



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

6th Floor, Vayu Wing
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Jor Bagh Road
New Delhi 110 003
Date: 27.09.2018

F.No.6-111/2018 WL

To

The Principal Secretary
Environment and Forest Department
Government of Tamil Nadu
Panagal Maligai, Saidapet
Chennai 600 01

Sub: Minutes of 50th Meeting of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife- reg.

Sir / Madam,

The 50th Meeting of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife was held on 7th September 2018 through Video Conference under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change. The following proposals pertaining to your State were considered:

Order of the Hon'ble High Court of Madras, Madurai bench dated 22.08.2017 in Writ Petition (MD) No. 7349/2016 and Writ Petition (MD) No. 6174 of 2016 regarding stone quarries operating near Megamalai Wildlife Sanctuary

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee on the Order of the Hon'ble High Court of Madras, Madurai bench and stated that the District Collector, Theni District of Tamil Nadu forwarded the representations of the petitioners to the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife. The Hon'ble High Court directed the Standing Committee to pass suitable orders within a period of four weeks and intimate decision to the petitioners. He mentioned that the proposal involves the extension of mining lease of the petitioners (two associations by name Sangili Karadu Kalludaikkum Mahalir Nala Sangam and K K Patty Kalludaikkum Mahalir Nala Sangam) for stone quarry in 2.50 ha, each in Kamayagoundapatty village, Uthamapalayam Taluk, Theni District. The mines are located within 5 km from the boundary of Megamalai Wildlife Sanctuary and require the recommendation of Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife as part of Environmental Clearance.

Further IGF(WL) stated that the issue was considered by the Standing Committee in its 46th meeting held on 8th December 2017. The IGF(WL) also stated that this Ministry's letters vide dated 17.10.2017, 04.01.2018 and 08.02.2018, has requested the State Chief Wildlife Warden to furnish the comments.

The State Chief Wildlife Warden stated that the aforesaid proposal has not been submitted by the project proponent in the prescribed format. Further he also stated that the proposal would be placed in the next meeting of the State Board for Wildlife Going to be held soon.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided to defer the discussion on the proposal.

Order of the Hon'ble High Court of Madras dated 27-10-2017 in Writ Petition nos. 26106 to 26108 2017 title A. Gopinath vs. Union of India & Ors, Gopinath Granite Quarry operating near Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee on the Order of the Hon'ble High Court of Madras and mentioned that the said Court has directed the Secretary, MoEF&CC to consider the application of the petitioner dated 12.01.2016 for seeking Wildlife Clearance on merits and in accordance with law within a period of eight weeks and intimate decision to the petitioners. He also stated that the granite quarries are located within 10 km deemed ESZ from the boundary of the Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary in Hosur Division Krishnagiri District of Tamil Nadu and require the recommendation of the Standing Committee of NBWL as part of Environment Clearance. The online application of the petitioner seeking Wildlife Clearance from the Standing Committee of NBWL dated 12.01.2016 has been pending at the State level.

Further the IGF(WL) stated that this Ministry's letters vide dated 24.11.2017, 18.12.2017, 04.01.2018 and 08.02.2018 requested the State Chief Wildlife Warden to furnish the comments in Part IV, however so far no response has been received.

The State Chief Wildlife Warden stated that the aforesaid proposal has not been submitted by the project proponent in the prescribed format. Further he stated that the proposal would be placed in the next meeting of the State Board for Wildlife Going to be held soon.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided to defer the discussion on the proposal.

Proposal for multi-colour granite S.No.511/A over an area of 2.115 ha situated in Karandapalli village, Denkanikotai Taluk, Krishnagiri District by Surya Mining Agencies

Proposal for multi granite over an area of 1.00 ha of patta land falling in S.No.623/1(P) & 623/2(P) situated in Agalakottai village, Denkanikotai Taluk, Krishnagiri District by Loganathan

Proposal for block granite over an area of 1.215 ha falling in S.No.322/1(Part) situated in Agalakottai village, Denkanikotai Taluk, Krishnagiri District by Karnataka State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited

Proposal for block granite over an area at of 1.075 ha falling in S.No.511/1 situated in Agalakottai village, Denkanikotai Taluk, Krishnagiri District by Karnataka State N M granites Private Limited

Proposal for granite quarry located in patta land S.F.No.59/2B, 59/3A (Part), 59/3B, 60/2A & 60/3A over an area of 3.445 ha situated in Karanadapalli village, Denkanikotai Taluk, Krishnagiri District by Surya Mining Services

Proposal for rough stone quarry over an area of 1.785 ha of S.No. 794/3 located at Padmanagamangalam village, Srivaikuntam Taluk, Thoothukudi District by K Kathirkamaraj

Proposal for rough stone quarry over an area of 1.790 ha of S.No.794/1 located at Padmanagamangalam village, Srivaikuntam Taluk, Thoothukudi District by K. Kathirkamaraj

Proposal for establishment of rough stone quarry over an area of 1.84 ha of S.No. 739/1 located at Padmanagamangalam village, Srivaikuntam Taluk, Thoothukudi District by Raja Jeba Doss

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee and stated that the eight proposals were considered by the Standing Committee in its 49th meeting held on 13th June 2018 and decided to request the State

Government to verify the project locations *vis-a-vis* the proposed ESZ of North Cauvery Wildlife / Vallanadu Blackbuck Sanctuary and furnish the report to the Ministry for further consideration.

The State Government vide its letter dated 30/07/2018 stated that the project sites falls away from the boundary of proposed ESZs of North Cauvery Wildlife / Vallanadu Blackbuck Sanctuary.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposals along with the conditions and mitigation measures of the State Chief Wildlife Warden and subject to the compliance of Supreme Court order dated 04.08.2006 in Writ Petition no. 202/1995 regarding prohibition of mining within one km of the Protected Areas.

The annual compliance report on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the User Agency to the State Chief Wildlife Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State CWLW to GoI.

Proposal for development of Industrial Estate in Krishnagiri District by GMR Krishnagiri SEZ Ltd located at 0.58 km from the North Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee and stated that the proposal for development of industrial estate was considered by the Standing Committee in its 49th meeting held on 13th June 2018 and decided to request the State Government to verify the project locations *vis-a-vis* the proposed ESZ of North Cauvery Wildlife and furnish the report to the Ministry for further consideration.

The State Government vide its letter dated 30/07/2018 stated that the project sites falls away from the boundary of proposed ESZ of North Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary.

After discussions the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposals along with the conditions and mitigation measures of the State Chief Wildlife Warden.

The annual compliance report on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the User Agency to the State Chief Wildlife Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State CWLW to GoI.

Cyclone – Ockhi – Kanyakumari district – Damage caused in forest areas of Kanyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary- Approval of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife

The IGF(WL) briefed the Standing Committee on the proposal and stated that the proposal is for removal of about 10,000 number of fallen trees damaged, uprooted and wind fallen due to Ockhi Cyclone in Kanyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary. He added that the State Chief Wildlife Warden recommended proposal without imposing conditions and the SBWL has also recommended this proposal in its meeting on 23rd January 2018.

He also mentioned that the Hon'ble the Supreme Court vide its order dated 09.05.2002 in its interim order stated that

“No permission under Section 29 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 should be granted without getting the approval of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife”

Further the IGF(WL) also stated that the Section 29 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 stipulates that

"Provided that where the forest produce removed from the PA, the same may be used for the meeting the needs of the people living near the sanctuary and shall be used for any commercial purpose"

The Secretary, MoEF&CC stated that the forest produce should be used for the benefit of local people and the income generated from auction be utilized for the conservation of protected areas.

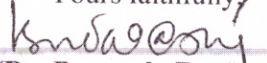
After discussions the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal with the condition that the forest produce be used for the benefit of local people and the income generated be shall be utilized exclusively for the conservation of Kanyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary and adjoining forests. The state government shall prepare Habitat improvement plan, Wildlife conservation plan, and human wildlife conflict mitigation plan which shall be implemented simultaneously from the above generated income.

A supervised removal of the fallen trees and habitat improvement of the area denuded due to such removal should be done in a phased manner so as to keep the anthropogenic disturbance at minimum level.

The annual compliance report on the stipulated conditions should be submitted by the User Agency to the State Chief Wildlife Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State CWLW to GoI.

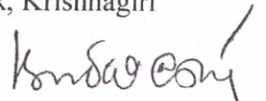
The above recommendation(s) are subject to the existing directives of Hon'ble Supreme Court and provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Yours faithfully,


(Dr. Pasupala Ravi)
Scientist C

Copy to

1. The Chief Wildlife Warden, Environment and Forest Department, Panagal Maligai, Saidapet, Chennai 600 01
2. Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (C), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Regional Office (SEZ), I & II Floor, Handloom Export Promotion Council, 34, Cathedral Garden Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai 600 034
3. The Joint Secretary, IA Division, MoEF&CC
4. The Inspector General of Forests, FC Division, MoEF&CC
5. Shri N. Venkatasalam ,IAS, District Collector, Theni Distt. , Tamilnadu.
6. Shri A. Gopinath, Medumuthukottai, Balathottanappally Post, Denkanikottai Talik, Krishnagiri


(Dr. Pasupala Ravi)
Scientist C