

Minutes of the 11th meeting of Regional Empowered Committee (REC) of Regional Office (Eastern Zone), Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Bhubaneswar held on 17.05.2016 (West Bengal State).

The 11th meeting of the Regional Empowered Committee (REC) of Regional Office (Eastern Zone), Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Bhubaneswar was held on 17.05.2016 in the Conference Hall of Eastern Regional Office, Bhubaneswar. The following members/special invitees were present during the meeting.

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| 1. Dr. Tejinder Singh,
Addl. PCCF (Central),
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change,
Regional Office (EZ), Bhubaneswar | Chairperson |
| 2. Shri R. K. Samal,
Conservator of Forests (Central)
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change,
Regional Office (EZ), Bhubaneswar | Member |
| 3. Shri Buddharaj Shewa,
Conservator of Forests (Nodal),
Forest Department, Govt. of West Bengal,
Aranya Bhawan, Salt Lake City,
Kolkata - 700 098. | Special Invitee |
| 4. Shri S. Mohapatra,
Conservator of Forests (Central)
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change,
Regional Office (EZ), Bhubaneswar | Member Secretary |

At the outset, the Chairperson extended a warm welcome to the members of REC and special invitees representing the State Govt. of West Bengal. The proposals in the agenda were examined by the Committee. The representative of the project proponents made power point presentations of the proposals before the committee. The recommendations/decisions of the Committee, based on the deliberations, are as under:-

AGENDA NO.1

Diversion of 54.6059 ha (11.772 ha under Kharagpur Forest Division + 42.8339 ha under Jhargram Forest Division) of forest land in favour of National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) for up-gradation and widening of NH-6 and NH-33 under NHDP-IV Project.

1. The proposal is for diversion of 54.6059 ha (11.772 ha under Kharagpur Forest Division + 42.8339 ha under Jhargram Forest Division) of forest land in favour of National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) for up-gradation and widening of NH-6 and NH-33 under NHDP-IV Project.
2. The total forest land required for this project is 54.6059 ha. Out of which 11.772 ha of forest land is in Kharagpur and 42.8339 ha of forest land in Jhargram Forest Division.
3. The legal status of proposed forest land is reported to be Protected Forest.
4. The density of vegetation in Kharagpur Division, the DFO has informed that the area is Open bushy with sparsed trees whereas in Jhargram Division, DFO has reported density of vegetation as Medium, 3-4.

Tejinder Singh

Samal

Buddharaj Shewa

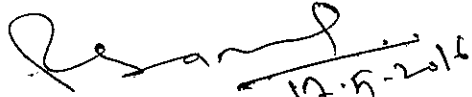
5. Total 14,497 no. of trees have been enumerated for this project. Out of which 800 no. of trees are in Kharagpur Division and 13,697 no. of trees are in Jhargram Division.
6. The area does not form part of any National Park/ Wildlife Sanctuary/ Biosphere reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant corridor etc., However, the CCF, Western Circle in his inspection report has reported that the migratory elephants rarely visit Jhargram Forest Division. Similarly, it is reported that in Kharagpur Division, the Dalma Elephant herd while migrating from Chandra Range of Midnapore Division to Nayagram Range in Kharagpur Division crosses the highway and upgradation of NH-6 will not affect movement of migratory elephant herd.
7. There is no rare/endangered species of flora and fauna noticed in the project area.
8. No protected archaeological/ heritage site/ defence establishment or any other important monuments is located in the area.
9. No violation of F.C. Act, 1980 has been reported by the concerned DFOs.
10. The project involves total 971 number of Project affected people in West Medinipur district.
11. The user agency has submitted certificates/documents under FRA, 2006 with the proposal.
12. The user agency has submitted SOI toposheet, DGPS map of proposed forest land and map for identified land for compensatory afforestation.
13. In lieu of 54.6059 ha of forest land proposed for diversion, State Govt. has identified, 110.6678 ha of degraded forest land in Mouza Lawriadam & Ratanpur of Jhargram Division (85.6678 ha) and Mouza Arjuni of Kharagpur Division (25.00 ha) for compensatory afforestation.
14. State Govt. has submitted the C.A. Schemes prepared by DFO, Jhargram and DFO, Kharagpur including cost of maintenance of plantation upto 7 to 10 years.
15. Besides compensatory afforestation, the State Govt. has recommended for avenue plantation of 10 times the no. of trees to be felled from non-forest/private land of the road alignment at project cost.
16. The DFOs, PCCF & State Govt. have recommended the proposal for diversion.
17. The proposal was earlier discussed in REC meeting on 21.03.2016. The Committee deliberated upon the presentation made before it along with the reply furnished by the State Govt. and observed that the revised CA land as seen on Google Map still shows lot of agricultural land and accordingly decided to defer the proposal.
18. The State Govt. was requested vide letter dated 29.03.2016 to furnish the reply to the observations to the REC. The State Govt. vide letter dated 19.04.2016 has identified 87.62 ha of degraded forest land in Mauza Lawwriadam (39.07 ha), Radheshaympur (20.12 ha), Guira (16.67 ha) and Khas Jungle (11.76 ha) for compensatory afforestation in respect of Jhargram Forest Division.

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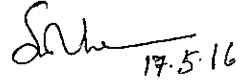
Decision/Advice of REC:

The revised degraded forest land identified for CA has been seen on the Google Map and the Committee decided to recommend the proposal for issue of Stage-I approval with usual standard conditions and with the following additional condition.

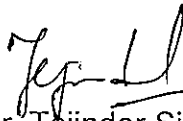
"CA shall be raised over entire 17.78 ha of degraded forest land identified in Mouza Guira instead of 16.67 ha."



(R. K. Samal)
CF (Central) &
Member, REC



(S. Mohapatra)
CF (Central) &
Member Secretary, REC



(Dr. Tejinder Singh) 17/5/2016
Addl. PCCF (Central) & Chairperson - REC
MoEF&CC, Regional Office (EZ), Bhubaneswar