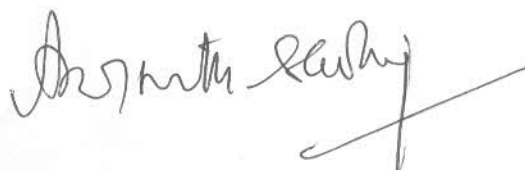


MINUTES OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF REGIONAL EMPOWERED COMMITTEE OF RO, SZ, BANGALORE HELD ON 21.08.2015 IN THE OFFICE OF THE ADDL. P.C.C.F. (CENTRAL) MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE, REGIONAL OFFICE (SOUTHERN ZONE), KENDRIYA SADAN, KORAMANGALA, BANGALORE.

The fourth meeting of the Regional Empowered Committee of RO, SZ, Bangalore was held on 21.08.2015 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 S. Manikandan, CF (FC),
Representative of 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 |



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

- (1) Diversion of 7.80 ha. of forest land in forest Sy. No.1, Mallappana betta SF and Sy. No. 168, Baladare village for the purpose of construction of Dindignahally Branch Canal under Kachenahally Lift Irrigation Scheme in Channarayapatna Taluk, Hassan District in favour of the Executive Engineer, Hemavathi Dam Division, Gorur, Hassan District.

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

- (i) The proposal submitted by State Government is for diversion of forest area for construction of Dindignahally Irrigation Main Canal and two distributaries under Kachanahalli lift Irrigation Scheme in CR Patna Range of Hassan Division. The total canal length is 5.11 Km and passes through Mallappanabetta RF to a length of 2.60 Km and Baldare deemed forest (Eucalyptus plantation) for a length of 2.50 Km. Apart from main canal two distributaries are also proposed to be constructed to a length of 0.590 Km and 0.521 Km in Mallappanabetta RF.
- (ii) This project will benefit 35 villages in Hole Narasipura and Channarayapatna taluks of Hassan District, for irrigating about 12,600 acres of dry land.
- (iii) The earth excavation work of main canal for 5.11 Km is reported to be completed about 20 years back. However, the work of two distributaries is yet to be started.
- (iv) The area is having dry deciduous type of forests and plantations of Eucalyptus and Acacia species. There are 883 trees are to be felled in proposed area. (Eucalyptus hybrid – 798., Acacia auriculiformis – 55, Azadirachata indica- 5 & Cassia siamia- 25).
- (v) Equivalent non-forest land in Sy.No.195 of Bagéshpura (V) of Gandasi Hobli has been identified for raising C.A. and the same has been mutated in favour of Forest Department. DCF, Hassan has certified the suitability of the non-forest land identified for raising CA.
- (vi) Site inspection of the area was carried out by CCF (Central) on 29/07/2015 and submitted a report.

The REC considered the site inspection report of CCF (Central) and noted that based on the instruction given during the site inspection, detailed field verification and survey has been



done and as per the survey, the requirement of forest for the project is now 9.72 ha. Since the implementation of this project will benefit 35 villages in Hole Narasipura and Channarayapatna taluks of Hassan District, for irrigating about 12,600 acres of dry land, REC decided to approve the proposal without specifying the period of lease, being a Government project with long-term infrastructure, subject to usual conditions and subject to the following additional conditions:-

- (i) At least 3 water bodies shall be created by User Agency at their cost in order to provide drinking water to the wild animals during the lean period.
- (ii) Animal cross-over bridges of at least 3 meter width are to be provided at every 500 meter distance.
- (iii) Sandal regeneration coming upon the bank of canal should be protected.
- (iv) Canal bank plantation shall be raised on both sides of the canal at the cost of User Agency as per the plan prepared by State Forest Department.

Accordingly, the Regional Office, Bangalore will issue in-principle (Stage-I) approval for the above proposal.

- (2) Diversion of 14.80 ha. (12.56 ha. and 2.03 ha. of forest land in M.L. No. 1783 and 1616 for extraction of manganese ore and 0.21 ha. for approach road) in Kadathi village, Alagilavada RF, Harpanahalli Taluk, Davanagere District in favour of M/s Yerrithatha Mining Company, Hospet.

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

- (1) Mining Lease No.1783 (12.95 ha) was originally granted to Shri Lingappa for a period of 20 years w.e.f 18.9.1981. Subsequently the mining lease was transferred to this user agency M/s Shri Yerrithatha Mining Company, Hospet on 31.7.1986.
- (2) Similarly, Mining Lease No.1225/1616 (2.0235 ha) was originally granted to Shri Lingappa for a period of 20 years w.e.f 14.2.1975. Subsequently the mining lease was transferred to this user agency M/s Shri Yerrithatha Mining Company, Hospet on 31.7.1986.



- (3) The project location falls within the default 10 kms of eco-sensitive zone of the Ranebennur Blackbuck Sanctuary. It is reported that the mining lease is situated at a distance of 7 kms and Government of Karnataka has sent proposal vide its letter no. FEE 370 FWL 2013 (P-4) dated 12.06.2015 for approval to Government of India for notifying extent of eco-sensitive zone whose width varies from 100m to 1.47 kms from the boundary of Ranebennur Blackbuck Sanctuary. This proposal is for diversion of 14.8 ha. from the Alagalawada RF Sy. No. 381/A having 1515 ha. and Sy. No. 381/c having 286 ha. and is notified under Section 4. It is reported that the animals like Sloth bear, Jackal, wild boar, Mongoose, etc. are noticed. This area does not form part of any National Park, WLS, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant corridor etc.
- (4) In lieu of the forest area proposed for diversion to carry out compensatory Afforestation, the user agency has identified C&D Class land over an extent of 40 acres in Sy.No.42/1 of Ananthanahalli village, Harappanahalli Taluk, Davanagere district and the same land is transferred and mutated in favour of the Forest Deptt.
- (5) It is reported that though the mining leases were sanctioned, no mining activities on regular basis on a large scale were said to have been commenced after the promulgation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. However, the User Agency had tried to work in a mining lease area once in the year 1993 on the basis of temporary working permission to carry out the mining operations issued by the Director, Mines and Geology. The User Agency again carried out some mining operations in the forest area in the year 2003. For this, Forest Offence Case was booked vide No. 25/1993-94 on 1/05/1993 and again vide FOC No. 45/2003-04 dated 3/11/2003. It is reported that the said FOC was compounded with a penalty and accordingly 'B' Sheet was issued with a strict warning to the lessee company.
- (6) The proposed area was inspected by CCF (Central) along with Addl. PCCF (Central) on 09/07/2015 and noted that the forest land is in highly degraded state and is almost devoid of any tree growth. During the site inspection it was observed that an extent of more than 2 ha. has been opened for mining activity in a scattered manner. The site is located in an isolated patch of forest land surrounded by human habitation and agricultural land. Considering the quality of the forest land, using this part of forest land for mining purpose may not be at the cost of environmental conservation issues. This will also generate employment locally.



(7) The RoFR certificate issued by Dy. Commissioner, Davangere District and CA scheme prepared by DCF, Davangere have been received on 3/08/2015.

The Regional Empowered Committee noted that the mining lease originated in the year 1975 and the site is located in an isolated patch of degraded forest land surrounded by human habitation and agricultural land. Using this part of forest land for mining of manganese may not be at the cost of environmental conservation issues and it will also generate employment locally and decided to recommend the proposal to Govt. of India for approval subject to usual conditions and an additional condition of construction foot wall of 2 M height along the boundary of the proposed forest lease area, adjoining the private land.


The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chair and Members.



Suhas Jagannath Godse
(Member)




Amarnatha Shetty, I.F.S.
Addl. P.C.C.F. (Central)
(Chairperson)



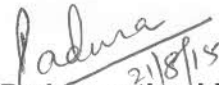
Shri S. Manikandan, 21/08/15
CF (FC),
Representative of Nodal Officer (FCA),
Forests Department,
Govt. of Karnataka, (Special Invitee)



Dr. B. Shivaraju
(Member)



S.M. Somashekar, I.F.S
C.C.F. (Central)
(Member)



Smt. R. Padmawathe, I.F.S
D.C.F. (Central)
(Member-Secretary)