

MINUTES OF THE SIXTH MEETING OF REGIONAL EMPOWERED COMMITTEE OF RO, SZ, BANGALORE HELD ON 03/11/2015 IN THE OFFICE OF THE ADDL. P.C.C.F. (CENTRAL) MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE, REGIONAL OFFICE (SOUTHERN ZONE), KENDRIYA SADAN, KORAMANGALA, BANGALORE.

The sixth meeting of the Regional Empowered Committee of RO, SZ, Bangalore was held on 03/11/2015 in the office of the Addl. P.C.C.F. (Central) Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Regional Office (Southern Zone), Kendriya Sadan, Koramangala, Bangalore and the following members attended the meeting:-

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| (1) Shri Amarnatha Shetty, I.F.S.,
Addl. P.C.C.F. (Central)
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change,
Regional Office (Southern Zone), Bangalore | ... | Chairman |
| (2) Shri S.M. Somashekar, I.F.S
Chief Conservator of Forests (Central)
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change,
Regional Office (Southern Zone), Bangalore | ... | Member |
| (3) Shri Suhas Jagannath Godse,
House No.525 A, Vodlem Bhat,
Near Pandurang Temple, Vodle Bhat,
Taleigao, P.O. Caranzalem,
Tiswadi, Goa. | ... | Member |
| (4) Dr. B. Shivaraju,
No.4, 5 th Main, 9 th Cross,
Radhakrishna Layout, Padmanabhanagar,
Bangalore- 560 070, Karnataka. | ... | Member |
| (5) Shri Anur Reddy, I.F.S
Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
/Nodal Officer (FCA),
Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,
Forests Department, Govt. of Karnataka,
Aranya Bhavan, 18 th Cross, Malleswaram,
Bangalore – 560 003. | ... | Special Invitee |
| (6) Smt. R. Padmawathe, I.F.S
Deputy Conservator of Forests (Central)
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change,
Regional Office (Southern Zone), Bangalore | ... | Member Secretary |

Amarnatha Shetty

Initiating the discussion, the Chairperson extended warm welcome to the Members of the Regional Empowered Committee (REC). The REC examined the following two proposals and the recommendations of REC are recorded in respect of each proposal, as under:-

(1) Diversion of 110.10 ha. (Revised from 186.42 ha.) of forest land in Bhadravathi Division for execution/construction of Upper Bhadra Project, Package-II (Lifting of water from Bhadra

Reservoir to Ajjampura delivery chamber) in favour of the Executive Engineer, Karnataka Neeravari Nigama Limited, Upper Bhadra Project, Division – 2, B.R. Project, Bhadravathi.

The Regional Empowered Committee noted the following facts of the proposal:-

- (i) The Government of Karnataka during September, 2014 had submitted three proposals for diversion of forest land viz., construction of Upper Bhadra Project, Package-II (186.42 ha), construction of Upper Bhadra Lift Irrigation Project package-I (131.67 ha) and construction of Chitradurga Branch Canal under Upper Bhadra Project (171.546 ha) in favour of Karnataka Neeravari Nigam Limited to MoEF&CC, New Delhi. Subsequently, Ministry had directed Regional Office to carry out site inspection of the area and submit the report to Ministry.
- (ii) Site inspection of the above project areas were carried out by CCF (Central) along with Addl. PCCF (Central) on 3rd/4th December, 2014. During the inspection, it was noticed that the User Agency has sought diversion of more forest area than the actual requirement. Therefore, User Agency was advised to revise the proposal.
- (iii) Meanwhile, Forest (Conservation) Second Amendment Rules 2014 was notified by Ministry and as per the said Rules, proposals for linear projects are to be processed at Regional Office with the approval of Regional Empowered Committee (REC). Therefore, Ministry vide letter dated 30/07/2015 had returned the proposal pertaining to diversion of 186.42 ha. of forest land in Bhadravathi Division for execution/construction of Upper Bhadra Project, Package-II to Regional Office, Bangalore for further processing.
- (iv) Accordingly, the Govt. of Karnataka vide letter No.96 FLL 2014 dated 30/09/2015 had submitted a revised proposal for diversion of 110.10 ha. of forest land in Bhadravathi Division for execution/construction of Upper Bhadra Project, Package-II. PCCF, Karnataka has recommended the proposal with the following specific conditions:-



- (a) The User Agency shall obtain approval of State Board for Wildlife and the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) and Hon'ble Supreme Court of India since the proposed area falls within 10 Kms from the Bhadra Tiger Reserve.
- (b) The User Agency shall pay all the outstanding dues with regard to the earlier approved projects to the Karnataka Forest Department.
- (c) User Agency to give an undertaking to provide alternate land for CA subject to final decision of Government regarding Deemed Forests.
- (v) As per Government of India guideline letter no. 5-1/2007-FC dated 28/12/2007 it is stated that *“ As a matter of Pragmatism, the revenue land, Zudpi Jungle, Chhote/ Bade Jhar Ka Jungle/Jungle Jhari land, civil soyam lands and all other such categories of lands, on which the provision of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 are applicable, could be considered for the purpose compensatory afforestation provided such lands on which compensatory afforestation is proposed shall be notified as RF under Indian Forest Act, 1927. However, as far as possible efforts should be made to carry out compensatory afforestation only on non-forest land.”*

The proposal was considered in the Regional Empowered Committee (REC) meeting held on 03/11/2015. The Committee examined the proposal as well as the site inspection report of CCF (Central). The Regional Empowered Committee noted that the Upper Bhadra Project envisages utilization of surplus water available in Tunga river and Bhadra reservoirs to an extent of 21.50 TMC for irrigating 1,07,265 ha area in the drought prone Chikmagalur and Chitradurga districts, as well as augment the drinking water facilities in Tumkur and Kolar districts where the deep ground water is not good for drinking purposes. The alignment of the canals is taken mostly along the boundary of the forests in its natural gradient except for location where it is inevitable and only minimum of forest land is involved in the proposal.

Since this proposal is for a public cause of providing irrigation facilities in the drought-prone areas of Chitradurga District and also for meeting the drinking water requirements of the ground water depleted Districts of Tumkur and Kolar, the REC decided to approve the proposal, subject to usual conditions and the following specific conditions:-

1. The User Agency shall obtain approval of State Board for Wildlife and the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) since part of the



proposed area falls within the eco-sensitive zone around the Bhadra Tiger Reserve, before Stage-II approval. No work will be undertaken before obtaining approval of NBWL.

2. The User Agency shall pay all the outstanding dues with regard to the earlier approved projects to the Karnataka Forest Department.
3. Chain link fencing shall be provided along the canal where the canal is running on the edge of the forest at the cost of User Agency.
4. All pockets of forest land left outside the canal should be chain link fenced and afforestation of the same be undertaken at the cost of User Agency.
5. Cross over bridges, under passes etc. shall be constructed across the canal as decided by the CCF of the Circle for the movement of wild animals. The major cross over/bridges for animal cross overs shall not be less than 10 M wide. At every 300 M distance where the canal is passing through the forests, ramps with rough surface shall be provided for animals to exit from the canals. The number of such structures and the cost involved are worked out jointly and the same be intimated to MoEF&CC, before issue of Stage-II approval.
6. All the raising main areas should be covered with soil to make a natural gradient for animal crossing.
7. In order to meet the water requirement of wild animals, water ponds of not less than 80 M² area, on the forest side shall be constructed at every 500 mtrs distance along the canal and these ponds shall be filled with water at the cost of User Agency.
8. In order to meet the fodder requirement of wild animals, the raising of fodder plantation, mainly bamboo over a distance of 100 M in open areas along the sides of canal shall be undertaken at the cost of User Agency. Forest Department will work out the cost of raising such plantation and its maintenance for 5 years and the same be realised from the User Agency before Stage-II approval.



9. CA Scheme shall be submitted including the provision of chain link fencing of the non-forest land and the cost be realised from the User Agency accordingly.

Accordingly, the Regional Office, Bangalore will issue in-principle (Stage-I) approval for the proposal, as per usual conditions and the above specific conditions.

(2) Diversion of 96.95 ha. (Revised from 131.67 ha) in Muthinakoppa Minor Forest & Aramballi Reserved Forest in Koppa Division for execution and construction of Upper Bhadra Lift Irrigation Project **package-I** in favour of the Executive Engineer, Karnataka Neeravari Nigama Limited, Karnataka

The Regional Empowered Committee noted the following facts of the proposal:-

- (i) The Government of Karnataka during September, 2014 had submitted three proposals for diversion of forest land viz., construction of Upper Bhadra Project, Package-II (186.42 ha), construction of Upper Bhadra Lift Irrigation Project package-I (131.67 ha) and construction of Chitradurga Branch Canal under Upper Bhadra Project (171.546 ha) in favour of Karnataka Neeravari Nigam Limited to MoEF&CC, New Delhi. Subsequently, Ministry had directed Regional Office to carry out site inspection of the area and submit the report to Ministry.
- (ii) Site inspection of the above project areas were carried out by CCF (Central) along with Addl. PCCF (Central) on 3rd/4th December, 2014. During the inspection, it was noticed that the User Agency has sought diversion of more forest area than the actual requirement. Therefore, User Agency was advised to revise the proposal.
- (iii) Meanwhile, Forest (Conservation) Second Amendment Rules 2014 was notified by Ministry and as per the said Rules, proposals for linear projects are to be processed at Regional Office with the approval of Regional Empowered Committee (REC).
- (iv) Accordingly, the Govt. of Karnataka vide letter No.FEE 80 FLL 2014 dated 15/10/2015 has submitted a proposal for diversion of 96.95 ha. (Revised from 131.67 ha) in Muthinakoppa Minor Forest & Aramballi Reserved Forest in Koppa Division for execution and construction of Upper Bhadra Lift Irrigation Project **package-I**. PCCF, Karnataka has recommended the proposal with the following specific conditions:-
 - (a) Since, the project bifurcates corridor area for wild animals, it would inhibit the free movement of wild animals and affect its natural habitat. Hence, it is suitable to construct



