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Minutes of the 1st Regional Empowered Committee (REC) meeting of Regional Office (South Eastern Zone), Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Chennai held on 12.01.2015

The 1st Regional Empowered Committee (REC) meeting of Regional Office (South Eastern Zone), Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Chennai was held on 12.01.2015 in the office of the Addl.PCCF (Central) HEPC building, 34, Cathedral Garden Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai. The following Members / Special Invitee were present during the meeting.

1. Shri.K.S.Reddy,
Addl.PCCF (Central),
Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change
Regional Office (SEZ), Chennai **... Chairperson**
2. Shri. K.Jude Sekar
Flat No. R-33, Arihant Heirloom Apartments,
P.O. Thalambur, Off. OMR
Chennai **... Non-official Member**
3. Dr.C.N. Rao,
9-10-3 Giddi Lane
Gandhi Nagar, Kakinada,
East Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh **... Non-official Member**
4. Shri B.S.S.Reddy
107, White House Apartments, Road No.13,
Banjara Hills, Hyderabad **... Non-official Member**
5. Dr.S.N.Jadhav,
Addl.PCCF /Nodal Officer
Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980
Government of Andhra Pradesh
Hyderabad. **...Special Invitee**

At the outset, Chairperson extended ^awarm welcome to the Members of REC and Special Invitee representing the State Government of Andhra Pradesh. The proposals in the agenda were examined by the Committee. The representatives of the project proponents were also heard. Recommendations / decisions of the Committee, based on the deliberations, are as under: -

Agenda No.1: Diversion of 4.05 Ha of forest land in Sy No. 300/1/P Compartment No. 594/P, 593/P of Julakalva Village, Singanamala Mandal, Ananthapur District, for mining lease for Dolomite, Steatite & White Shale, in favour of M/s AVSR Minerals.



The following additional information be sought for further consideration of the proposal: -

1. Part II of the proposal in FORM-A proforma including certificate from DFO concerned whether the requirement of forest land as proposed by the User Agency in col.2 of Part-I is unavoidable and bare minimum for the project.
2. Map of the area of 4.05 ha proposed for diversion indicating separately, area for mining, safety zone area, area for dumping, location of roads and area for mineral stock yard on a suitable scale, preferably 1:1000.
3. Revised CA scheme including 7 to10 years of maintenance.

Agenda No.2: Diversion of 3.69 Ha of forest land in Compartment No. 216 & 205 of Paradarami R.F & Ragimanupenta R.F. of Yadamarri Village, Bangarupalem Mandal, Chittoor District, for quarrying of black granite, in favour of M/s Sri Jyotheeswaram Granites, Prop: Sri B. Bajalingam.

The following additional information be sought for further consideration of the proposal: -

1. Revised Compensatory Afforestation scheme including 7 to10 years of maintenance.
2. Map of the area of 3.69 ha proposed for diversion indicating separately, area for mining, safety zone area, area for dumping and road on a suitable scale, preferably 1:1000.

Agenda No.3: Diversion of 4.90 Ha. of forest land in Compartment No. 233 & 234 of Santhapeta Reserve Forest for quarry lease of Black Granite, in favour of M/s Sri Jayashree Industries, Prop;A.M.Vinod, Chittoor Town.

The following additional information be sought for further consideration of the proposal: -

1. Revised Compensatory Afforestation scheme including 7 to10 years of maintenance.
2. Map of the area of 4.90 ha proposed for diversion indicating separately, area for mining, safety zone area, area for dumping and road on a suitable scale, preferably 1:1000 and duly signed by DFO concerned.

The Committee noted that the proposal is the first in the compartment and near a town and has decided to undertake a visit to the site before next REC meeting



Agenda No.4: Diversion of 4.05 ha of forest land in Compt.No. 593/P & 594/P in Survey No. 300/1/P of Julakaluva (Village) Muchukota R.F, Gooty Range, Ananthapur Division, for renewal of mining lease for Steatite and Dolomite, in favour of M/s Sreenivasa Minerals Co., Ananthapur, Managing Partner Smt. A. Malathi

The Committee noted the following in the proposal: -

1. Approval was granted vide Ministry's letter No. F(C) A/11.2/72/MIN/AP/713 dated 08.07.2002 for diversion of 4.05 ha of forest land in Compt.No. 593/P & 594/P in Survey No. 300/1/P of Julakaluva (Village) Muchukota R.F, Gooty Range, Annathapur Division, for renewal of mining lease for Steatite and Dolomite, in favour of M/s Sreenivasa Minerals Co., Ananthapur, Managing Partner Smt.A.Malathi
2. The proposal is for renewal of forest diversion for the first renewal of mining lease.
3. The diversion was for underground mining.
4. Density of the vegetation in the area is 0.10
5. The area does not form part of any National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant Corridor etc
6. No work has been carried out in violation of the Forest Conservation Act.
7. The mining does not affect any monument of historical, religious, archeological or recreational importance including Wildlife sanctuary/ National Park etc.
8. Reclamation work by planting 500 seedlings of *Azadirachta indica* (neem), *Pongamia pinnata* (kanuga), *Peltoforum*, *Ficus species* out of which 300 plants are growing well.
9. The proposal has been recommended by DFO and CF concerned, the PCCF and the State Government of Andhra Pradesh.
10. Legal status of forest land proposed to be diverted is a part of Reserve Forest.
11. Certificates related to ensuring compliance of the Schedule Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 as per the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forests vide letter F.No. 11-9/98-Fc (pt)-dated 05.07.2013 are furnished.

12. Production of the mineral during the period 2003-2012 was 13004 Metric Tonnes. About 60000 tonnes of Dolomite & Steatite are still available for extraction and proposed yearly production of 3000 Metric Tonnes to meet demand of indigenous market.
13. The mining is estimated to provide direct employment to about 20 workers and staff.
14. Of the 4.05 ha proposed for diversion 2.960 is proposed to be kept untouched.

Since most of the land for which renewal of diversion is sought is going to be untouched, the mineral is specific to the area and it is expected to provide employment to local people and meet the requirement of raw material of the industries, the committee recommends the proposal for renewal of diversion of land for a period co-terminus with **mining lease / 20 years**, subject to usual conditions.

Agenda No.5: Renewal of mining lease for grant of black granite quarry lease over an extent of 6.1 ha of Comp.No 217 & 218 of Veerasettipalle "B" Reserve Forest, Chittoor (West) Division for renewal of mining lease for extraction of Black Granite, in favour of M/s Tirumala Granites, Chittoor.

REC, after examination of the proposal and interaction with representative of user agency, has noted as below:

1. Legal status of forest land proposed to be diverted is notified u/s 16 of Forest Act, 1882 vide Board Proceedings (Forest) No. 389, dated 21.07.1892.
2. Density of the vegetation available in the forest land proposed to be diverted is less than 0.2
3. The area is already broken in the previous lease and hence there are no tree species in the leased area proposed for renewal.
4. No violation has taken place in the proposed area.
5. Central Government's approval in-principle (*stage I*) for a period of 10 years with effect from 04.10.2012 was granted vide Regional Office, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Bangalore letter F.No.4-APC882/2012-BAN/2748 dated 28th January, 2013, subject to compliance with certain conditions.
6. State Government of Andhra Pradesh vide their letter No. 2915/Section. II/2012 dated 21.10.2014 furnished Compliance Report including certificate from District Collector as per MoEF & CC guideline dated 05-07-2013 under the Schedule Tribes & other Traditional Forest Dwellers(RoFR), 2006.
7. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Andhra Pradesh has requested to accord final (Stage II) approval for renewal of mining lease to an extent of 7.56 ha including 1.46 ha

of forest land located in safety zone in view of guidelines issued by the Government of India, Ministry of Environment & Forests, New Delhi vide letter No.825/2010-FC dated 12.07.2012. The PCCF had also directed the DFO to raise demand with user agency and collect NPV for the forest area involved in the safety zone area.

8. The Ministry in its letter dated 02.09.2014 had clarified that in lieu of diversion of forest land located in safety zone of a mining lease, apart from funds for protection and regeneration of such safety zone area and afforestation over one and half times of the safety zone area in degraded forest elsewhere, no other funds or land for creation of Compensatory Afforestation in lieu of forest land located in safety zone of the mining lease is required to be provided by the User Agency. In view of this, there is no need to collect NPV from the User Agency.
9. The proposal to grant FC clearance for 7.56 ha including 1.46 ha of safety zone area has been recommended, subject to certain conditions, by the APCCF (Central), Regional Office, Chennai on 10.11.2014.
10. The safety zone area, which is now included for diversion, was maintained as safety zone even during the previous diversion period and the inclusion for diversion is only technical in nature.

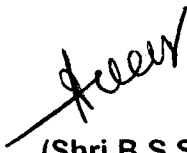
After careful consideration and scrutiny of the proposal, the project proposal has been recommended for according approval by the competent authority for renewal of mining lease for grant of black granite quarry lease over an extent of 7.56 ha including 1.46 ha of safety zone area of Compt.No 217 & 218 of Veerasettipalle "B" Reserve Forest, Chittoor (West) Division for renewal of mining lease for extraction of Black Granite for a period of 10 years, in favour of M/s Tirumala Granites, Chittoor subject to the conditions proposed by APCCF (Central), Regional Office, Chennai.



(Shri. K.Jude Sekar)
Non-official Member



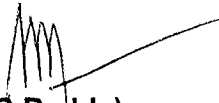
(Dr.C.N. Rao)
Non-official Member



(Shri B.S.S.Reddy)
Non-official Member



(Dr.S.N.Jadhav IFS)
Addl.PCCF /Nodal Officer, A.P. &
Special Invitee



(K.S.Reddy)
Addl. PCCF (Central) & Chairperson