

Agenda .4

8-85/2011-FC

Sub: Revised proposal regarding diversion of 5056.5 ha (reduced to 4577.84 ha) of forest land in favour of M/s NHPC Limited for construction of Dibang Multipurpose Project (3000 MW) on Dibang River in Lower Dibang valley district of Arunachal Pradesh.

1. This relates to diversion of 5056.50 ha of forest land in favor of M/s NHPC for construction of Dibang Multipurpose project (3000 MW) on Dibang River in Lower Dibang Valley of Lower Dibang District of Arunachal Pradesh was submitted by the State Government vide their letter no. FOR.10-44/Cons./2003/Vol-I/312-16 dated 18th August 2011.
2. The Regional Office (North Eastern Zone), Shillong, vide this Ministry's letter dated 14.09.2011 was requested to carry out site inspection of the area proposed for diversion. However, the Regional Office Shillong vide letter dated 1.08.2012 informed the Ministry that due to reasons viz. poor connectivity, remoteness of the area, incessant rainy weather, and scarcity of officers in the Regional Offices, and non-submission of essential information by the State Government viz. complete tree enumeration list, GPS coordinates and suitability of the land identified for CA, site inspection of the area cannot be carried out so far.
3. The Regional Office had also informed that as per the details provided in the original proposal, part of the area of the project falls within 10 km radius of the Mehao Wildlife Sanctuary. Taking cognizance of this fact, the project proponent has informed that area falling within 10 km radius has been discarded and requirement of forest land reduced from 5056.50 ha to 5022.842 ha after discarding 33.658 ha of area falling within 10 km radius. However, the Regional Office has ascertained that even after discarding 35.658 ha of area, around 136.902 ha of non-forest land still falls within 10 km radius.
4. After receipt of site inspection report from the Regional Office, Shillong, the FAC considered the proposal in its meeting held on 12th July, 2013 and after detailed discussion on the proposal, the Committee recommended rejection of the proposal on the grounds viz. huge forest area with very good forest cover, irreparable and adverse impact on general eco-system of the area by felling of more than 3.5 lakhs of trees, several other HEP have been proposed in the same river valley apart from Dibang HEP, unavailability of study on cumulative impact of all the HEP, etc. The Committee is also of the opinion that ecological, environmental and social costs of diversion of such a vast track of forest land, which is a major source of livelihood of the tribal population of the State, will far outweigh the benefits likely to accrue from the project.
5. Subsequently, the proposal, along with the recommendation of the FAC, was also discussed in the meeting held between Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests and the Secretary, Ministry of Power on 13.08.2013 and after detailed deliberation on the proposal it was decided that the User Agency shall explore the possibility to reduce the requirement of forest land for the project and a revised proposal may accordingly be submitted to the MoEF for further consideration.
6. The State Government of Arunachal Pradesh vide their letter No. FOR.10/Cor./2003/Vol-IV/287 dated 13.02.2014 submitted revised proposal. The facts related to the proposal as contained in the State Government's letter are given below in the form of fact sheet

FACT SHEET

45.	Name of the Proposal	Revised proposal regarding diversion of 5056.5 ha (reduced to 4577.84 ha) of forest land in favour of M/s NHPC Limited for construction of Dibang Multipurpose Project (3000 MW) on Dibang River in Lower Dibang valley district of Arunachal Pradesh.
46.	Location (v) State	Arunachal Pradesh

	(vi) District	Lower Dibang Valley
47.	Particulars of Forests: (vii) Name of Forest Division and Forest area involved. (viii) Legal status/Sy.No. (ix) Map	Not mentioned Not mentioned 1. SOI Toposheet - Not enclosed 2. Forest Cover map- Not enclosed 3. 10 kms radius map-Not enclosed 4. Digital DGPS map-Not enclosed
48.	Topography of the area	-
49.	(viii) Geology (ix) Vulnerability to erosion	- Not mentioned
50.	(i) Vegetation (ii) Density (iii) No. of trees to be felled	Not mentioned Not mentioned Not mentioned
51.	Whether area is significant from wildlife point of view	Not mentioned
52.	Whether forms part of National park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant Corridor, etc. (if so, details of the area and comments of the Chief Wildlife Warden	Not mentioned
53.	Whether any RET species of flora and fauna are found in the area. If so details thereof	Not mentioned
54.	Approximate distance of the proposed site for diversion from boundary of forest.	Not mentioned
55.	Whether any protected archaeological/ heritage site/defence establishment or any other important monuments is located in the area.	Not mentioned
56.	Whether any work of in violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been carried out (Yes/No). If yes details of the same including period of work done, action taken on erring officials. Whether work in violation is still in progress.	Not mentioned
57.	Whether the requirement of forest land as proposed by the user agency in col. 2 of Part-I is unavoidable and barest minimum for the project, if no recommended area item-wise with details of alternatives examined.	Not mentioned
58.	Whether clearance under the	Yes, Not enclosed

	Environment (protection) Act, 1986 is required?	
59.	Compensatory Afforestation	
	(xi) Details of non-forest area/degraded forest area identified for CA, its distance from adjoining forest, number of patches, size of each patches.	Not enclosed
	(xii) Map showing non-forest/degraded forest area identified for CA and adjoining forest boundaries.	Not enclosed
	(xiii) Detailed CA scheme including species to be planted, implementing agency, time schedule, cost structure, etc.	Not enclosed
	(xiv) Total financial outlay for CA	Not enclosed
	(xv) Certificate from the competent authority regarding suitability of the area identified for CA and from management point of view.	Not enclosed
60.	Catchment Area Treatment	
61.	Rehabilitation of Oustees j) No of families involved k) Category of families l) Details of rehabilitation plan	115 families All families belong to Scheduled Tribe Not Enclosed.
62.	Cost Benefit Ratio	62:11:1 (pg-264/c)
63.	Total Cost of the Project	Rs. 15886.39 Crores
64.	Recommendation i. DFO ii. CCF iii. Nodal Officer iv SG	Not enclosed Not enclosed Not enclosed Not enclosed
65.	District Profile (xi) Total Geographical area of the district (xii) Total Forest area/Divisional Forest area (xiii) Total area diverted since 1980 (xiv) Total CA stipulated since 1980 (Forest land) a. Forest land including penal CA b. Non Forest Land (xv) Progress of Compensatory Afforestation a. Forest land b. Non Forest land	Part-II of Form A is not enclosed