit is characterized by moderate subalpine slopes to rugged alpine highlands with clearly defining parallel timberline ecotones running along the ridges. The temperate montane forests at lower elevations are taken over by mixed conifers at the mid elevations and dense Kharsu Oak at the higher elevations virtually forming the timberline. The alpine scrub beyond treeline merges in the vast alpine meadows. The rocky outcrops form the most complex and rugged ecosystems representing only the herbaceous elements. The area is dominated atop with vast alpine pastures dotted with a number of lakes, thus supporting the best of ecosystem diversity, values and services. The rugged landscape dotted with few high-altitude lakes is the potential source of three important rivers of the region, the Tawi, Neeru and Sewa.

The study of the treeline ecosystem of upper Bhaderwah by for last one decade have found that it serves as a significant transitional boundary between the lower timberline and the upper alpine meadows of the Chattergala and Kailashkund. The whole area, right from 2800 m at Chattergala to 3900 m at Kailashkund is host to at least 253 species of plant which further includes 11 species of trees, 29 species of shrubs and majority (213) herb species distributed in 62 families. Of the 253 species of plants recorded, 75 species contained in 64 genera are commonly used by the nomadic pastoralists for treating common ailments as they stay at the higher elevations with their livestock for four to five months (May to September) in these areas. These include majority of herbs (62) with some

shrubs (9) and few trees (4). Now, the nomination of 75 species, does not mean that the remaining disqualify for their values. The traditional knowledge treasured by the elderlies is not being properly percolated to the younger generations, nor the latter are so receptive in enhancing theirs.

*Artemisia maritima*, *Bupleurum longicaule*, *Carduus edelbergii*,  
*Cerastium cerastoides*, *Delphinium vestitum*, *Galium aparine*, *Gentiana carinata*,  
*Gentiana marmorata*, *Geum elatum*, *Jaeschkeia oligosperma*,  
*Lagotis cashmeriana*, *Meconopsis aculeata*, *Pedicularis spectinata*,  
*Swertia ciliata*, *Swertia petiolata*, *Thalictrum foliolosum* and *Viola biflora* are few species worth mentioning.

### **Threatened flora of Kailash Circuit**

The alpine landscapes around the Kailash circuit are home to unique and rich medicinal wealth and are already under a myriad of natural and anthropogenic stressors, the unprecedented extraction of this wealth being one of the grave concerns. *Fritillaria*, *Bergenia*, *Rheum*, *Sinopodophyllum*, *Dactylorhiza* and *Trillium* are the preferred exploitable species owing to their exceedingly high prices in the market.

As per our observations twenty-six species appear in different categories of threat as per IUCN (22 species) and CAMP (4 species). These include, 4 critically endangered, 8 endangered, 9 vulnerable, 1 near threatened, 2 rare and 2 intermittent (Mentioned in Table). The threatened flora of the upper Bhaderwah (Chattergala, Kailash and Seouj landscape) include *Aconitum heterophyllum*, *A. violaceum*, *Arnebia benthamii*, *Artemisia maritima*, *Atropa acuminata*, *Bergenia stracheyi*, *Betula utilis*, *Colchicum luteum*, *Cypripedium cordigerum*, *C. himalaicum*, *Dactylorhiza hatagirea*, *Fritillaria roylei*, *Hypericum perforatum*, *Dolomiaea macrocephala*, *Meconopsis aculeata*, *Picrorhiza kurroa*, *Polygonatum verticillatum*, *Rheum australe*, *R. spiciforme*, *Rhodiola heterodonta*, *Rhododendron anthopogon*, *R. companulatum*, *Saussurea atkinsonii*, *Saussurea roylei*, *Sinopodophyllum hexandrum*, and *Taxus wallichiana*.

**Table: List of threatened plants of the study area**

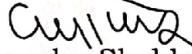
S.No	Name	Family	Elevational Range (M)	Threat Status
1.	<i>Aconitum heterophyllum</i>	Ranunculaceae	3000-3700	EN
2.	<i>Aconitum violaceum</i>	Ranunculaceae	3200-3800	VU
3.	<i>Arnebiabentharii</i>	Boraginaceae	3400-4200	CR
4.	<i>Artemisia maritime</i>	Asteraceae	2600-3400	NT
5.	<i>Atropaacuminata</i>	Solanaceae	2600-3200	CR
6.	<i>Bergeniastracheyi</i>	Saxifragaceae	3300-4000	VU
7.	<i>Betulautilis</i>	Betulaceae	2800-3500	CR (CAMP)
8.	<i>Colchicum luteum</i>	Colchicaceae	2400-3300	VU
9.	<i>Cypripedium cordigerum</i>	Orchidaceae	2100-4000	R
10.	<i>Cypripedium himalaicum</i>	Orchidaceae	2800-3300	R
11.	<i>Dactylorhizahatagirea</i>	Orchidaceae	2800-3600	CR
12.	<i>Dolomiaeamacrocephala</i>	Asteraceae	3000-4200	EN
13.	<i>Fritilariaroylei</i>	Liliaceae	2700-3800	EN
14.	<i>Hypericumperforatum</i>	Hypericaceae	2200-2900	VU
15.	<i>Meconopsisaculeata</i>	Papaveraceae	3400-4000	EN
16.	<i>Pickrorhizakurroa</i>	Plantaginaceae	3300-4200	EN
17.	<i>Polygonatumverticillatum</i>	Asparagaceae	2600-3200	VU
18.	<i>Rheum austral</i>	Polygonaceae	3000-3600	En (CAMP)
19.	<i>Rheum spiciforme</i>	Polygonaceae	3300-4000	VU
20.	<i>Rhodiolaheterodonta</i>	Crassulaceae	3400-4000	VU
21.	<i>Rhododendron anthopogon</i>	Ericaceae	3300-3800	VU (CAMP)
22.	<i>Rhododendron companulatum</i>	Ericaceae	3200-3600	VU (CAMP)
23.	<i>Saussureaatkinsonii</i>	Asteraceae	3000-3800	I
24.	<i>Saussurearoylei</i>	Asteraceae	3200-3800	I
25.	<i>Sinopodophyllumhexandrum</i>	Berberidaceae	2600-3600	EN
26.	<i>Taxuswallichiana</i>	Taxaceae	2800-3300	EN

Furthermore the region serves a unique habitat for a number of residents and breeding birds which through these elevations during

summers. A number of flycatchers and other passerines from south occupy the region for at least six months for breeding purposes. The area sustains a healthy population of raptors and pheasants with most of the species being globally threatened. The area supports the breeding population of Himalayan Vulture *Gyps himalayensis* (Near Threatened), Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus* (Endangered), and Bearded vulture *Gypaetus barbatus* (Near Threatened). The pheasants include Monal pheasant *Lophophorus impejanus*, Koklas pheasant *Pucrasia macrolopha* and Chir pheasant *Catreus wallichii* (vulnerable). The corridor is a potential habitat for the mammals like Kashmir Gray Langur *Semnopithecus ajax* (Endangered), Common leopard *Panthera pardus fusca* (Vulnerable), Kashmir musk deer *Moschus cupreus* (Endangered), Asiatic black bear *Ursus thibetanus* (vulnerable). The region is a potential habitat of many species of rare and threatened butterflies and insects like common blue Apollo, eastern comma, etc. as well.

**Present status of the Proposal:**

The proposal for forest clearance is under process on PARIVESH Portal for want of forest clearance. The proposal No. FP/JK/Road/147229/2021 dated 07-04-2022 received on PARIVESH Portal for Forest clearance and Wildlife clearance under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. However until today no forest Clearance has been accorded for the same project. Neither the forest department has allowed to construct this road nor the User Agency has started any construction work in this area. Hence, submitted for favour of kind information and further necessary action at your end please.

Yours faithfully  
  
(Chander Shekhar, SFS)  
**Divisional Forest Officer**  
**Forest Division Bhandarwah**

**Copy submitted to the:-**

1. Additional Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests (FCA & Nodal Officer) O/o the Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests, Jammu for favour of information, please
2. Copy to the Conservator of Forests, Chenab Circle Doda for information please.

**Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) B.C. ROAD DIVISION BHADERWAH**

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E-Mail :- [xenbhadervahrnb66@gmail.com](mailto:xenbhadervahrnb66@gmail.com)

Ph./ Fax No.:- 01997-244160

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The Deputy Commissioner  
Doda

No.:- 2836-38

Dated:- 12-10-2022

**Subject:-** Case bearing OA No:- 652/2022, titled RD Singh Bandral V/s Union Of India & Others.

**Ref:-** Your office letter No:- 668-73/ARA, Dt:- 03-10-2022.

Sir,

Regarding the subject cited above, it is to submit that as reported by Assistant Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Bhaderwah Chamba Road Sub-Division Bhaderwah vide his office letter No:- SDC/325/F.I.O, Dt:- 12-10-2022 the para wise reply is submitted as under:-

Para 1. Matter of record

Para 2. Accepted to the extent that PWD (R&B) Division Bhaderwah has proposed the construction of road from Chattergalla to Kailash Kund via Seoj Dhar having length= 11.00 km under CRF. The tender was floated and subsequently the construction work was allotted in favour of M/s D-K Projects House No. 29 Rama Lane Talab Tillo Jammu vide Chief Engineer allotment No:- CEJ/G/20566-68, Dt:- 25-02-2019 amounting to Rs. 107426248/-. The work of construction of the proposed road was subject to the authority issued by Hon'ble Minister for works and Mech. Engg. Govt. of Jammu and Kashmir received through Chief Engineer PW (R&b) Department Jammu vide his endorsement No:- CEJ/DB/12762-82, Dt:- 28-09-2013. The road was proposed for construction keeping in view the religious destination of Kailash Kund and also to promote tourism circuit conceived to promote tourism to new destination i.e. Seoj Dhar.

Para 3. Accepted.

Para 4. Accepted. To the extent that clearance from forest department and wildlife is under process. However, it is pertinent to mention here that although the road is proposed through high altitude, but very minimum number of trees (Kharshn species) falls under the alignment. →

Para 5. Denied. Since the road for a length of 11km proposed does not connect the Holy Kailash Kund and is far away from the Kund as such will have no effect on water loss if the said road is connected. Since the road has been proposed for holy pilgrimage and tourist destination it has nothing to do with the enroute habitation whether it passes through the habitation or not. Moreover the tourist destination connected will enhance employment and economic development of the area.

Para 6. Pertains to Forest Department.

Para 7. Best known to the applicant.

Para 8. Best known to the applicant whether true or False

Para 9. Pertains to Forest Department. However as far as letters of warden wildlife Kathua Dt:- 26-04-2022 and 02-06-2022 are concerned were replied appropriately vide this office letter No:- 649, Dt:- 23-05-2022 and No:- 2009, Dt:- 16-07-2022 and were accepted by the warden that nothing to do with the case. The replies are enclosed for reference please.

Hence submitted for favour of information and further necessary action at your end please.

**Yours Faithfully,**

  
(Er. Tanzir Afzal Khan)  
Executive Engineer  
PWD (R&B) B.C. Road Division  
Bhaderwah

**Copy to the:-**

1. Chief Engineer PW (R&B) Department Jammu for favour of information please.
2. Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) Circle Doda for favour of information please.