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सत्यमेव जयते

भारत सरकार  
Government of India

अध्यक्ष, परमाणु ऊर्जा आयोग  
व

सचिव, परमाणु ऊर्जा विभाग

Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission  
&

Secretary, Department of Atomic Energy

शेखर बसु

Sekhar Basu

No.234-2016

August 23, 2016

Sub: Acquisition of Land for Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory Project (LIGO-India Project) at Hingoli District, Maharashtra.

Dear Shri Kshatriya,

I am very glad to inform you that the Union Cabinet chaired by Hon'ble Prime Minister has given 'in-principle' approval on 17.02.2016 for setting up mega science project called Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory Project [LIGO-India Project] in India. This project is under joint collaboration with Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory (LIGO), USA and it is funded by Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) and Department of Science & Technology (DST) of Government of India. The LIGO-India shall be a unique facility in the world along with US Detectors for unravelling some greatest mysteries of the universe called gravitational-wave. In this regard, a MoU was signed in March 2016 in US among the US National Science Foundation, DAE and DST in the presence of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India.

The total projected expenditure (tentative) for 15 years has been estimated at Rs. 1260 crore. After finalisation of site selection and other related activities, the DPR for the project will be submitted to the Cabinet for approval.

This Project will bring unprecedented opportunities for Scientists and Engineers to dig deeper into the realm of gravitational-wave and take global leadership in this new astronomical frontier. LIGO-India Project will also bring considerable opportunities in cutting edge technology for the Indian industry, which will be engaged in the construction of 8 km. long beam tube at ultra-high vacuum on a levelled terrain. This project will motivate Indian students and young scientists to explore newer frontiers of knowledge, and will add further impetus to scientific research in the country.

In view of the above, it will be a prestigious and unique Project to be set up in the State of Maharashtra in an area where the land is not agricultural oriented and somewhat barren land which shall be very useful for this Project. It may be worthwhile to state that the Project is non-commercial and solely aimed to pursue a unique scientific research in international arena and, therefore, it is requested to provide land at a concessional rate.

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The Aundha Tehsil Site at Hingoli district in Maharashtra has been selected by the Site Selection Committee with the help of Tata Consulting Engineers, Mumbai as detailed below:

Sl.No.	Gut (Plot Nos.)	Village name
1.	397,398,399,400,406,407,408,412,413,414,417 (Wadi), 420,425,434 (Mahsura), 435 (Gairan)	MaujeDudhala
2.	42,44,46	MaujeAnjanwada
3.	22 (Mahsura)	MaujeGangalwadi

According to our estimation, we need 173.25 hectares of land for the Project at Aundha Tehsil.

In addition to above, 20 acres at Hingoli site for establishing guest house and residential colony and around 5 acres of land at Nanded for transit guest house is required (Land is yet to be identified). In order to acquire the land at Hingoli, Aundha&Nanded, district officials viz. Collector, Hingoli, Nanded and Divisional Commissioner, Aurangabad are involved.

Hence, I would solicit your personal intervention and co-operation from State Government for allotment of land to Department of Atomic Energy to set up this flagship Project in Maharashtra by issue of necessary instructions to the authorities concerned so that our project authorities can ensure completion of the required formalities in this regard.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

*Sekhar Basu*  
(Sekhar Basu)

Shri Swadheen S. Kshatriya, IAS  
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cc: DJSER&D, DAE.

2) DIRECTOR, DESEM