



F.No. 6-12002 WL-I

Date: 27 May 2003.

भारत सरकार

पर्यावरण एवं वन मंत्रालय

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS

To  
All members,  
Standing Committee  
of Indian Board for Wild Life.

Sub: Minutes of the meeting of the Standing Committee of IBWL held on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2003.

Sir,

Kindly find enclosed a copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Standing Committee of IBWL held on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2003 in Paryavaran Bhawan, New Delhi under the Chairmanship of Union Minister of Environment and Forests.

Yours faithfully,

(ASEEM SRIVASTAV)  
DEPUTY INSPECTOR GENERAL (WL)

Encl: Minutes of the meeting (pages 1-6)

Copy to:

1. PS to Minister of Environment and Forests.
2. PS to Minister of State for Environment & Forests
3. PPS to Secretary, E & F
4. PPS to DGF & SS, M/o E & F.
5. PPS to Addl.DGF(WL), M/o E & F



जहाँ है हरियाली।  
वहाँ है खुशहाली।।

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PARYAVARAN BHAWAN, C.G.O. COMPLEX, LODHI ROAD, NEW DELHI-110003 website : <http://envfor.nic.in>



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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF INDIAN  
BOARD FOR WILD LIFE HELD ON 6.5. 2003**

**Venue: Paryavaran Bhawan, New Delhi.**

**Time : 15.00 Hrs.**

The fifth meeting of the Standing Committee of IBWL, after its reconstitution in February, 2002, was held under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister of Environment & Forests on 6.5.2003. The list of participants is at **Annexure I**. Summary record of the deliberations and decisions taken is as under:

1. Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 17.2.2003 were confirmed.
2. Action taken report on the recommendations of the last meeting of the Committee held on 17.2.2003 was noted. The issues were further considered by the Committee and following decisions were taken:

**(i) Tale Sanctuary in Lower Subansri District, Arunachal Pradesh (I.A. No. 17/2001 of 337/1995).**

Hon'ble Supreme Court had, vide their interim order dated 13.11.2000, mentioned that there should be no de-reservation of forests/Sanctuaries/National Parks. In response, an interlocutory application (No.17 of 2001) was filed by the State of Arunachal Pradesh praying that Hon'ble Court may permit de-reservation of 42 ha of land along the Sipu River falling within the Tale Wildlife Sanctuary subject to such terms and conditions as the Court may direct.

The matter was referred to the Standing Committee of IBWL by the Hon'ble Court vide their Order dated 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2002. In the same order, Hon'ble Court has directed that no permission under Section 29 of the Wildlife Act should be granted without getting the approval of the Standing Committee.

The proposal for de-reservation of 42 ha of land falling within the Tale Wildlife Sanctuary in the Lower Subansri district was placed before the Standing Committee of IBWL in its meeting held on 12.7.2002. It is mentioned that the Principal Secretary (Environment and Forests), Government of Arunachal Pradesh, vide his letter No.FOR.87/CONS/2001/PT/93 dated 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2002 has stated that the impact of submerging 42 ha of sanctuary land on the wildlife will be insignificant. He has suggested that the area should not be de-reserved and should continue to be a part of the wildlife sanctuary. The Standing Committee of IBWL considered the proposal and recommended that a team comprising of Shri S.C. Sharma, Additional Director General (WL) and Shri Bittu Sehgal, would visit the site and submit a report to the Committee for its consideration. Shri Sharma and Shri Sehgal conducted the site visit from August 31 to September 1, 2002 and submitted their report for consideration of the Committee. The Standing Committee of IBWL met on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2002 and took note of the



recommendations made by the Expert Committee. Based on the recommendations, it was decided that a detailed bio-diversity assessment study would be conducted by an agency to be identified by MoEF. The Ministry subsequently directed the Director, Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) and the Director, Botanical Survey of India (BSI) to conduct bio-diversity study of the Tale Wildlife Sanctuary in connection with the diversion proposal of 42 ha for power project by National Hydro-Electric Power Corporation. The ZSI and BSI conducted field surveys and submitted their report which was considered by the Committee in its meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2003. The report states that the proposed 42 ha land of the Sanctuary which is approximately 0.12% of the total area of the Sanctuary is confined to the gorge portion of the Sipu river and submergence of this area will not affect the habitat of wild fauna in the Sanctuary. It mentions that the vegetation along the Subansri river particularly in the proposed reservoir area is of tropical evergreen type but the forests in the lower reaches are degraded due to continued exploitation over the years. It also reveals that the forest offer suitable habitat for rare and endangered species. These include species like Tiger, clouded leopard, golden cat, elephants, Goral etc. and plants like *Bambusa mastersii*, a rare Bamboo found along the riverside. Other important rare and endangered plant species include *Cyathia spinulosa* and *Heritiera aminate*. The reservoir will be a narrow water body in most of the submergence area and would improve the habitat for aquatic fauna in the total submergence area is 3436 ha which stretches along the Subansri river and its tributaries.

Some Members stated that though area likely to be submerged under the project within the sanctuary is very small, submergence outside the sanctuary area would mainly affect the forest. Construction of dam and creation of reservoir may affect the flora and fauna especially the aquatic fauna that use the Subansiri river system for long distance migration. Concerns were expressed on the possible impact of human induced interference by technical staff and workers likely to be engaged in the construction phase of the project, who will be using large quantity of fuelwood in case alternatives are not provided. Members also acknowledged the fact that construction and expansion of roads, disposal of waste and storage of construction material and equipments might damage the habitat of wildlife. Creation of reservoir may, however, prove beneficial to some of the non-migratory fish species that are accustomed to deep-water habitat. It was opined that the catchment area of the Subansiri river needs to be adequately treated even otherwise in order to reduce the siltation. Some members expressed the view that the report of ZSI and BSI should have covered the entire catchment area. It was explained that the catchment area would be covered under the detailed Environmental Impact Assessment studies to be carried out separately at the stage of applying for the grant of environmental clearance under Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986.



Though the Members appreciated the fact that the project was proposed as a part of the planned development of the North Eastern Region, yet it was acknowledged that the submergence would bring ecological change of the area. Convinced of the fact that the project is vital for the economy of Arunachal Pradesh and essential for augmenting the power generation in the North Eastern Region, which is already under acute power shortage resulting in poor economic development of the region, the Committee decided to recommend the proposal for diversion of the sanctuary land subject to the following conditions :-

- (i) The legal status of the sanctuary land i.e. 42 ha will remain unchanged and will continue to be a part of the Sanctuary.
- (ii) The Reserve Forest area that forms part of the catchment of the Lower Subansri including the reservoir should be declared as a National Park/Sanctuary. NHPC will provide funds for the survey and demarcation of the same.
- (iii) The extent of area to be declared, as National Park/Sanctuary will be decided by the State Government in consultation with the Ministry of Environment and Forests and associating reputed Forestry and Wildlife Experts.
- (iv) The National Park/Sanctuary will be under the control of the Chief Wild Life Warden, Government of Arunachal Pradesh, to be managed by an officer of the rank of the Deputy Conservator of Forests and above.
- (v) The National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) will provide funds for the relocation and re-settlement of the people, if any, residing inside the proposed National Park/Sanctuary at (ii) above, at sites outside the protected area on land earmarked for the purpose by the State Government in advance.
- (vi) NHPC will make adequate arrangements for supply of fuel to the staff and workers engaged in the construction. Under no circumstances, fuelwood will be removed from the sanctuary or forest area.
- (vii) There would be no construction of dam upstream of the Subansri river in future.
- (viii) The State Government will provide dedicated field staff for the management and protection of the National Park / Sanctuary, which will include adequate number of ACFs, RFOs, Foresters, Guards, and Watchmen etc. Requisite infrastructure, communication, equipments and other facilities will be provided to the staff and the officials. The entire cost i.e. recurring and non recurring expenditure will be borne by NHPC for a period of ten years. The State Government will prepare and approve



the Management Plan for the National Park / Sanctuary for a period of ten years and submit to the NHPC for funding support.

- (ix) The NHPC will also ensure that there is no siltation down the Subhansri river during the construction phase. The spillage and diversion channels will be maintained as fish ladder.
- (x) Under no circumstances, the excavated material will be dumped either in the river or any other part of the National Park / Sanctuary or the surrounding forests.
- (xi) NHPC will also provide complete funds for reforestation of the degraded sites with indigenous species within the National park / Sanctuary and ensure that there is no siltation down the Subansiri River during construction phase.

**(ii) Denotification of Salim Ali City Forest National Park, Jammu & Kashmir**

The committee considered the site inspection report submitted by Dr. Ranjitsinh and Shri. Aseem Srivastav, Deputy Inspector General of Forests (WL). The matter was deferred as the representative of the State Government were not able to clarify certain points regarding the use of chemical pesticides and fertilizers in the golf course.

**(iii) Shifting of Raiwalla Ammunition dump to clear the migratory route for elephants.**

The committee considered the site inspection report submitted by Shri. Bittu Sehgal, Member, Standing Committee of IBWL and Shri. Aseem Srivastav, Deputy Inspector General of Forests (WL). Shri. Bittu Sehgal further informed the committee that he had discussed this matter with the Quarter Master General who was satisfied with the 70 acres of land for ammunition dump without insisting on payment of Rs. 13.34 crores for the cost of construction of new ammunition dump at the alternate site. The committee decided that the Ministry will take up this matter with the Ministry of Defence at appropriate level for this purpose.



### Agenda item No.3

#### Proposals for diversion/denotification of areas of National Parks/Sanctuaries.

- (i) **Diversion of 142.699 ha of forest land for the upper Jonk irrigation project (I.A. No. 27/2002 in C.W.P No. 337/1995)**

The Member-Secretary explained to the committee about the diversion of 142.699 ha of forest land for the upper Jonk irrigation project in Orissa. **The actual area of diversion of Sunabeda Sanctuary being 129.707 ha.** He also mentioned that the proposal was earlier rejected by the Standing Committee in its meeting held on 26.2.2002 wherein a decision was taken that the circumstances under which the dam was construction of the dam has been done without getting approval under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, should be ascertained and responsibility for violation fixed. The committee decided to defer the matter to the next meeting since:

- (a) The report of the State Government was not received
- (b) The Chief Wild Life Warden, Government of Orissa was not present during the meeting.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

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## Annexure 1

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS PRESENT IN THE MEETING OF THE STANDING  
COMMITTEE OF IBWL HELD ON 6.5.2003**

1. Shri. T.R. Baalu, Minister of Environment & Forests.- Chairman
2. Shri. Dilip Singh Ju Dev, Minister of State for Environment & Forests
3. Shri. K.C. Misra, Secretary (Environment & Forests)
4. Shri. Vinod Rishi, Additional Director General of Forests (WL).
5. Shri. Bittu Sehgal.
6. Dr. M.K. Ranjitsinh
7. Shri. S. Singsit, Director, WII, Dehradun.
8. Shri. M.C. Malakar, CWLW, Government of Assam
9. Shri. S.B. Islam, CCF(WL), Government of Himachal Pradesh
10. Dr. A.K. Malhotra, CCF(WL) & CWLW, Government of Jharkhand.
11. Shri. M.G. Gogate, PCCF (WL), Government of Maharashtra.
12. Shri. R.M. Ray, PCCF(WL), Government of Karnataka
13. Dr. B.S. Burfal, CWLW, Government of Uttranchal
14. Shri. Aseem Srivastav, Dy. Inspector General (WL). - Member-Secretary

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