



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

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New Delhi 110 003

F.No.6-69/2017/WL

Date: 2nd June 2017

To
The Principal Secretary
Forest Department
Government of Telangana
Aranya Bhavan, Saifabad
Hyderabad 500 004

Sub: Minutes of the 42nd Meeting of Standing Committee of NBWL- regd.

Sir,

The 42nd meeting of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife was held on 15th May 2017 under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment, Forest and Climate Change. The following proposals pertaining to your State were considered:

- (1) **Diversion of 24.446 ha of reserve forest falling in Kawal Tiger Reserve in 2 Division i.e., (7.031ha) in Utnoor Division, (17.4145 ha) Asifabad Division for laying of drinking water pipeline and constriction of structures in Segment-22/17 (Powerguda) in favour of SE, TDWSP (RWS&S), Nirmal**
- (2) **Diversion of 0.758 ha of forestland falling in Sivaram Wildlife Sanctuary out of 7.762 of Forest land for laying of pipeline and construction of structures in segment 15/7 (Manthani-WLM) submitted by SE, TDWSP, Karimnagar Circle for providing safe drinking water**
- (3) **Diversion of 0.903 ha falling in Tiger Corridor out of total proposed diversion of 4.158 ha falling in corridor area of Asifabad Division in Kawal Tiger Reserve, Nirmal for laying of pipeline and construction of structures in Segment-22/9 (Asifabad) for providing safe drinking water under Telangana Drinking Water to Kumrambhem District under TDWSP (RWS&S)**
- (4) **Diversion of 6.926 ha of forestland in (WLM) Division, Paloncha in favour of Supdt. Engineer, TDWSP (RWS&S) Circle, Khammam for laying of pipeline and construction of structures in Segment 25/7 (Banjara) under TDWSP (RWS&S)**

- (5) Diversion of 13.532 ha of forestland for laying of pipeline and construction of structures in Segment-3/2 falling in Amrabad Tiger Reserve for providing safe drinking water in Nalgonda District under TDWSP (RWS&S)**
- (6) Diversion of 20.418 ha of reserve forest falling in Kawal Tiger Reserve in 3 Divisions i.e., (2.801 ha) Nirmal, (15.828 ha) Khanapur & (1.789 ha) Jannaram out of total forest area of 20.418 ha of reserve forestland in Kawal Tiger Reserve, Nirmal for laying of drinking water pipeline and construction of structures in Segment-24 (Kaddam) in favour of Supdt. Engineer, TDWSP (RWS&S), Nirmal Circle**
- (7) Diversion of 21.911 ha of forestland in Warangal North, Warangal South and WLM Warangal in favour of SE, TDWSP Circle, Warangal for laying of pipeline and construction of structures for Segment-17/3 (Kothaguda) for providing drinking water to Warangal District under Telangana Drinking Water Supply Project**
- (8) Diversion of 1.073 ha of forestland falling in tiger corridor out of total proposed diversion of 4.804 ha of forestland for laying of pipeline and construction of structures in Segment -22/15 (Dhanora) Telangana Drinking Water Supply Project**
- (9) Diversion of 3.655 ha of forestland for laying of pipeline and construction of structures in Segment-22/8 for providing safe drinking water in Asifabad District under Telangana Drinking Water Supply Project**
- (10) Diversion of 1.929 ha of forestland falling in Kawal Tiger Reserve out of total Forest area 4.737 ha of reserve forestland of Utnoor Division (FDPT) for laying of drinking water pipeline and construction of structures in Segment-21/8 (Sichelma) under TDWSP (RWS&S) Adilabad District, Telangana**
- (11) Diversion of 4.714 ha of forestland in Kagaznagar division erstwhile Adilabad District (presently Komaram Bheem Asifabad District) for laying of pipeline and construction of structures in Segment-22/1 (Kowtala) for providing safe drinking water under Telangana Drinking Water Supply Project**
- (12) Diversion of 3.876 ha of forestland in Kagaznagar Division of erstwhile Adilabad District (presently Komaram Bheem Asifabad District) for laying of pipeline and construction of structures in Segment-22/2 (Bejjur) under Telangana Drinking Water Supply Project in favour of Superintending Engineer, TDWSP (RWS&S)**
- (13) Diversion of 4.684 ha of forest land in Kagaznagar division of erstwhile Adilabad District (presently Komaram Bheem, Asifabad District for laying of pipeline and construction of structures in Segment -22/3 (Sirpur) under Telangana Drinking Water Supply Project**

- (14) Diversion of 2.425 ha of forest land in Kagaznagar Division of erstwhile Adilabad Diivision of erstwhile Adilabad District (presently Komaram Bheem Asifabad District) for laying of pipeline and construction of structures in Segment-22/4 (Kagaznagar) under Telangana Drinking Water Supply Project**
- (15) Diversion of 2.643 ha (0.222 ha + 2.421 ha) of forestland in Kagaznagar and Bellampally Divisions of erstwhile Adilabad District presently in Komarambheem (Asifabad) and Mancherial Districts, for laying of pipeline in Segment-22/5 (Dahegaon) under Telangana Drinking Water Supply Project**
- (16) Diversion of 0.117 ha of forestland in Bellampally and Mancherial Divisions for laying pipeline and construction of structures in Segment-22/7 (Vemanapally) for providing safe drinking water under Telangana Drinking Water Supply Project**
- (17) Proposal for diversion of 1.989 ha of forestland from Eturnagaram Wildlife Sanctuary for laying of pipeline and construction of structures in Segment-20/2 (Mangapet), Telangana for providing safe drinking water under Telangana Drinking Water Supply Project in favour of Superintending Engineer, TDWSP (RWS&S)**
- (18) Diversion of 3.582 ha of forestland in Medak and Kamareddy Divisions for laying of pipeline for Segment-8/2 (Singuru) for providing safe drinking water in Medak Constituency under Telangana Drinking Water Supply Project**
- (19) Diversion of 3.386 ha of forestland in Mancherial Division for laying of pipeline in Segment -23/3 (Kotapally) for providing safe drinking water under Telangana Drinking Water Supply Project in favour of Superintending Engineer, TDWSP (RWS&S), Nirmal**
- (20) Diversion of 4.986 ha of forestland for laying of pipeline and construction of structures in Segment-1/8 (Achampet) for providing drinking water under Telangana Drinking Water Supply Project**
- (21) Diversion of 22.258 ha (Warangal North Division, 13.965 ha + Warangal North ESZ Division, 2.583 ha + Warangal WLM Division, 5.71 ha) of forestland for laying of pipelines and construction of other structures for providing safe drinking water to Mulug Constituency, Warangal District, Segment-20/3**
- (22) Diversion of 2.351 ha of forest land in Kamareddy Division for laying of pipeline and construction of structures in Segment-12/5 (Lingampet) for providing safe drinking water to Nizamabad District under Telangana Drinking Water Supply project in favour of Superintending Engineer, TDWSP, Nirmal**

(23) Diversion on 0.671 ha of forest land in various Division of Nizamabad Circle for laying of pipeline and construction of structures in Segment-11/5 (Markal) for providing safe drinking water to Nizamabad District under Telangana Drinking Water Supply Project in favour of Superintending Engineer, TDWSP (RWS&S), Nirmal

The IGF(WL) briefed the Committee on the proposals and mentioned that the proposals were considered by the SC-NBWL in its 41st meeting held on 2nd March 2017. He also has mentioned that a committee comprising of Dr. H. S. Singh, member, Dr. R. Sukumar, member, Shri B.S. Somasekhar, IGF (NTCA, South Zone) and Shri S.P. Vashishth DIGF (WL), (MoEF&CC) visited the project sites and submitted the report to the Ministry. Dr. R. Sukumar mentioned that proposed structures for water storage (OHBR) at the boundary or fringe of the Protected Area (PA) may not cause much impact but the sites located more than 100 meters inside the Protected Area need re-examination to find out alternatives. This was explained to the TDWSCL and they agreed to reexamine such locations inside the PAs. He added that underground laid pipes would not pose any problem to the wildlife.

Based on the observations and information provided by the officials of the Telangana Government, the recommendations of the site inspection committee are as under:

- (1) Some villages in the core area of Kawal Tiger Reserve have been identified for voluntary resettlement outside. In cases where villagers have already given their consent for resettlement and the state government has identified alternative sites for resettlement within a defined time frame, there is no need for pipelines to be laid to such villages. Other local sources of drinking water may be provided to them as these villagers should not be deprived of the benefits provided to others in the state. The TDWSCL should also give an undertaking to provide drinking water under Mission Bhagiratha to such villages at the alternative sites.
- (2) The committee inspected some of the locations for construction of water-storage tanks. It noted that the tanks that are close to an existing road will not cause much disturbance to wildlife, but the tanks that are located inside the forest away from a road have the potential to cause disturbance both during construction as well as later. The committee therefore strongly recommends that the TDWSCL, in consultation with Chief Wildlife Warden, Telangana Forest Department and other forest officials, should make an attempt to find alternative locations for water storage tanks that are slated to be located

within the Protected Area at distances greater than 100 metres away from an existing road or the forest boundary. The committee understands that about 20 out of 59 such structures require re-examination and relocation. The final acceptance of location of a water storage tank can be left to Chief Wildlife Warden.

- (3) Water storage tanks in forest areas may be covered by vegetation wherever possible. If not possible, they may be painted in a camouflaged colour to blend with the environment. This may be decided with the consultation of the Forest Department.
- (4) TDWSCL should make provisions for supply of water to wildlife at designated places along the route passing through forest areas, especially Kawal Tiger Reserve, in consultation with Telangana Forest Department. Such provision should be made at intervals of 2 km each. The Chief Wildlife Warden is advised to develop a master plan to use the proposed pipelines for supply of water to the wildlife. Precautions have to be taken to avoid concentration of livestock at the water point.
- (5) While laying the pipelines, TDWSCL should execute the work in a timely manner by simultaneously excavating the trenches and laying the pipes so as to minimize the disturbance to wildlife. They should not dig trenches along long stretches and leave them open for several weeks without completion of work. The working length of the trench should not exceed 500 meters at a time. The levelling of the surface should be perfect to give aesthetic view to the surface area. The surface of the pipeline may be cool in summer. Low height evergreen shrubs with shallow roots may be planted at both sites to give shelter to small wild creatures.
- (6) It appears that the OHBR (overhead balancing reservoir) structures are proposed on or near the hillocks inside the PAs to take advantage of the gain in elevation so that water may be supplied to the villages under gravity. But the gain in elevation may also be created artificially by raising the base of OHBR structures and providing supports to the pipes connecting these structures. This way the structures could have been located along the road inside the PAs. This would require a minuscule amount of investment as compared to the total cost of the project. This option may also be explored.

After discussions, the Standing committee decided to recommend the proposals along with the mitigation measures prescribed by the aforesaid Committee and conditions prescribed by State Chief Wildlife Warden.

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

Yours faithfully,



(Dr. Pasupala Ravi)

Scientist C

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Copy to

1. The Chief Wildlife Warden, Government of Telangana, Hyderabad
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