



Government of India  
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change  
(Wildlife Division)

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Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj  
New Delhi 110 003  
Date: 11.06.2020

F.No.6-2/2020 WL

To

All Members  
Standing Committee of NBWL

**Sub:** Minutes of Agenda (Part) of the 57<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wild Life Deliberated by Circulation- reg.

Sir / Madam,

Kindly find enclosed copy of the Minutes of Agenda (Part) of the 57<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wild Life deliberated by circulation.

Yours faithfully,

(Dr Pasupala Ravi)  
Scientist C

**Encl:** As above

**Distribution**

- (1) Secretary, MoEF&CC
- (2) DGF&SS, MoEF&CC
- (3) ADGF(WL), MoEF&CC
- (4) ADGF(FC), MoEF&CC
- (5) Member Secretary, NTCA
- (6) Director / IGF, PE Division
- (7) Director, WII, Dehradun
- (8) Director, GEER Foundation, Gandhinagar
- (9) Dr. R. Sukumar, Member, NBWL
- (10) Dr. H.S. Singh, Member, NBWL
- (11) Pr. Secretary, Forest Dept., Govt. of Andhra Pradesh

**Copy to**

- (1) PS to Hon'ble MoEF&CC
- (2) PS to Hon'ble MoSEF&CC
- (3) PPS to DGF&SS, MoEF&CC
- (4) PPS to Addl.DGF(WL), PPS to IGF(WL)
- (5) CWLW Bihar / CWLW Madhya Pradesh / CWLW Rajasthan / CWLW Uttarakhand

## Minutes of Agenda (Part) of the 57<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wild Life Deliberated by Circulation

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The following Agenda Items along with the fact sheets after consent from the competent authority were circulated amongst the Members of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wild Life. List to whom Agenda circulated is in Annexure I. The matter was also considered by the DGF&SS, Secretary and the Chairman of the Standing Committee.

### **54.4.21 Proposal for use of 11.115 ha of land (forestland: 2.565 ha + civil soyam land: 8.190 ha) construction of Kotgaon (Naitwar) to Kalap Motor road, Uttarakhand State**

The proposal is for use of 11.115 ha of land (8.190 ha of civil soyam land + 2.565 ha forestland) for construction of new road from Kotgaon to Kalap Motor road passing through Govind Pashu Vihar National Park. The State Chief Wildlife Warden has recommended the project without imposing conditions. The State Board for Wild Life has recommended the proposal in its meeting held on 15/06/2018. The proposal was considered in the 54<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2019 wherein it was decided to deliberate discussions in the forthcoming meeting in the light of the guidelines for roads in protected areas issued by the Ministry. In the 54<sup>th</sup> meeting Dr H S Singh, Member stated that as per the recommendations of *“the Sub-Committee on Guidelines for Roads in Protected Areas”* new roads shall not be constructed inside the National Parks and Sanctuaries. The Standing Committee in its 54<sup>th</sup> meeting noticed that the Chief Wildlife Warden / or representative from the State Forest Department was not available to comment on the proposed road.

The Standing Committee in its 56<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2019 decided that a committee comprising of two officials from the Wildlife Division of the Ministry and two officials from the State Forest Department would visit the project site and submit report to this Ministry within one month. Accordingly the Site Inspection Committee visited the project site on 18 - 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2020 and submitted report on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2020. The Site Inspection Committee recommended the project with strict adherence to the following mitigation measures and conditions:

- [1] Among the three alignments explored for the construction of road, the committee is convinced that the Alignment-1 requiring 2.565 ha of sanctuary land is the most practical with least conversation impact and geotechnical / geological, economic and social viability. The user agency shall not use the area for the proposed road work other than the area permitted.
- [2] The project authority should not violate any regulatory provisions under Section-9, 17, 27, 29, 30, 31 and 32 of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. The project proponent shall fell barest minimum number of trees without any disturbance or harm or destroy wildlife.
- [3] The user agency shall not establish any temporary or permanent labour camp in Govind Pashu Vihar National Park and Sanctuary. Also the project proponent or his

contractor shall not create any fire places inside the Govind Pashu Vihar National Park and Sanctuary.

- [4] Blasting using explosives is not permitted and excavated material should not be piled up to be an obstruction for the normal flow of Supin / Rupin / or Tone Rivers. Adequate drainage arrangements i.e., wide hillside lined drain with proper cross drainage arrangements should be constructed in the entire stretch of 15 KM road. Arrangement for the normal flow of water on the downhill slope should be made. All the material required for the work shall be prepared outside the protected area. The work in the protected area is allowed only in the daytime from 8.00 A.M to 5.00 P.M.
- [5] Underpasses and overpasses (including herp-fences) at strategic locations for passage of wildlife, small mammals, reptiles and amphibians should be constructed while constructing the road. Design of these underpasses / overpasses provided in *Eco-friendly Measures to Mitigate Impacts of Linear Infrastructure on Wildlife* compiled by the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, should be considered. The precise locations of these passages can be decided by the project authority in consultation with the State Chief Wildlife Warden. Also the speed breakers at a distance of every 500 m should be created in the entire stretch of 15 KM road. Retaining wall / or breast wall having a seismic design along the road should be constructed. Any steep embankment on either side of the proposed road needs to be made more gentle or flattened as these often trap wildlife on the road causing mortality.
- [6] The project authority should obtain Forest Clearance separately for use of forestland as per the provisions of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980.

Prof. R Sukumar, Member stated that the Site Inspection Committee has recommended for the construction of a motorable road along the existing bridle path passing through the Govind Pashu Vihar National Park and wildlife sanctuary involving the use of 2.565 hectares of PA land in order to provide connectivity to the 500+ residents of Kalap village. From among three possible alignments considered, they have selected a particular alignment which involves the least loss of forest land from the PA and also uses an existing path. After considerable thought to the proposal, he inclined to accept the recommendations of the Site Inspection Committee. He stated that the use of the road should be strictly regulated by the State Forest Department and kept largely for the use of the residents of Kalap.

Dr H S Singh and the Spl. Chief Secretary of Andhra Pradesh, Members agreed to recommend the project with the conditions and mitigation measures of the Site Inspection Committee.

The Members of the Standing Committee agreed to recommend the proposal subject to the conditions that

- (a) The project proponent will comply with all the conditions imposed by the State Chief Wildlife Warden and the recommendations of the Site Inspection Committee.
- (b) The annual compliance certificate on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the project proponent to the State Chief Wildlife Warden and an annual

compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State Chief Wildlife Warden to Govt. of India.

**54.4.25 Proposal for picking of balu / bajri / boulder mine at village Dhhakrani, ehsil Vikas Nagar, District Dehradun from the private land of 2.5893 ha area located at 2.35 km away from Asan Wetland Conservation Reserve, Uttarakhand State**

**54.4.26 Proposal for picking of balu / bajri / boulder mine from an area of 3.1250 ha at Village Dhakrani, Tehsil Vikasnagar, District Dehradun, Uttarakhand State**

**56.3.23 Proposal for picking of Balu / Bajri / boulder mine at village Dhhakrani, Tehsil Vikas Nagar, District Dehradun from the private land of 1.93 ha area located at 4.14 km away from Asan Wetland Conservation Reserve, Uttarakhand State**

These three proposals are for the collection of balu, bajri and boulder in the private lands located at 2.35 to 4.14 KM away from the boundary of Asan Wetland Conservation Reserve. These proposals were considered in the 54<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2019 wherein it was decided to deliberate discussions in the forthcoming meeting. The proposals were also considered by the Standing Committee in its 55<sup>th</sup> and 56<sup>th</sup> meetings however the Standing Committee decided not to recommend the project till the conditions given below are complied and certified by the State Chief Wildlife Warden.

- (a) The project proponent mandatorily comply all the requirements envisaged in the guidelines named *Sustainable Sand Mining Management Guidelines, 2016* issued by the Ministry.
- (b) The project proponent will comply with all the conditions imposed by the State Chief Wildlife Warden.
- (c) The annual compliance certificate on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the project proponent to the State Chief Wildlife Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State Chief Wildlife Warden to Govt. of India.
- (d) A committee constituted by the Ministry to provide guidelines on mechanism of extraction of sand / river bed materials.

The Spl. Chief Secretary of Andhra Pradesh, Member stated that the matters pertaining to outside the conservation reserves do not come under the ambit of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wild Life. He stated that this fact may be informed to State Chief Wildlife Warden of Uttarakhand.

Prof R. Sukumar, Member stated that over the years, a large number of such proposals for sand/boulder mining have come from Uttarakhand, with most of them pertaining to rivers/streams close to the Rajaji National Park. Following the release of the Sustainable Sand Mining Management Guidelines 2016, the issue of sustainable mining at individual sites may be satisfied provided that these guidelines are strictly followed.

However, the cumulative impact of such mining across the landscape on the PA and its wildlife is not clear. He urged that a study of cumulative impacts of sand / boulder mining in this Uttarakhand landscape is commissioned by the Uttarakhand Forest Department so that corrective measures can be taken in case of necessity. This will also help identifying areas which should be kept free of mining in this landscape in the interests of wildlife.

Dr H S Singh, Member stated that during the previous meetings of the Standing Committee, numerous such proposals have been cleared. Majority of them pertained to Rajaji National Park. Majority of the new proposal also pertains to Rajaji National Park. In one of the meeting, the Chairman suggested to consider proposals only when satellite image-based map provide details of the sands/boulders yield. It was also suggested that the principle of sustainability should be applied while sanctioning the proposal. The fact sheet does not mention anything about response to the suggestion. Few proposals may not have serious impact on ecology, ground water recharge and wildlife disturbance, but when several dozen miners work in the river beds around the Park, and hundreds, may be thousands of trucks move every day for transport of the material, the anthropogenic pressure and ecological degradation would be serious. I suggest conducting a comprehensive study for appropriate action and also for consideration of proposals in future.

The Standing Committee opined that the consideration of the projects located outside the Asan Wetland Conservation Reserve is not required. It was decided to return these proposals to the State Govt to process in the State as per the local laws / regulations applicable and with an advise that the MoEF&CC's guidelines on Enforcement and Monitoring Guidelines for Sand Mining 2020 issued in January, 2020 and Sustainable Sand Mining Management Guidelines, 2016 must be kept in mind.

- 54.4.27 Proposal for collection river bed materials from an area 10.0 ha located at Sajjanpur Village, Haridwar falls at distance of 9.0 km away from the boundary of Rajaji National Park, Uttarakhand State**
- 54.4.28 Proposal for collection river bed materials from an area 92.504 ha located at Budhwa - Shahid, Hetampur falls at distance of 3.9 km away from the boundary of Rajaji National Park, Uttarakhand State**
- 55.4.21 Proposal for collection river bed materials from an area 55.51 ha located at Satiwal, Kudkawala, Teliwala and Kheri, falls at distance of 1.5 km away from the boundary of Rajaji National Park, Uttarakhand State**
- 56.3.24 Proposal for wildlife clearance for collection of sand, bajri and boulder from Non-PA area of 13.985 ha situated at Village Dadubas, Tehsil Haridwar, District Haridwar located at 4.8 KM away from the boundary of Rajaji National Park, Uttarakhand State**
- 56.3.25 Proposal for wildlife clearance for collection of sand, bajri and boulder from non-PA area of 42.0 ha situated at Village Kota Murandnagar, Tehsil Haridwar, District Haridwar located at 2.0 KM away from the boundary of Rajaji National Park, Uttarakhand State**

These five proposals are for the collection of balu, bajri and boulder in the private lands located at 1.5 to 9.0 KM away from the boundary of Rajaji National Park. These proposals were considered in the 54<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2019 wherein it was decided to deliberate discussions in the forthcoming meeting. These proposals were also considered by the Standing Committee in its 55<sup>th</sup> and 56<sup>th</sup> meetings however the Standing Committee decided not to recommend the project till the conditions given below are complied and certified by the State Chief Wildlife Warden.

- (a) The project proponent mandatorily comply all the requirements envisaged in the guidelines named *Sustainable Sand Mining Management Guidelines, 2016* issued by the Ministry.
- (b) The project proponent will comply with all the conditions imposed by the State Chief Wildlife Warden and the NTCA.
- (c) The annual compliance certificate on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the project proponent to the State Chief Wildlife Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State Chief Wildlife Warden to Govt. of India.
- (d) A committee constituted by the Ministry to provide guidelines on mechanism of extraction of sand / river bed materials.

Dr H S Singh, Member stated that during the previous meetings of the Standing Committee, numerous such proposals have been cleared. He stated that in one of the meeting, the Chairman suggested to consider proposals only when satellite image-based map provide details of the sands/ boulders yield. It was also suggested that the principle of sustainability should be applied while sanctioning the proposal. Few proposals may not have serious impact on ecology, ground water recharge and wildlife disturbance, but when several dozen miners work in the river beds around the Park, and hundreds may be thousands of trucks move every day for transport of the material, the anthropogenic pressure and ecological degradation would be serious. He suggested for conducting a comprehensive study for appropriate action and also for consideration of proposals in future.

Prof R. Sukumar, Member stated that over the years, a large number of such proposals for sand/boulder mining have come from Uttarakhand, with most of them pertaining to rivers/streams close to the Rajaji National Park. Following the release of the Sustainable Sand Mining Management Guidelines 2016, the issue of sustainable mining at individual sites may be satisfied provided that these guidelines are strictly followed. However, the cumulative impact of such mining across the landscape on the PA and its wildlife is not clear. He urged that a study of cumulative impacts of sand / boulder mining in this Uttarakhand landscape is commissioned by the Uttarakhand Forest Department so that corrective measures can be taken in case of necessity. This will also help identifying areas which should be kept free of mining in this landscape in the interests of wildlife.

The Spl. Chief Secretary of Andhra Pradesh, Member stated that the Enforcement & Monitoring guidelines for Sand Mining, 2020 were issued in January 2020, the State

Govt. may be requested to examine the proposals with reference to above and submit the proposals as per the new guidelines.

The Standing Committee decided to request the State Govt to resubmit the proposals after a comprehensive study on the collective impacts of sand mining projects on wildlife in and around Rajaji National Park for consideration of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wild Life. The study should assess as to the compliance of the above proposals to the above guidelines 2016 and 2020 of this Ministry on sustainable sand mining also.

#### **55.4.2 Proposal for reduction in area and alteration of boundary of Kawar Lake Bird Sanctuary, Bihar State**

The proposal is for the reduction of total area of Kawar Lake Bird Sanctuary from 6311 hectares to 3052 hectares and exclude of an area of 3291.58 ha of 9 villages and include in 1 village and addition in 2 villages of a small linked wetland with channel connecting the main wetland. The State Chief Wildlife warden has recommended the proposal and stated that the area of Kabar Tal Bird Sanctuary is to be reduced from 6311 hectares to 3052 hectares with the exclusion of areas in 9 villages and inclusion in 1 village and addition in 2 villages of a small linked wetland with channel connecting the main wetland. A few relatively uplands (islands) with Forest Department's old plantations and associated vegetations in the wetland have also been retained. In the 55<sup>th</sup> meeting the State Chief Wildlife Warden stated that several representations have been received from the villagers for including 32.22 ha of area into the sanctuary and requested the Standing Committee to allow for submission of the revised proposal. In the 55<sup>th</sup> meeting the State Chief Wildlife Warden stated that the public hearing is yet to be conducted in three villages. During the meeting he stated that the revised proposal shall be submitted in two months.

Prof. R. Sukumar, Member stated that prima facie there certainly seems to be a case for rationalizing the boundary of the Kawar Lake Bird Sanctuary. The Standing Committee has examined similar requests in past years and found merit in almost every proposal. This proposal however involves a major reduction of about 50% of the area of the Protected Area from the present 6312 hectares. He stated that with past exercises in rationalizing PA boundaries is that a site visit invariably helps in refining the proposal of the state government for achieving better management results. He suggested that the Standing Committee should constitute a site visit committee including an expert member for making the final recommendations for alteration of the boundary of Kawar Lake Bird Sanctuary. Further he opined that there is no urgency in altering the PA boundary.

Dr H S Singh, Member stated to wait for the response from the State Government or the proposal may be dropped. He opined that the proposal may be reconsidered after getting fresh proposal from the State Government / State Chief Wildlife Warden. He stated that after getting proposal from the State Government, recommendation for alternation of

boundary of the Protected Area should be made by a committee constituted by the Standing Committee.

Shri R D Kamboj, Member stated that the proposal for reduction of the area & alterations of the boundary of Kawar Lake Bird Sanctuary, the response of the State is still awaited and the same may hence be deferred.

The Director WII, Member stated that since the response from the state Government is still awaited, the proposal may be deferred to a future meeting of the Standing Committee. Further he stated that it would be help to have a site visit by a committee constituted by the Standing Committee to understand the ground situation since the reduction of area is of the order of over 50%. There also seems to be a confusion regarding the applicability of Wetland (Conservation & Management) Rules, 2017 on the area since the rules are not applicable on areas covered under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 (Section 3(b) of the rules). This may be clarified by the Chief Wildlife Warden, Bihar. The status of settlement of rights in the sanctuary may also be updated.

The Spl. Chief Secretary of Andhra Pradesh, Member stated to wait for the revised proposal from the State.

The Standing Committee decided to defer the proposal till the receipt of revised proposal.

#### **55.4.14 Proposal for construction of Intake Well in Chambal River and laying of water supply pipeline for Sheopur, Madhya Pradesh State**

The proposal is for use of 1.267 ha of land (PA area: 0.635 ha + revenue area: 0.632 ha) from the National Chambal Sanctuary for construction of Intake Well in the Chambal River and for laying of drinking water pipeline. The State Chief Wildlife Warden has not recommended the proposal citing the following reasons. However the State Board for Wild Life has recommended the proposal in its meeting held on 26/09/2018. The proposal was also considered by Standing Committee in its 56<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2019, and decided to defer till the alternative sources of water is explored by the State Government following sustainable goal objectives.

Dr H S Singh, Member stated that in the 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee held on 25.04.2011 while considering one proposal in the background of several proposals already sanctioned, it was decided not to go further for such proposals in Chambal river in interest of the river's ecology. Several projects for water withdrawal from the river are already in operation. Despite the decision of the Standing Committee, few proposals were approved during the recent years and endless story continues. He stated that the merit of the previous decision needs appreciation before considering such proposals.

Prof R. Sukumar, Member stated that the maintaining minimum water flow in the Chambal River to sustain the populations of the critically endangered gharial, dolphin and



associated species in the National Chambal Sanctuary. The gharial population in this area is the most significant population globally. WII has already observed that the flow in the river is much below the critical level needed for these species. The State Chief Wildlife Warden has also not recommended the proposal. He stated that not to grant permissions for construction of intake well and drawing of water from the Chambal River. He also stated the State Government may be urged to explore other options such as developing local water resources in the Sheopur area. Experts in hydrology may be commissioned to come up with alternatives.

Shri R D Kamboj, Member stated that the proposal for construction of intake well in Chambal river may not be considered as the State Chief Wildlife Warden has not recommended the same due to its negative impact on the wildlife of the sanctuary. In 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee held on 25.04.2011 it was decided not to go for such proposals in Chambal river.

The Director WII, Member stated that since the response is still awaited from the State Government on the decision taken in 56<sup>th</sup> meeting of Standing Committee on exploring alternative sources of water by the State Government, the matter may be deferred.

The Spl. Chief Secretary of Andhra Pradesh, Member stated to wait for the report from the State.

The Standing Committee opined that the note on alternative sources of water has not yet been received from the State and decided to defer the proposal till the receipt of the report on alternatives water sources.

**53.3.22 Proposal for expansion of production of silica sand from 1.0 lakh TPA to 3.0 lakh TPA by open cast mechanized method in the private land of 59.51 ha situated at Barodia, Tehsil Hindoli, District Bundi, Rajasthan State**

The proposal for expansion of production of silica sand from 1.0 lakh TPA to 3.0 lakh TPA by open cast mechanized method in the private land of 59.51 ha was considered in the 54<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2019 wherein it was decided to deliberate discussions in the forthcoming meeting. The proposal was also considered by the Standing Committee in its 55<sup>th</sup> and 56<sup>th</sup> meetings however the Standing Committee decided not to recommend the project till the conditions given below are complied and certified by the State Chief Wildlife Warden.

- (a) The project proponent mandatorily comply all the requirements envisaged in the guidelines named *Sustainable Sand Mining Management Guidelines, 2016* issued by the Ministry.
- (b) The project proponent will comply with all the conditions imposed by the State Chief Wildlife Warden.

- (c) The annual compliance certificate on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the project proponent to the State Chief Wildlife Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State Chief Wildlife Warden to Govt. of India.
- (d) A committee constituted by the Ministry to provide guidelines on mechanism of extraction of sand / river bed materials.

Prof. R. Sukumar, Member stated that this proposal is for mining of silica sand to the extent of 59.5 hectares on private land at Barodia in District Bundi (Rajasthan) located at a distance of 3.6 km from the boundary of Ramgarh Vishdhari Wildlife Sanctuary. He stated that in the year 2015, a Site Inspection Committee of the Standing Committee had visited the Ramgarh Wildlife Sanctuary with the intent of rationalizing its boundary as a significant area of Bundi Township had been inadvertently included within the PA boundary. As part of this detailed exercise, areas falling within Bundi town were excluded from the PA while additional uninhabited areas under the control of the revenue department were added to the sanctuary. The basic intent was to ensure a large landscape with sufficient habitat connectivity. The altered boundaries of the PA have been notified subsequently. He stated that the precise location of the proposed sand mining expansion is not clear. Given the importance of Ramgarh Sanctuary to wildlife (there seems to be a move to declare this as a Tiger Reserve), it must be ensured that the proposed expansion of sand mining does not result in disturbance to wildlife corridors within the larger landscape. He stated that the Ministry should examine the specific location of the proposed mining in relation to the overall boundary of the Ramgarh Sanctuary and the broader landscape before taking a final decision on the matter.

Dr H S Singh, Member stated that the view of the National Tiger Conservation Authority may be obtained as the Sanctuary falls in Tiger Conservation Landscape.

The Spl. Chief Secretary of Andhra Pradesh, Member stated that the Enforcement & Monitoring Guidelines for Sand Mining, 2020 were issued in January 2020, the State Govt. may be requested to examine the proposals and submit the proposal as per the new guidelines.

Dr H S Singh, Member stated that the view of the National Tiger Conservation Authority may be obtained as the Sanctuary falls in Tiger Conservation Landscape and Prof. R. Sukumar stated that the Ministry should examine the specific location of the proposed mining in relation to the overall boundary of the Ramgarh Sanctuary and the broader landscape before taking a final decision on the matter. He has also mentioned that area of the sanctuary as mentioned in the factsheet is 303.4 sq. km. (and not merely 303.4 ha). Here, it is pointed out that in Part III of the project proposal submitted to NBWL it is mentioned the area of the protected area (in ha.) as 303.4. Therefore, the fact sheet was prepared based on the project proposal forwarded by the State Government.

The Standing Committee decided to request the State Govt to submit a certificate that the proposal is in conformity of the Sustainable Sand Mining Guidelines 2016 and 2020 of this Ministry, and if necessary to resubmit the proposal after necessary revision.

**LIST TO WHOM AGENDA CIRCULATED**

1	Prof R Sukumar, Member, NBWL	Member
2	Dr H S Singh, Member, NBWL	Member
3	Shri R D Kamboj, Member, NBWL	Member
4	Dr Dhananjay Mohan, WII Director, Member, NBWL	Member
5	Shri Neerabh Kumar Prasad, Spl. Chief Secretary, Representative of Govt of Andhra Pradesh	Member