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No. 2040/MS/15

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F.No.6-209/2014 WL (32nd Meeting)
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change
Wildlife Division

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3840
53/15
6 th Floor, Vayu Wing
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Jor Bag Road, Aliganj
New Delhi-110003
Dated: 25.02.2015.

To

The Principal Secretary (Forests)
Department of Forests
Government of Tamil Nadu
798/81, Annasalai
Chennai-600006.

Sub: Minutes of the 32nd Meeting of Standing Committee of NBWL.

Sir,

During the 32nd Meeting of Standing Committee of NBWL held on 21st January 2015 under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment, Forests and Climate Change, the following proposals pertaining to your State were considered. The relevant portion of the decision taken in respect of the proposals is reproduced below:

- "1. Proposal for establishment of 2x500 MW Coal based Thermal Power Plant at Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu by M/s Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited (NLC) along with Tamil Nadu Power limited, Tuticorin (PMG Case).

The Member Secretary informed the Committee that the proposal was considered by the Standing Committee of NBWL in its 31st meeting held on 12th -13th August 2014, wherein, it was decided to defer the matter and in the meantime, a copy of the Environment Impact Assessment Report for the proposal be circulated amongst the members of the Standing Committee for taking a view in the next meeting. The EIA Report was circulated to the Members.

Dr. Sukumar mentioned that the EIA report did not deal with the monitoring of biological parameters, especially with respect to the impact on corals. He suggested that there should be a mechanism for independent monitoring and this should be put as one of the conditions. Dr. H.S. Singh desired to know if any mechanism was available for reducing the temperature of water being released into the sea. Chief Wildlife Warden, Tamil Nadu informed that the project proponents had assured that a cooling system has been installed in the power plant and the water released into the sea would be maintained at 30 degrees Celsius.

After discussion, the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal in view of the distance of more than 6 km the project from Gulf of Mannar National Park, national need of power production and environmental mitigation measures provided in Environmental clearance. The Committee also agreed that a strict monitoring regime should be put in place by the forest department for the parameters related to impact on corals and marine ecosystem. Cost for this will be borne by M/s Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited (NLC). An amount of Rs 1 cr will be placed with Chief Wildlife Warden for this purpose by the project proponent. The monitoring set up must be in place within one year from the date of remittance. The measures suggested by Forest Department for addressing the issues identified as impact on biodiversity as a result of the monitoring shall be adopted by the project scrupulously.

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2. **Diversion of 1.11 ha of forest land from Pulicat Bird Sanctuary for construction of high level bridge at Km 0/4, Chennai Pulicat Road to Pashyavaram Road, Tamil Nadu.**

The Member Secretary informed the committee that this proposal was considered during the 31st meeting held on 12-13 August 2014 and was deferred as the recommendation of the State Board for Wildlife was awaited. He added that the requisite statutory consultations with State Board for Wildlife have been completed and State Government had conveyed the recommendation of the State Board for Wildlife.

The Chief Wildlife Warden, Tamil Nadu mentioned that a Writ petition was also filed before the Hon'ble High Court of Madras on this matter, seeking early decision for construction of the bridge.

After discussions, the Standing Committee of NDWL considered the need of the bridge for the local population residing within the area, which is primarily wetland, and hence decided to recommend the proposal subject to compliance of the conditions stipulated by the Chief Wildlife Warden.

3. **Diversion of 0.65 ha of forest land from Pulicat Bird Sanctuary for construction of fish landing centre at Periyamangagodu in Thiruvallur district, Tamil Nadu.**

The Member Secretary informed the committee that this proposal was considered during the 31st meeting held on 12-13 August 2014 and was deferred as the recommendation of the State Board for Wildlife was awaited. He added that the requisite statutory consultations with State Board for Wildlife have been completed and State Government had conveyed the recommendation of the State Board for Wildlife.

The Chief Wildlife Warden mentioned that this proposal was related to subsistence fishing based livelihood enhancement of the local communities.

The Committee felt that diversion of the land within the Sanctuary is not likely to cause any destruction of wetland habitat and the sustenance of the livelihood can further strengthen the conservation efforts by working with the communities. After discussions, the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal subject to compliance of such conditions stipulated by the Chief Wildlife Warden."

The above recommendation(s) are subject to the existing directives of Hon'ble Supreme Court and provisions of Forests (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Yours faithfully

R. Rajasekhar

(Rajasekhar Ratti)

Scientist 'C'/Deputy Director (WL)

Copy to:

1. The Chief Wildlife Warden, Government of Tamil Nadu, Chennai.
2. The Addl.Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Regional Office (SZ), Kendriya Sadan, 4th Floor E&F Wings, 17 Main Road, I Block, Koranmangala, Bangalore-560034.
3. The General Manager, M/s Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited (NLC), Registered Office No.135, Periyar E.V.R. High Road, Kilpauk, Chennai-600 010. Tamil Nadu,
4. The Joint Secretary, I.A. Division, MoEF & CC.
5. The Inspector General of Forests, FC Division, MoEF & CC.

R. Rajasekhar

((Rajasekhar Ratti)

Scientist 'C'/Deputy Director (WL)