

Minutes of the 52nd meeting of Regional Empowered Committee (REC) of Integrated Regional Office (IRO), Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Govt. of India, Ranchi held on 12.07.2022.

The 52nd meeting of the Regional Empowered Committee (REC) of Integrated Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Ranchi was conducted on 12.08.2022 (Tuesday) through Video Conferencing. The following members/ representatives of the Committee and representatives of User Agencies were present during the Video Conferencing:

1.	Shri Santosh Tewari, Deputy Director General Forest (Central), Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Integrated Regional Office, Ranchi	Chairperson
2.	Dr. Ashok K. Ghosh, Professors Colony, Sheopuri, P.O.Shastrinagar, Patna – 800023, Bihar	Non-official Member
3.	Shri Sudhir Kumar Sahu, G-18, People's Co-Operative Colony, Kankarbagh, Patna – 800020	Non-official Member
4.	Shri Arvinder Singh, Addl. PCCF-cum-Nodal Officer (FC), Deptt. Of Environment, Forests & Climate Change Government of Bihar.	Special Invitee
5.	Shri Shashi Shankar, Assistant Inspector General of Forests (Central), Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Integrated Regional Office, Ranchi.	Member Secretary
6.	Shri. Arvind Kumar Singh, Executive Engineer, NH Division, Bhagalpur.	User Agency

At the onset, the Member Secretary welcomed the Chairperson and all the members of the committee and other participants of the meeting. Thereafter, the agenda item was discussed with deliberations and recommendation by the committee members as well as with Dy.DGF (Central) - the REC chairperson for the case, the details of which are as follows:

Agenda Item No.52.1 (Bihar)

Online/ IRO Proposal No: FP/BR/ROAD/125806/2021

Diversion of 41.559 ha forest land in favour of EE Bhagalpur NH Division for rehabilitation and upgrading to 2 lanes with paved shoulders and strengthening of NH-80, Bhagalpur-Kahalgaon-Mirzachowki Section (Km 132.895 – Km 190.150) road in Bhagalpur district of Bihar.

Regional Empowered Committee discussed the proposal seeking diversion of 41.559 ha forest land in favour of EE Bhagalpur NH Division for rehabilitation and upgrading to 2 lanes with paved shoulders and strengthening of NH-80, Bhagalpur-Kahalgaon-Mirzachowki Section (Km 132.895 – Km 190.150) road in Bhagalpur district of Bihar.

While discussing the proposal, the committee took note of the fact that there are 6563 trees likely to be affected by the project and out of them 2891 trees are proposed for translocation and 3672 trees are proposed for felling. In the previous RECs meeting, it was also discussed about the issued pretence to proposals related to NHAI Division in which

trees translocation proposed. Further the committee, asked the user agency representative to apprise the committee about the ongoing progress of translocation in those proposals and about the extent of its success. The user agency could not provide this detail.

Further, the extant proposal was examined for its rationality and the CA area too was examined by the committee. Most of the components of the proposal were found satisfactory except proposed trees translocation issued. During the discussion, it was found that 2891 trees are to be proposed for translocation but the area proposed/provided for trees translocation depicted in kml file on 41 points is not sufficient for that. The Committee desired that the Nodal Officer (FCA), Bihar shall review the Tree protection Scheme and identify the sufficient area for translocating 2891 trees and same may be intimated in IRO Ranchi. The committee also suggested the user agency to be aware of the consequent effect on environment rather than project approval itself.

Decision of REC:

After deliberations, the Committee recommended the proposal for conditional “in-principle” approval after getting satisfactory reply on the following issue/points:

- i.) The State Forest Department may assure that modern technology would be adopted for trees translocation so that trees survival rate may be increased.
- ii.) The State Forest Department shall restrict the trees translocation having girth less than 60 cm. And detailed tree translocation plan should be submitted to this office.
- iii.) The User agency shall prepare Avenue Plantation Scheme as per the IRC norms on the basis of available blank area in RoW by using plastic wire mesh. The Avenue Plantation Scheme shall be implemented by the State Forest Department at the cost provided by User Agency through CAMPA.

The meeting then concluded with a vote of thanks by the chair.

Approval conveyed through email on

13.07.2022

Dr.Ashok Ghosh

(Non-Official Member)

Approval conveyed through email on

13.07.2022

S.K.Sahu

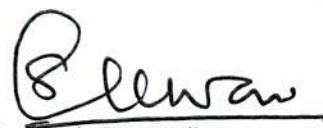
(Non-Official Member)

Approval conveyed through eOfficel on

14.07.2022

(Shashi Shankar)

AIGF (C) Cum Member Secretary - REC
IRO, MoEF&CC, Ranchi



(Santosh Tewari)

Dy.DGF (C) & Chairman - REC
IRO, MoEF&CC, Ranchi

Copy to:

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Deptt. of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Government of Bihar, Aranya Bhawan, Shahid Pir Ali Khan Path, Patna - 800 014 for further necessary action.
2. The Principal Secretary, Department of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Government of Bihar, Sichai Bhawan Secretariat, Patna – 800015.



(Shashi Shankar)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests