

**Sub:- Diversion of 55.73 ha. of forest land in Ramagiri (East & West) RF of Ananthapur Division for establishing 40.00 MW Wind Power Projects – in favour of M/s. Sarjan Realities Ltd., Hyderabad.**

The State Government of Andhra Pradesh vide their letter dated 16.02.2012 was submitted a proposal to obtain prior approval of the Central Government, in terms of the Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 55.73 hectares of forest land in Ramagiri (East & West) RF of Ananthapur Division for establishing 40.00 MW Wind Power Projects – in favour of M/s. Sarjan Realities Ltd., Hyderabad. This proposal was placed before Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) at its meeting held on 20.04.2012 and the recommendations of FAC (**P.7/n**) are as follows:

*“ FAC after detailed deliberations recommended that an appropriate expert to be drawn from Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) or Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON) or Nature Conservation Foundation (NCF) may be requested to inspect the area in and around the forest land proposed for diversion to assess the impact of proposed project on wildlife especially birds and raptors, and submit the report containing appropriate recommendations, including mitigative measures to minimize/prevent the mitigable impacts.”. Due to above recommendations by FAC the project is on hold since April 2012 as user agency has no control over such a recommendation of FAC.*

2. The above stated recommendation of FAC was communicated by this Ministry on 18.05.2012. Another letter dated 27.08.2012 was also sent by this Ministry to BNHS requesting to depute a suitable expert, however in the intervening 4 years no response from Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) or Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON) or Nature Conservation Foundation (NCF) had been received in this regard.
3. The State Government of Andhra Pradesh vide their letter no.3629/2007/FCA-3 dated 10.03.2016 requested the Govt. of India to consider the representation dated 27.10.2015 of the user agency to review the instant proposal by applying the same pragmatic principles and criteria used by MoEF & CC, in according approval to similar Wind Power Projects of other user agencies with imposition of a condition that State and user agency shall undertake to implement mitigatory measures.
4. The request of the State Govt. was placed before **Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) in its meeting on dated 12.07.2016**. The FAC after considering the above facts and hearing the User Agency and also considering the fact that the User Agency had written to BNHS and examining all correspondences recommended the following:
  - i. The FAC after consideration of the matter recommended that the study to assess the impact of the proposed project on wildlife, especially birds and raptors may be done as per the guidelines issued by the Ministry vide F No 8-47/2008-FC dated 16/03/2008 through any expert agency including SACON, NCF etc.
  - ii. The FAC also recommended that the study report be submitted through the Nodal Officer, FCA of the State and the concerned Regional Office, MoEF & CC.
5. Accordingly, State Government of Andhra Pradesh was informed vide this Ministry's letter dated 04.08.2016 and the State Government of Andhra Pradesh forwarded the study conducted by University of Krishnadevaraya, Ananthapur through Regional Office, Chennai vide letter No. F. No. 4-APA870/201-BAN/2319 dated 22.11.2016.
6. The above proposal with Study report as conducted by University of Krishnadevaraya, Ananthapur was placed before **FAC in its meeting held on 26-12-2016**. The FAC in said FAC meeting observed that this proposal had been considered earlier by the FAC in its meetings on 24.04.2012 and 12.07.2016.
7. The Committee in its meeting held on 26-12-2016 observed that the instant study did not indicate any significant negative/adverse impacts due to the project.
8. The FAC also considered the recommendations given in study which are as follows:
  - i. During the construction phase of the wind power project, no works should be carried out during night time.
  - ii. No tar (Black top) roads should be constructed in the project area.
  - iii. Compensatory Afforestation plantations may be taken up preferably with local species.
  - iv. Plantations of fruit bearing species should be avoided near the project site to prevent birds being attracted near wind mills.
  - v. Carcasses of dead animals should be disposed away from the wind mills site to prevent raptors being attracted near the wind mills.
  - vi. Appropriate habitat management operations like construction of artificial water bodies may be taken up by the forest department authorities where ever required for wild life conversation.
  - vii. Livelihood to the local population should be monitored continuously.

- viii. Project personal may be given basic information about bio-diversity conservation and awareness programmes may be conducted for sensitizing about bio-diversity conservation.
  - ix. Where ever possible, pipe culverts should be used in road construction so that small mammals, herbivores and other reptiles can cross the roads from such structures.
  - x. Soil and moisture conservation major may be taken up in and around the project site by forest department on equivalent area.
  - xi. Local population may be adequately compensated where ever private land / Agricultural land are taken up for project needs.
  - xii. Awareness camps about green energy project may be taken up by arranging visits of local educational institutions to the Wind mills sites.
9. **FAC Recommendation:** The FAC considering the above facts and all other details pertaining to the proposal and the study report submitted by the Sri Krishnadevaraya University decided that detailed comments on the study be provided by Dr Deepak Apte, Member FAC. The minutes of FAC meeting held on 9-10 November placed in file at pg.524-528/c.
10. In view of recommendation of FAC as stated in para (11) above, Dr. Deepak Apte, Member FAC vide this Ministry's letter dated 13.01.2017 (**pg.530/c**) for submission of detailed comments on the study submitted by the Sri Krishnadevaraya University, Andhra Pradesh to this Ministry for further action . But the comments from Dr.Apte has not yet been received in the Ministry.

It is proposed that the above facts of the proposal may be placed before FAC for examination and appropriate recommendation in its forthcoming meeting to be held on 30.03.2017.

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