

F.No.6-63/2021 WL Government of India Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (Wildlife Division)

> 2nd Floor, Jal Wing Indira ParyavaranBhawan Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj New Delhi 110003

> > Date:19.08.2021

То

All Members Standing Committee of NBWL

Sub: Minutes of 64th Meeting of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wild Life- reg.

Sir / Madam,

Kindly find enclosed copy of the Minutes of 64th Meeting of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wild Life held on 7th August 2021 under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India.

Yours faithfully,

(Surender Gugloth) Scientist 'D' Email: <u>surender.gugloth@gov.in</u>

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, MoEF&CC
- 7. Director, WII, Dehradun
- 8. Director, GEER Foundation, Gandhinagar, Gujarat
- 9. Prof. R. Sukumar, Member, NBWL
- 10. Dr. H.S. Singh, Member, NBWL
- 11. Pr. Secretary, Forest Department, Government 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) PSO to Addl.DGF(WL), Sr.PPS to IGF(WL)
- (5) Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary/Secretary, Forest Department, Government of Assam, Uttarakhand, Telangana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Tripura and Sikkim.
- (6) PCCF and HoFF, Government of Assam, Uttarakhand, Telangana, Ladakh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Tripura and Sikkim.
- (7) CWLW, Government of Government of Assam, Uttarakhand, Telangana, Ladakh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Tripura and Sikkim.

Copy also to:

Sr. Technical Director, NIC with a request to upload the minutes of the meeting on PARIVESH Portal.

MINUTES OF THE 64th MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL BOARD FOR WILD LIFE HELD ON 07th AUGUST, 2021

The 64th Meeting of the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wild Life was held through Video Conference on 07th August, 2021 under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change. The list of participants is placed at **ANNEXURE-I**.

This was the first meeting of Hon'ble Minister Environment, Forest & Climate Change as Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National Board of Wildlife. The Secretary EF&CC welcomed Hon'ble MEF and Hon'ble MoS EF&CC. The Member Secretary of the committee requested all Members of the committee and representatives of the States (PCCFs and CWLWs) to have a round of introduction to the Chair.

The Chairman welcomed the participants to the meeting and asked IGF (WL) to initiate the discussions on the Agenda Items.

AGENDA ITEM No.1

63.1.1 Confirmation of the minutes of the 63rd Meeting of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wild Life held on 11th August, 2021.

The Committee was informed that the minutes of the 63rd meeting of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wild Life held on 11th June, 2021 were circulated to all the Members and no comments were received.

Decision Taken: After discussion, the Standing Committee decided to confirm the minutes of the 64rd meeting.

AGENDA ITEM No.2

(Action Taken Report)

64.2.1 Proposal for use of 98.59 ha of reserve forestland from Saleki proposed reserve forest which is a part of Dehing Patkai Elephant Reserve for Tikok OCP coal mining project by North-Eastern Coal Field, Coal India Limited, Assam State (Original Agenda – 54.4.3).

The Committee noted that in the 64rd meeting, Coal India Limited was directed to carry out a joint survey of the area with Assam Forest Department and provide a detailed report regarding the events which led to illegal mining in the project area and the remedial measures to be taken. The Committee also noted that the matter is sub-judice. It was therefore decided to defer the matter.

Decision Taken: After discussion, the Standing Committee decided to defer the matter.

64.2.2 Proposal for collection of Minor Minerals from Song 1, 2, 3 and Jakhan 1, 2 of Dehradun Forest division, Uttarakhand.

The proposal was first considered in the 61st meeting of the Standing Committee held on 18th February, 2021. It was decided by the Committee that the proposal would be considered only on receipt of a certificate of compliance of Sustainable Sand Mining Management Guidelines, 2016 and Enforcement and Monitoring Guidelines for Sand Mining, 2020 from the State Government. It was also decided to seek the comments of the National Mission on Clean Ganga (NMCG) on the proposal. Since the required documents were not received, the Standing Committee deferred the proposal in the 62nd and 64rd meetings.

The Committee was apprised that the State Government has submitted a letter to the Ministry informing that the Sustainable Sand Mining Management Guidelines 2016 and Enforcement and Monitoring Guidelines for Sand Mining 2020 are being followed in the State of Uttarakhand. However, the comments of NMCG are yet to be received.

Shri Nishant Verma, Uttarakhand Forest Development Corporation stated that the proposal is for renewal of permission already granted from 2011-12 till 2018-19. He informed that the ToR for the proposal has been issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

The Chief Wild Life Warden, Uttarakhand stated that all mandatory requirements have been taken care of by the State Government.

Secretary, EF&CC suggested that the Project Proponent may apply for Environment Clearance for the project. He said that the project proposal will be considered by the Committee on receipt of the comments of NMCG.

Decision taken: After discussion, the Standing committee decided to defer the proposal till the submission of application for environmental clearance by the Project Proponent and receipt of comments from NMCG.

AGENDA ITEM No. 3

(Policy Matters, Court Orders/Rationalization of Boundaries of Protected Areas)

64.3.1 Projects falling outside the notified Eco-sensitive Zones before recommendations of Standing Committee of the National Board for Wild Life

The Committee was informed that many project proposals are submitted to the Ministry for consideration of the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wild Life due to their location within the default ESZ. In several cases, the projects fall outside the ESZ once it is notified finally. The Ministry has received requests for exempting such projects from the conditions imposed by the Standing Committee based on the location of the projects inside the default ESZ.

Dr. R. Sukumar, Member stated that the projects were recommended by the Standing Committee with conditions imposed by the Chief Wild Life Wardens/State Board for Wild Life/State Governments taking into consideration the overall landscape. He suggested that the Chief Wild Life Warden and the State Board for Wild Life may examine these issues and decide whether exemption may be granted to project proponents from compliance of conditions for projects falling outside the finally notified ESZ. He said that for projects falling inside ESZ, the project proponents should comply with all the conditions imposed.

Shri H.S. Singh and Shri U.D. Singh, Director, GEER Foundation, Members stated that if the location of the project is outside the finally notified ESZ, compliance of conditions should not be insisted upon.

Secretary, EF&CC suggested that legal opinion on the matter may be obtained before taking a decision.

Decision Taken: After discussions, the Standing Committee decided that the Ministry would take legal opinion on the matter before further deliberation.

64.3.2 Cost of mitigation measures due to impact of developmental activities in National Parks, Sanctuaries, their Eco-sensitive Zones, Tiger Reserves and Tiger Corridors

The Committee was informed that while forwarding the proposals for consideration of the Committee, States/UTs impose the condition that a certain percentage of the cost of the project will be paid by the project proponent for mitigation of impacts due to developmental activities. The States/UTs impose costs at different rates for mitigation measures. The Ministry has received requests that the cost imposed should be based on the proportion of the project lying within the Protected Area or the ESZ rather than the total cost of the project. The Ministry has also received requests that instead of imposing costs on project proponents, they may be asked to implement mitigation measures.

Dr. Sukumar suggested that the cost, if any, imposed for mitigation measures should be 2% of the proportionate cost of projects falling within the protected area or the ESZ. He also suggested that there should be analysis of the cost imposed and mitigation measures taken based on the experience of States/UTs.

Secretary, EF & CC suggested that the conditions should prescribe mitigation measures to be carried out by the project proponent instead of restricting the cost to a certain percentage of the project cost.

Shri H.S. Singh, Member stated that the cost imposed on the project proponent should be based on the proportion of the project falling inside the protected areas and the ESZ. He further said that if the project proponents

are allowed to carry out mitigation measures inside Protected Areas, it will cause interference in the management of protected areas.

Shri U.D. Singh, Member stated that guidelines should be framed for fixing impact cost of the projects. He said that project proponents do not have expertise in implementing mitigation measures. He suggested that the amount recovered from the project proponents should be deposited in State CAMPA accounts and Annual Plans of Operation may be prepared and sanctioned for withdrawal of funds and execution of Mitigation Plans. He said that it would be advisable to impose a proportionate cost on projects for implementing the mitigation measures.

PCCF and CWLW, Telangana suggested that impact cost of the projects should be site specific and based on the impact of the project on the wildlife of the protected area and ESZ.

Decision taken: After discussion, the standing committee recommended that 2 % of the proportionate cost of projects falling inside protected areas and ESZ may be imposed on user agencies for impact mitigation measures, wherever required in future. This amount should be spent on the mitigation measures within the same Protected Area.

64.3.3 Fixation of date for holding meeting of the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wild Life.

As per the Ministry's notification F.No. 6-46/2013 WL (pt-2) dated 22nd July, 2014, Standing Committee shall ordinarily meet once in three months.

It was proposed that in order to minimise the number of pending cases and avoid delays in projects, meetings of the Standing Committee be conducted every month.

Shri H.S Singh, Member and Dr Sukumar, Member observed that the meetings of the Standing Committee may be held once is two months.

Secretary, EF&CC observed that if meetings of the Standing Committee are held once in two months, new project proposals would have to wait for a long time before they are considered by the Standing Committee. He therefore suggested that meetings of the Standing Committee may be held once in a month unless there are no complete proposals for consideration of the Committee.

Decision taken: After discussion, the Standing Committee decided that meetings of the Committee would be held once in a month unless no complete proposals are received for consideration of the Committee from States/UTs.

AGENDA ITEM No. 4

(Amendment in the minutes of meeting of Standing Committee)

64.4.1 Amendment in the minutes of 60th meeting of the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wild Life FP/HR/Others/2653/2018

The proposal for wildlife clearance for improvement, upgradation and construction of Ganeshpur- Dehradun road (NH72A) in the state of Uttar Pradesh (Km 0.0 to Km 16.160) to 4 lane was considered and recommended by the Standing Committee in its 60th meeting held on 5th January, 2021. The proposal was forwarded by the State Government with certain conditions imposed by the Chief Wild Life Warden including the one mentioned below:

'In addition to this, mitigation measures for development of Delhi-Dehradun Highway (NH-72A) in the Shivalik hills have been provided by WII, Dehradun. Moreover, the mitigation plan for wildlife and their habitat improvement amounting Rs. 1150 lakhs has been proposed by Shivalik Forest Division and the same shall be deposited by the user agency (NHAI)'.

The Chief Wild Life Warden had further mentioned that 'amount required for implementation of this condition shall be part of condition no. 3, i.e., User agency shall provide 2% of the project's proportionate cost of the area falling in eco-sensitive zone for mitigation of negative impact and ecological development of wildlife habitat area as per guideline of Government of India.'

The proposal was recommended by the Standing Committee in the 60th meeting held on 5th January, 2021. One of the conditions imposed while recommending the proposals was condition 4(I) which reads as follows:

'In addition to this, mitigation measures for development of Delhi-Dehradun Highway (NH-72A) in the Shivalik hills have been provided by WII, Dehradun'.

The National Highways Authority of India vide letter no. 31061/NHAI/RO-UKD/2014/15652 dated 30th July, 2021 has sought clarification on this condition.

Decision Taken: After discussions, the Standing Committee decided to amend the condition 4 (I) to read as follows:

'In addition to this, mitigation measures for development of Delhi-Dehradun Highway (NH-72A) in the Shivalik hills have been provided by WII, Dehradun. Moreover, the mitigation plan for wildlife and their habitat improvement amounting to Rs. 1150 lakh has been proposed by Shivalik Forest Division and the same shall be deposited by the user agency (NHAI). The amount required for implementation of this condition shall be part of condition no. 3.'

AGENDA ITEM No. 5

(Fresh Proposals Falling Inside / Outside the Protected Area)

- 64.5.1 1. Diversion of 1.258 ha area from Changthang Wildlife Sanctuary for Demchok ITBP Post Road-FP/LA/DEF/5469/2020
 - 2. Diversion of 46.67 ha. area from Changthang Wildlife Sanctuary for Pt. 4510 (Beltityu) to Anela Road-FP/LA/DEF/5024/2020
 - 3. Diversion of 15.112 ha. area from Changthang Wildlife Sanctuary for Hena ITBP Post Road-FP/LA/DEF/5023/2020
 - 4. Diversion of 2.488 ha. area from Changthang Wildlife Sanctuary for Dungti ITBP Post Road-FP/LA/DEF/5022/2020
 - 5. Diversion of 1.976 ha. area from Changthang Wildlife Sanctuary for Tagyamale ITBP Post Road-FP/LA/DEF/5021/2020
 - 6. Diversion of 1.194 ha. area from Changthang Wildlife Sanctuary for Koyul ITBP Post Road- FP/LA/DEF/5020/2020
 - 7. Diversion of 18.322 ha. area from Changthang Wildlife Sanctuary for Nyakmikle ITBP Post Road-FP/LA/DEF/5019/2020
 - 8. Diversion of 8.486 ha. area from Changthang Wildlife Sanctuary for Umlungzing ITBP Post Road-FP/LA/DEF/5018/2020
 - 9. Diversion of 20.156 ha. area from Changthang Wildlife Sanctuary for Silungla base to ITBP Post Road-FP/LA/DEF/5016/2020
 - 10. Diversion of 2.958 ha. area from Changthang Wildlife Sanctuary for Patrol Base 111 to ITBP Post Road-FP/LA/DEF/5015/2020

The Committee was informed that these proposals have been forwarded by ITBP for construction of high altitude Indo-China border roads located in Ladakh (UT). These roads are strategically important for the security of country and will be used by ITBP and military personnel for logistics and carriage of ammunition etc. to protect Indian territory up to international border. The location of these roads is within the Changthang Sanctuary.

The proposals have been recommended by the Chief Wild Life Warden, Ladakh and the State Board for Wild Life.

The Chief Wild Life Warden, Ladakh informed the Committee that the area required for the projects is very small compared to the area of the Changthang Sanctuary. He said that the animals found in this terrain are long ranging and no road kills have been recorded on the existing roads.

The expert members stated that in view of the strategic importance of these roads, the proposals may be recommended.

Decision Taken: After discussion, the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposals subject to the following:

A. Conditions imposed by the State Board for Wild Life:

- 1. The legal status of the land shall remain unchanged. The User Agency will have right only for construction, maintenance and use of the road.
- 2. The land shall be used for the purpose stated in the Wildlife Clearance order. Any diversion of land for any other purpose except the stated purpose shall not be admissible without fresh approval from the Standing Committee of NBWL.
- 3. The User Agency shall pay Net Present Value (NPV) and other monies in accordance with the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court and the MoEF&CC guidelines.
- 4. The User Agency shall be responsible for obtaining requisite clearances under any other law in vogue, including Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 if applicable before the initiation of work.
- 5. No damage to any wildlife including habitat shall be done in the neighbouring area.
- 6. The User agency will report all road kills or accident of any wild animals and deposit the carcasses to the office of concerned wildlife warden to be dealt according to the prevailing laws.
- 7. The User Agency shall abide by all the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, directions of the Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change. conditions imposed in the Wildlife Clearance sanction and orders of the UT Administration in force and as may be issued from time to time.
- 8. The activities shall be liable to periodic check by the officers of the Wild Life Protection Department. The officer(s) may order stoppage of work if it is found that any provisions of preceding clause have not been complied with.
- 9. Dumping of solid and liquid waste shall be scientifically dealt with by the User Agency to ensure that there is no damage to wildlife and their habitat.
- 10. Detailed muck disposal plan shall be prepared by the User Agency and approved by the Chief Wild Life Warden/Wild Life Warden before commencement of work on ground. If any deviation from the approved disposal plan is noticed, the permission granted for construction of road is liable to be revoked.
- 11. The SCNBWL modified the condition imposed by the State Board of Wildlife which states that the user agency shall pay 5% of the cost of the project, for road length more than 5 Km, to Wildlife Protection Department of conservation and preservation of wildlife and its habitat in the sanctuary. Instead, the user agency shall pay 2% of the cost of the project in proportion of the area of the project falling within the Protected Area, to Wildlife Protection Department of conservation and preservation of wildlife and its habitat in the sanctuary.

- 12. The Wildlife conservation plan shall also be placed before the State Board for wildlife for approval to use the budget for its implementation.
- 13. The user agency shall not restrict movement of Wildlife/Forest officials including the person/s authorized in discharging official duties, including survey and census.
- **B.** An annual compliance certificate on the stipulated conditions shall be submitted by the project proponent to the State Chief Wild Life Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State Chief Wild Life Warden to Government of India.

64.5.2 Diversion of 35.46 ha of land from Karakorum Wildlife Sanctuary for Saser Brangsa Gapshan for construction of road. FP/LA/DEF/5451/2020

The Committee was informed that the proposal has been submitted by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) for construction of Indo-China border roads located in Ladakh. These roads are strategically important for the security of the country and are being used by ITBP and army personnel for logistics and carriage of ammunition etc to protect Indian territory up to the international border. Diversion of land is necessary for construction of these high altitude project roads.

The proposal has been recommended by the Chief Wild Life Warden and the State Board for Wild Life.

Dr. Sukumar mentioned that in several cases, the area over which the project is recommended is exceeded by utilising more area for muck disposal. He said that monitoring of the conditions imposed is essential so that damage to such ecologically fragile areas is minimised.

Decision Taken: After discussions, the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal subject to following:

A. Conditions imposed by the State Board for Wild Life:

- 1. The legal status of the land shall remain unchanged. The User Agency will have right only for construction, maintenance and use of the road.
- 2. The land shall be used for the purpose stated in the Wildlife Clearance order. Any diversion of land to any other purpose except the stated purpose shall not be admissible without fresh approval from the Standing Committee of NBWL.
- The User Agency shall pay Net Present Value (NPV) and other monies in accordance with the orders of the Honible Supreme Court and the MoEF&CC guidelines.
- 4. The User Agency shall be responsible for obtaining requisite clearances under any other law in vogue, including Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 if applicable before the initiation of work.

- 5. No damage to any wildlife including habitat shall be done in the neighbouring area.
- 6. The User agency will report all road kills or accident of any wild animals and deposit the carcases to the office of concerned wildlife warden to be dealt with according to the prevailing laws.
- 7. The User Agency shall abide by all the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, directions of the Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change. conditions imposed in the Wildlife Clearance sanction and orders of the UT Administration in force and as may be issued from time to time.
- The activities shall be liable to periodic check by the officers of the Wild Life Protection Department. The officer(s) may order stoppage of work if it is found that any provisions of preceding clause have not been complied with.
- Dumping of solid and liquid waste shall be scientifically dealt with by the User Agency to ensure that there is no damage to wildlife and their habitat.
- 10. Detailed muck disposal plan shall be prepared by the User Agency and approved by the Chief Wild Life Warden/Wild Life Warden before commencement of work on ground. If any deviation from the approved disposal plan is noticed, the permission granted for construction of road is liable to be revoked.
- 11. The SCNBWL modified the condition imposed by the State Board of Wildlife which states that the user agency shall pay 5% of the cost of the project, for road length more than 5 Km, to Wildlife Protection Department of conservation and preservation of wildlife and its habitat in the sanctuary. Instead, the user agency shall pay 2% of the cost of the project in proportion of the area of the project falling within the Protected Area, to Wildlife Protection Department of conservation and preservation and preservation and preservation.
- 12. The Wildlife conservation plan shall also be placed before the State Board for wildlife for approval to use the budget for its implementation.
- 13. The user agency shall not restrict movement of Wildlife/Forest officials including the person/s authorized in discharging official duties, including survey and census.
- **B.** An annual compliance certificate on the stipulated conditions shall be submitted by the project proponent to the State Chief Wild Life Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State Chief Wild Life Warden to Government of India.

64.5.3 Construction of passenger ropeway at Mandir Shree Garh Ganesh Jaipur

The Committee was informed that proposal relates to construction of a passenger ropeway at Mandir Shree Ganesh in the city of Jaipur. The temple is located on the hills near Nahargarh Fort and Jaigarh Fort. Pilgrims reach

the foot of the hill by road and then climb 400 steep steps to reach the temple. The temple is located in forest area and the path leading to it is also in forest area.

The proposal has been recommended by the Chief Wild Life Warden, the State Board for Wild Life and the State Government.

The Chief Wild Life Warden, Rajasthan suggested that in line with the discussion held in the meeting regarding cost to be imposed for mitigation measures, condition no. 1 of the conditions imposed by the Chief Wildlife Warden may be modified to charge 2 % of the proportionate project cost within the protected area. He further said that the condition regarding the deposition of 10% of the entry fee into account specified by the Chief Wild Life Warden need not be imposed as the Forest Department is charging entry fee inside the sanctuary and there is a court order in this regard.

Shri H. S. Singh, Member and Dr. Sukumar, Member expressed their agreement in this regard.

Shri U.D. Singh, Director GEER, Member stated that the condition regarding imposition of cost may be modified to the extent that amount deposited by the User Agency for mitigation of the impacts due to this project will be used only for management and protection of Nahargarh Sanctuary.

Decision Taken: After discussions, the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal subject to following:

A. Conditions imposed by the Chief Wild Life Warden/ State Board of Wildlife:

- Two percent of the proportional project cost falling within the Protected Area should be deposited in RPACS by the user agency for management and protection of wildlife in Nahargarh Sanctuary.
- No work shall be done before sunrise and after sunset in the project area.
- No material of any kind should be extracted from the Protected Area.
- There will be no felling of trees and burning of fuel wood inside the Protected Area.
- The waste material generated should be disposed outside the Protected Area.
- There will be no labour camp within 1 km from the boundary of Protected Area.
- No blasting will be carried out within 1 km from the boundary of Protected Area during the work.
- There shall be no high mast/ beam/ search lights &, high sounds within 1 km from the Protected Area boundary.
- Signages regarding information about the wild animals in the area, control of the traffic volumes, speed etc should be erected in the project area.
- The user agency and project personnel will comply with the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

- Maintenance activity of any nature should be carried out only after seeking formal approval from competent authority of tiger reserve/ PA.
- Six feet high wall is to be constructed on the periphery of applied project area.
- The user agency and project personnel will comply with the provisions of Standard SOP/ Guidelines issued by WII, Dehradun for linear projects.
- Any permission / clearance required under FCA-1980 or other acts may be taken as per rules.
- FCA clearance needs to be taken for forest land involved in the project.
- Valet parking will be ensured for the visitors or special vehicle for carrying visitors to and from the ropeway will be employed.
- The project area and the temple will be fenced off from the Sanctuary by a 6 ft wall.
- No construction material will be carried except by service ropeway.
- No commercial activities will be undertaken in temple or project area.
- Except for specific religious purposes, only ropeway should be used for visiting the temple.
- Appropriate provisions may be made so that no garbage is thrown from the ropeway in to the sanctuary area.
- User agency shall allow forest personnel on duty to inspect the area during construction as well as during operational phase for monitoring compliance of the conditions.
- **B.** An annual compliance certificate on the stipulated conditions shall be submitted by the project proponent to the State Chief Wild Life Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State Chief Wild Life Warden to Government of India.

64.5.4 Diversion of 1.6 ha of forest Land from Pangolakha Wildlife Sanctuary for construction of Border Out Post at Below Arjun, East Sikkim by ITBP.

The Committee was informed that the proposal relates to diversion of 1.6 ha of forest Land from Pangolakha Wildlife Sanctuary for construction of Border Out Post at Below Arjun, East Sikkim by ITBP. Construction of the proposed Out Post is necessary in order to provide logistics support which is an operational requirement for border guarding duty.

The proposal has been recommended by the Chief Wild Life Warden, the State Board for Wild Life and the State Government.

The Chief Wild Life Warden stated that the Pangolakha Sanctuary is located at the tri-junction of India, Bhutan and China and the area is of strategic importance.

Decision Taken: After discussions, the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal subject to following:

A. Condition imposed by the Chief Wild Life Warden / State Board of Wildlife:

- 1. There will be no violations of various acts and laws applicable to a Wildlife Sanctuary.
- 2. The user agency has to ensure that all the activities should be restricted to the area that has been approved for clearance under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
- 3. The material used for construction of road should not be extracted inside the sanctuary area.
- 4. Labour camps (temporary or permanent) should not be constructed in the Wildlife Sanctuary area.
- 5. Any activities which are not permissible in Wildlife Sanctuary should not be undertaken without prior approval of the Forests and Environment Department.
- 6. The Army and other paramilitary organizations must work closely with the Forest Department and leave no scope for conflict in the future. The Army must not hinder the working of the Forest Department personnel inside the Pangolakha Wildlife Sanctuary.
- 7. There should be no defacing of rocks and other natural formations.
- 8. The local names of the places should not be distorted.
- 9. The reason for which the diversion was effected must be the only activity undertaken in the field and there should be no diversion from the main objective.
- 10. The army officials will carry out geo-hydrological studies to understand the rock structures and the springs available there. The user agency should take every precautionary measures to not to disturb the geological structures. As these are the major sources of water for the downstream 111 and rivers. The environmental impact assessment should be carried out in addition to the geo-hydrological and other necessary studies in these areas before taking up the construction work.
- 11. The damage done to the bio-diversity both above and below the road should be taken into account and managed judiciously.
- 12. The user agency to obtain clearance under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
- **B.** The annual compliance certificate on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the project proponent to the State Chief Wild Life Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State Chief Wild Life Warden to Government of India

64.5.5 Cluster of Ramagundam Mines [GDK No.1&3, 2&2A and 5 Incline, GDK Coal Mine (2&2A and 5 Incline), GDK No.11 Incline, GDK No.7-LEP, Ramagundam Coal Mine (Vakilpalli Mine, Adriyala longwall Project, GDK 10&10A Inclines, RGOC-I Exp. & RGOC-II Ext.) MOCP, RGOC III Exp. Ph-II.]

The Committee was informed that the proposal relates to coal mining in the default ESZ of Sivaram Sanctuary.

Chief Wild Life Warden, Telangana stated that the proposal has been submitted by Singareni Collieries (SCCL) which are in operation since 1958. The proposed project site, extending over 3296.47 ha, is located outside the notified Siwaram Wildlife Sanctuary and falls in the default Eco-sensitive Zone of the Sanctuary at a distance of 7.72 Km. from the Sanctuary boundary. The proposal is for amalgamation of existing mines for which environment clearance is required. Since the project falls within the default ESZ, the SCCL have applied for wildlife clearance. There is no increase in the area of existing mines. The mitigation plan has been submitted and all the queries raised have been answered.

Dr. Sukumar, Member stated that overall landscape should not get affected due to mining activities and therefore suggested that landscape level mitigation management plan should be considered.

H.S.Singh, Member stated that the area of mining is large and the grasslands may get damaged due to dumping.

Shri U.D. Singh, Director, GEER Foundation observed that since black bucks and other animals are sensitive to blasting, suitable conditions need to be imposed in this regard.

Decision Taken: After discussions, the Standing Committee requested the Chief Wild Life Warden, Telangana to submit a report regarding the concerns raised by the Expert Members and decided to defer the proposal till the next meeting.

64.5.6 Construction of BOP A R Pur

The Committee was informed that the proposal relates to construction of Border Outpost in Trishna Sanctuary. An area of 1.3 ha. Is required for the construction.

The proposal has been recommended by the Chief Wild Life Warden, the State Board for Wild Life and the State Government.

The Chief Wild Life Warden, Tripura informed that the sanctuary is known for Indian Gaur. He said that the proposed Border Outpost, which is on the India Bangladesh border, will be helpful in controlling international wildlife crime.

Decision Taken: After discussions, the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal subject to following:

A. Conditions imposed by the State Board for Wild Life:

- 1. The impact of the project on wildlife could be compensated by higher protection of wildlife due to movement of security personal. To enhance this, BSF should cooperate and extend help to Tripura Forest Department officials in conservation of wildlife, whenever asked for.
- 2. No damage to animals & birds should be done by the contractor, labour or BSF staff during the constructions and thereafter. For this purpose, noise levels should be kept low and labourer should stay and cook outside the sanctuary/Forest area. Generators etc should be placed under noise proof enclosures, natural flow of water in the sanctuary should be stopped or diverted or enhanced.
- 3. All relevant rules of regulations should also be followed wherever applicable.
- 4. Construction of double chain link wire mesh fencing with RCC pillars (height 7 feet) should he under taken around project unit along with ROC embedding at bottom and 3 (three) strands of barbed wire on top for restricting entry of wild animals especially Bison in BOP.
- 5. Rs.30.00 lakhs (Rupees thirty lakhs) should be provided by the user agency for following works:
- a. Construction of artificial water holes and salt licks for wild animals needs to be taken up for development of wildlife habitat.
- b. Maintenance of housing infrastructure of Patrolling staff.
- c. Grazing spaces for wild animals' i.e plantation of Napier grass &, fruit bearing species needs to be created for development of wildlife habitat.
- d. Fund for procurement of patrolling vehicle (one tonner) for protection of forest and wildlife.
- **B.** The annual compliance certificate on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the project proponent to the State Chief Wild Life Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State Chief Wild Life Warden to Government of India.

64.5.7 Proposal for retail outlet of HPCL and entry and exit over an area of 0.391267 ha. in Khasra no- 455m, 456 m in Village - Rassolpur, Tehsil - Jansat, District Muzaffarnagar in Uttar Pradesh

The Committee was informed that the proposal relates to construction of a new retail outlet by Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited in Hastinapur Sanctuary. The area required is about 0.39 ha.

The proposal has been recommended by the Chief Wild Life Warden, the State Board for Wild Life and the State Government.

The Chief Wild Life Warden informed that this area falls within the boundaries of Hastinapur Sanctuary located in five districts. He said that the rationalisation process of the Sanctuary is yet to begin.

Shri U.D. Singh, Director, GEER Foundation, Member suggested that the condition regarding purchase of GPS and binoculars may be removed while recommending the proposal.

Decision Taken: After discussions, the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal subject to the following:

A. Condition imposed by the Chief Wild Life Warden:

- 1. Protection & Mitigation measures for wild life should be ensured as per guidelines of Government of India (MoEFWL).
- User agency M/s Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Lt., 2nd floor, 495/1 Tower University Road, Mangal Pandey Nagar, Meerut U.P, should provide the funds (2% of the project cost) for reduction in negative impact of the Project and conservation & Eco development activities as per guidelines of Ministry of Environment & Forest, Government of India.
- 3. Land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal.
- 4. Rules and regulation of the concerned departments for establishing the project shall be complied with.
- 5. The instructions/orders passed by the State Govt/Central Govt. and the directions passed by Hon'ble High Court/ Hon'ble Supreme Court/ National Green Tribunal from time to time regarding such project shall be complied with.
- User agency will ensure that the project personnel engaged in the project shall observe the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 & Rules made there under.
- 7. Construction/waste materials shall not be thrown inside the sanctuary, area or movement corridor of the wildlife.
- 8. User agency will take all precautions including technical measures to contain the noise and air pollution and protection from fire due to construction activities and thereafter.
- 9. The project proponent shall obtain consent to establish and to operate from U.P. Pollution Control Board and effectively implement all the conditions stipulated therein.
- 10. The project proponent shall undertake plantation work by planting the native species in the area adjacent to project area/sanctuary for which necessary finance will be provided by the user agency as per suggestion/direction of DFO concern.
- 11. Amount of Net Present Value (N.P.V.) shall be paid by the User Agency as per directions contended in G.O. No writ 526/14-2-2008 dated- 22-8-2008.
- 12. No labour camp shall be established within the sanctuary/forest area or other sensitive areas.
- 13. Since the project involves 0.211267 ha of protected forest along with felling of 10 trees. Therefore, forest clearance is also attracted. The user agency should also take forest clearance.

- 14. No Construction work will be allowed after sunset and before sunrise within Sanctuary area.
- 15. In place of 10 trees required to be removed 20 trees to be planted at appropriate site by the DFO. The cost of plantation and maintenance of 20 trees will be deposited by user agency with DFO concerned as per estimates/demand raised by the DFO will be translocated at some other suitable place as advised by protected area manager of sanctuary.
- **B.** The annual compliance certificate on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the project proponent to the State Chief Wild Life Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State Chief Wild Life Warden to Government of India.

64.5.8 Proposal for setting up the Retail outlet in National Chambal Sanctuary Project Agra on between KMS Stone No. 29 and 31 on Chakarnagar to Hanumantpura Road (MDR 142) in Personal Agricultural Land KHASRA NO 725/3, 729/3 at Village-Sahson, Tehsil-Chakarnagar, Distt. -Etawah, Uttar Pradesh.

The Committee was informed that the proposal is for setting up a retail outlet by Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited in National Chambal Sanctuary.

The proposal has been recommended by the Chief Wild Life Warden, the State Board for Wild Life and the State Government.

The Chief Wild Life Warden, Uttar Pradesh informed that the proposed project is located within the boundaries of National Chambal Wildlife Sanctuary on a piece of private land along Chakarnagar to Hanumantapura road and PWD land. He said that no forest land is required for the setting up the proposed retail outlet.

Decision Taken: After discussions, the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal subject to the following:

A. Condition imposed by the Chief Wild Life Warden:

- 1. Protection & Mitigation measures for wildlife should be ensured as per guidelines of Government of India (MoEFCC).
- User agency M/s Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd, Kanpur, should provide funds (2% of the project cost) for reduction in negative impact of the Project and conservation & Eco-development activities as per guidelines of Ministry of Environment & Forest, Government of India.
- 3. Land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal.

- 4. Rules and regulation of the concerned department for establishing the project shall complied with.
- 5. The instruction /orders passed by the State Govt/Central Govt. and the directions passed by Hon'ble Supreme Court/ National Green Tribunal from time to time regarding such projects shall be complied with.
- 6. User agency will ensure that the project personnel engaged in the project shall observe the provision of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 & rules made there under.
- 7. Construction/waste materials shall not be thrown inside the sanctuary area or movement corridor of the wildlife.
- 8. User agency will take all precautions including technical measures to contain the noise and air pollution and protection from fire due to construction activities and therefore.
- 9. The project proponent shall obtain the required consent to establish and to operate the project from U.P Pollution Control Board and effectively implement all the conditions stipulated therein.
- 10. The protect proponent shall undertake plantation work by planting the native species in the area adjacent to project area/ sanctuary for which necessary finance will be provided by the user agency as per suggestion /direction of DFO concern.
- 11. Amount of NPV shall be paid by the user agency as per directions contended in G.O No writ 526/14-2-2008 dated 22-8-2008.
- 12. No labour camp shall be established within the sanctuary/forest area or other sensitive area.
- 13. The project proponent will be bound follow the condition imposed by PWD (owner of the land) for exit & entrance to the pump.
- 14. No construction work will be allowed before sunset and after sunrise within Sanctuary area.

The meeting ended with thanks to the Chair.

ANNEXURE I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

| 1 | Shri Bhupender Yadav, Hon'ble Minister for EF&CC | Chairman |
|----|---|------------------|
| 2 | Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey Hon'ble Minister of State for EF&CC | Special Invitee |
| 3 | Shri R P Gupta, Secretary, MoEF&CC | Member |
| 4 | Shri Subhash Chandra, DGF&SS, MoEF&CC | Member |
| 5 | Shri Soumitra Dasgupta, ADGF(WL), MoEF&CC | Member Secretary |
| 6 | Prof R Sukumar, Member, NBWL | Member |
| 7 | Dr H S Singh, Member, NBWL | Member |
| 8 | Shri U. D. Singh Director GEER Foundation, Member, NBWL | Member |
| 9 | Dr Dhananjai Mohan, Member, NBWL | Member |
| 10 | Shri S.P. Yadav, ADGF (PT) and M.S. NTCA | Invitee |
| 11 | Shri Rohit Tiwari, IGF(WL) | Invitee |
| 12 | Shri Chief Wildlife warden, Ladakh | Invitee |
| 13 | Ms. Neha Verma, Additional Secretary, Uttarakhand | Invitee |
| 14 | Shri J.S. Suhag, Chief Wild Life Warden, Uttarakhand | Invitee |
| 15 | Ms. R. Sobha, PCCF & CWLW, Telangana | Invitee |
| 16 | Shri M.L Meena, Chief Wild Life Warden, Rajasthan | Invitee |
| 17 | Shri Sharma, PCCF & CWLW, Uttar Pradesh | Invitee |
| 18 | Shri Rameshwar Das, PCCF & CWLW, Tripura | Invitee |
| 19 | Shri D.C. Nepal, Chief Wildlife Warden, Sikkim | Invitee |
| 20 | Shri Surender Gugloth, Scientist, MoEF&CC | Invitee |
| 21 | Dr. Sunil Sharma, AIG (WL), MoEF&CC | Invitee |