

**Government of India**  
**Ministry of Environment and Forests**  
**(Forest Conservation Division)**

**Proceedings of the Meeting of the Forest Advisory Committee Convened on April 6<sup>th</sup> -  
7<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

**A. PROPOSALS DEALT BY SHRI H.C. CHAUDHARY, AIGF**

No. of Pages: 17

No. of Proposals: 11

**Agenda No.1: Diversion of 447.811 ha. forest land (including 44.70 ha. Revenue Forest land already diverted) in favour of Ms/ Rungta Mines Ltd. for iron ore mining during 2<sup>nd</sup> renewal of the mining lease located in Jajang, Bandhubera, Jaribahal and Palasa (ka) villages in Keonjhar district of Orissa [File No. 8-88/1998-FC (vol.)]**

After careful examination of the proposal the FAC noted as below:

- (i) The said mine of M/s Rungta Mines Ltd. has a total 666.15 ha. area. The current mining lease (2<sup>nd</sup> Renewal) is valid for a period of 20 years from 13.02.1997 to 12.02.2017. According to the lease deed, the mining lease area of 666.15 ha. comprises 67.965 ha. of khesra forest land, 503.839 ha. Govt. non-forest land and 94.346 ha. of tenated non-forest land. The Ministry of Environment & Forests vide its letter dated 21.07.2000 accorded approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 44.70 ha. khesra forest land that includes 22.60 khesra forest land broken prior to 1980 and 22.10 ha. virgin khesra forest land leaving the balance 22.265 ha. khesra forest land located in the safety zone;
- (ii) In compliance to the order dated 12.12.1996 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in the Writ Petition (Civil) No. 202/1995 in the matter of T.N. Godavarman Thirumulpad versus Union of India and others, out of the 503.839 ha. of Govt. non-forest land, 417.62 ha. was declared as 'deemed forest' by the District Level Committee (DLC) of the Keonjhar district. The user agency, therefore submitted a proposal for diversion of 375.217 ha. deemed forest land excluding the 42.403 ha. deemed forest land located in the safety zone;
- (iii) Later on, keeping in view the recommendation of the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) in their report in I.A. No. 2746-48 in the W.P. (Civil) No. 202/1995 that the entire forest land located in a mining lease needs to be diverted under the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, State Government recommended diversion of the entire 447.811 ha. [44.70 ha. (original khesra forest) + 417.62 ha. (DLC forest) - 14.509 ha.

(acquired for railway line)] forest land located within the mining lease (including its safety zone). The forest land proposed for diversion also includes 44.70 ha. for whose diversion approval under the FC Act has already been accorded by the MoEF during 2<sup>nd</sup> renewal of the mining lease. However, it does not include the 14.509 ha. forest land located in the 37.774 ha. land acquired for laying Daitari-Keonjhar-Banasapani BG Railways line from the forest land located within the mining lease;

- (iv) Legal status of the forest land proposed for diversion is deemed forest and khesra forest;
- (v) The crown density of the fresh DLC forest land proposed for diversion for mining and allied activities is less than 0.01 in broken up portion (322.273 ha.) and 0.2 in non-broken-up portion (52.944 ha.);
- (vi) The 375.217 ha. DLC forest land proposed to be diverted for mining and allied activities contains 8,124 trees out of which 4294 trees are of the girth below 30 cm. Average stem density of 21.65 trees/ha. in the DLC forest land proposed to be diverted for mining and allied activities is fairly low;
- (vii) Out of the 375.217 ha. DLC forest land proposed to be diverted for mining and allied activities, 322.273 ha. was broken prior to its identification by the District Level Committee as deemed forest. The compensatory afforestation, is therefore proposed to be raised over 52.944 ha. non-forest land equivalent to the 52.944 ha. unbroken DLC land proposed to be diverted for mining and allied activities; and
- (viii) The CEC in its report in I.A. No. 2746-48 of 2009 pertaining to illegal mining in Orissa observed that in Orissa, substantial areas included in the mining leases as non-forest land have subsequently been identified as DLC forest (deemed forest/ forest like areas) by the Expert Committee constituted by the State Government pursuant to the hon'ble Supreme Court's order dated 12.12.1996. While processing and/or approving the proposals under the FC Act in many cases such areas have been treated as non-forest land. The CEC therefore recommended that (i) the NPV for the entire DLC areas included in the mining lease, after deducting the NPV already paid, should be deposited by the concerned lease holder and (ii) the mining operations in the unbroken DLC land (virgin land) should be permissible only if the permission under the FC Act has been obtained/is obtained for such area. Keeping in view the peculiar circumstances as was existing in Orissa and subject to the above, the mining operations in the broken DLC land may be allowed to be continued provided the other statutory requirements and Rules are otherwise being complied with;
- (ix) The forest land proposed for diversion is located immediately adjacent to the Baitarani river;

- (x) The Chief Conservator of Forests (Central), Eastern Regional Office, Bhubaneswar has *inter-alia* recommended that since Baitarani river, a major river system of Orissa is passing nearby to the mine, the user agency should take all steps to prevent pollution of the river from their mine. Also the State Government should prepare a plan for protection of Baitarani river system, the user agency should proportionately contribute for such protection of the river.

The FAC after detailed deliberations recommended that the Eastern Regional Office, Bhubaneswar of this Ministry may be requested to submit a report containing the following information:

- (i) Status of compliance to the conditions stipulated in the approval accorded in the past for diversion of 44.70 ha. forest land located in the said mining lease;
- (ii) The measures required to eliminate/minimize impact, if any, of the mining in the said mining lease on the Baitarni river;
- (iii) Status of reclamation of the mined over area located within the said mine;
- (iv) Detailed land use plan for all the areas coming within the lease, especially the portion adjacent to the Baitarni river, with detailed site plan and drawings.

**Agenda No. 2: Diversion of 66.294 hectare revenue forest land in favour of M/s. S.J.K. Powergen Limited for setting up of a thermal power plant in Lalpur village of Sohagpur Tehsil in Sahdol district of Madhya Pradesh (File No. 8-13/2011-FC)**

Due to paucity of time the proposal could not be examined in the meeting.

**Agenda No. 3: Prospecting of diamond at 143 additional locations in 2329.75 ha. forest land located in 18 compartments in Buxwaha Range in Chhatarpur district of Madhya Pradesh by M/s Rio Tinto Exploration India Private Limited. [File No. 8-49/2006-FC-(Vol.)]**

After careful examination of the proposal and interaction with representatives of the user agency, who made detailed presentation during the meeting, the FAC noted as below:

- (i) The forest land identified for prospecting is located within the Bunder Prospecting Lease (PL) of the said user agency. The user agency sought for and obtained prior approval of the Central Government under the FC Act for prospecting over an initial area of 2500 ha. The permission accorded allowed drilling of 66 slim holes and 7 large dia holes, in addition to pitting for

collection of bulk samples. The prior approval under the FC Act accorded by the MoEF vide its letter dated 05.07.2006 was valid for a period of 2 years.

- (ii) Considering the initial approval for prospecting accorded by the Central Government was valid for a period of 2 years, the user agency submitted an application seeking extension of the prior approval of the Central Government by one year. The user agency also submitted an application to obtain prior approval of the Central Government under the FC Act to drill additional 13 holes and to expand one pit from 40 sqm surface area to 500 sqm surface area. The MoEF vide their letter dated 05.06.2009 accorded prior permission of the Central Government under the FC Act to extend the validity period of its initial approval dated 05.07.2006 for a further period of one year and to permit drilling of additional 13 holes and to expand one pit from 40 sqm surface area to 500 sqm surface area.
- (iii) The investigation conducted so far resulted in the discovery of a dimondiferous kimberlite cluster located in the south central part of the PL area. Most of the drilling conducted to date was aimed at delineation of this ore body and testing and evaluation of the same. The User agency in the process, established a reserve of 37 million tonne that could support a significant diamond mine, subject to techno-economic feasibility. The feasibility work will require further drilling in and around the ore body to determine the characteristics of the ore rock itself and the host rock surrounding the pipes. The user agency have also conducted limited work over rest of the PL that resulted in identification of several anomalies that could host additional kimberlite bodies and would require to be tested by drilling. In view of the above the User Agency prepared a composite plan of drilling as detailed below, which they intend to implement before the expiry of the renewal period of the PL on 05.09.2011.

<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Depths</b>	<b>Number of Sites</b>
Grade sampling (large dia.)	300- 350 m	24
HQ size drilling for geotechnical investigation, sterilization, hydrogeological exploration, foundation investigation for waste rock and processed kimberlite areas	10-500 m	80
HQ size Geophysical & protect peripheral kimberlite target testing and ore body delineation	500-600 m	39
<b>Total</b>		<b>143</b>

- (iv) Legal status of the forest land identified for prospecting is Protected Forest;
- (v) Crown density of the vegetation available in the forest land identified for prospecting varies from 0.10 to 0.60;
- (vi) The local Divisional Forest Officer has observed that the forest land identified for prospecting bears dense forest with good regeneration. The machines required for deep bore holes will occupy lot of space and damage regeneration. The noise made during boring affects the wildlife found in the area. Hence, the number of bore holes be reduced to one third amongst all three categories as proposed. Environment Impact Assessment study be conducted before consideration.
- (vii) The State Government recommended to accord permission for drilling of 138 bore holes, excluding the 5 bore holes whose drilling requires felling of trees during the validity period of the current prospecting license ending on September, 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011;
- (viii) The representative of the User agency present in the meeting however asserted that none of the holes/pits proposed to be drilled by them involves felling of trees; and
- (ix) Ministry has received a complaint wherein violations of the conditions stipulated in the approvals accorded in the past to the same user agency in the same area has been alleged.

The FAC after detailed deliberations recommended as below:

- (i) Requirement for the number and spatial distribution of the holes/pits proposed to be drilled by the user agency needs to be assessed and confirmed by the appropriate technical authority/organization. The Ministry may therefore seek opinion of the concerned technical authority/organization in the matter; and
- (ii) The Ministry may send a copy of the complaint received by it to the State Government of Madhya Pradesh and request them to submit a report on veracity of its contents.

**Agenda No. 4: Change of land use for 9.85 ha. out of 29.85 ha. forest land diverted in favour of Singareni Collieries Company Limited for their Khairaguda Underground Mining Project [File No. 8-28/1994-FC (pt.)]**

Due to paucity of time the proposal could not be examined in the meeting.

**Agenda 5: Matter pertaining to suspension of the approval accorded under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 110.87 ha. forest land in Kothaguda Reserve Forest in Ranga Reddy District of Andhra Pradesh in favour of Andhra Pradesh Forest Development Corporation**

**(APFDC) Ltd. for execution of an Eco-Tourism Project (File No. 8-132/2003-FC)**

The FAC discussed the matter in details. The Managing Director, the Andhra Pradesh Forest Development Corporation (APFDC) and the representatives of Lumbini SLN Springs Welfare Association made separate presentations. Representatives of the project proponents of the three components of the eco-development project were heard briefly and advised to join the presentation by the APFDC in subsequent meetings.

It is recorded for reference that the MD, APFDC has in the course of presentation stated that the entire area was a rocky, barren wasteland with no presence of wildlife at all, except a few remnant eucalyptus trees, lantana thickets and shrubs. The MD, APFDC was asked to place on record any reservation he may have on the type of structures & activities proposed in their plan and he has categorically expressed that he has no such reservation. He however, accepted that inclusion of "Indian wildlife" section in the revised management plan was a contradiction and admitted that it had been introduced inadvertently.

The petitioner against the project in their presentation also displayed photographs of the area to prove that it was a good habitat for local wildlife such as pea fowl and even wild boar (a photograph of a juvenile wild boar captured within the site in the course of cleaning was shown). They stated that the wildlife was being captured and trans-located to other forest blocks. The documents and photographs submitted by different parties were ordered to be taken on record. It is also recorded here that one of the representatives of the partner companies started raising his voice in a berating and apparently intimidating manner, upon which the chairman was forced to admonish him and expressed the hope that he would present his case in the next meeting through the APFDC in a more becoming manner.

The FAC after detailed deliberations recommended as below:

- (i) The user agency *i.e.* the APFDC shall look into stated preamble of their proposal and explain how the activities proposed to be undertaken by them conform with the aims and objectives enunciated therein and their own stated definition of eco-tourism as 'not same as mass tourism and as something which leaves no impact but footprints';
- (ii) The user agency shall submit the following information/ document pertaining to the activities proposed to be undertaken by them on the forest land diverted in favour of them:
  - (a) A copy of the detailed plans and to-the-scale drawings of the each and every activity and structure proposed to be undertaken by them in the said forest land including all paved over areas, covered areas, walls etc. apart from buildings, office blocks, etc.;

- (b) Details of their business plan including the details of original and the present outlay of the project, estimated annual earnings, sharing pattern between the concerned project proponents and the APFDC *etc.*;
  - (c) Details along with a copy of the plan, estimates and drawings of the proposal submitted to the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) to obtain clearances for the project;
  - (d) Details of the nature and quantity of the waste likely to be generated from the project and the plan for its handling and disposal; and
  - (e) Annual requirement of water, fuel, energy and electricity including, the details of the means of providing them.
- (iii) The user agency shall give information on the status of compliance with all other laws and statutory requirements including zoning laws, GHDC regulations, environment clearance *etc.* ; and
- (iv) In the meantime the Chief Conservator of Forests (CCF), Southern Regional Office, Bangalore of the Ministry with the help of the State Forest Department will undertake full documentation of the present status of activity on the forest land including survey and mapping of all structures, cuttings, excavations, tree felling *etc.* and photographs taken on the site and certified with date by all the parties including representatives of the petitioner *i.e.* Lumbini SLN Springs Welfare Association. After this is done the Regional CCF shall issue instructions to the APFDC to fill up all dug out pits & cuttings and restore vegetation of local prevalence before the onset of the rainy season wherever the soil has been laid bare, and refrain from any operations as already instructed.

**Agenda No. 6.: Collection of stone, boulders and other minor minerals from 1497 ha. area in river bed of Gola river for a period of ten years by the Uttarakhand Forest Development Corporation (8-61/1999-FC)**

The FAC examined the proposal in detail. The FAC also discussed the matter with the PCCF, Uttarakhand and representatives of the Uttarakhand Forest Development Corporation, Wildlife Trust of India, Wildlife Institute of India (WII) and Sanskara (a local NGO) present during the meeting. The representatives of the State Forest Department and Sanskara made detailed presentations.

After detailed examination of the proposal and interaction with the officials/experts, the FAC observed as below:

- (i) A narrow strip of land passing through the IOC depot, Railways siding, nursery, ITBP campus *etc.*, to be named as 'Gola corridor', is the only feasible path for movement of elephant and other wild animals across the Gola river.

Restoration of the Gola corridor is therefore crucial for long term survival of the wildlife, especially the long ranging animals such as elephants, in the region. Hence, whatever open land is still available in this strip should be so maintained, in the hope that the built up portion could be restored sometime in the future;

- (ii) To eliminate disturbance from collection of minor minerals on movement of wild animals across the Gola corridor, collection of minor minerals in a 2.50 km long stretch of river bed located on Gola corridor needs to be prohibited;
- (iii) The reports submitted by the Wildlife Institute of India and the Central Soil and Water Conservation Research and Training Institute (CSWCRTI), Dehradun indicates that non-collection of minor minerals from the said 2.50 km stretch does not seem to have significant adverse impact on flow pattern of the river . The PCCF, Uttarakhand and the representative of the WII, Dehradun present during the meeting confirmed the same; and
- (iv) As per the preliminary report submitted by the CSWCRTI 54.25 lakh cubic meter RBM may be extracted from the above area in a year.

The FAC after detailed deliberations recommended for renewal of the earlier permission accorded by the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, for collection of minor minerals from the 1497 ha. area located on river bed of the Gola river for working up to end of May 2012, subject to the general conditions, and the following additional conditions:

- (i) The State Government and the user agency shall work with local residents of Bindu Katha to give safe and interrupted passage to the wild animals passing through the Gola corridor, expedite payment of compensation in case of any damage to property etc. and generally increase awareness of the methods of co-existence of man and wildlife;
- (ii) The State Government shall not allow any new facility/ structure within the Gola corridor to ensure its restoration in future. The State Government shall also ensure that the boundary of the ITBP battalion headquarters be shifted towards south so as to ensure that it is located entirely on southern side of the Gola corridor and that the corridor is maintained free of fresh obstructions from the Highway/ Railway line upto the Bindu Katha settlement;
- (iii) To eliminate disturbance from collection of minor minerals on movement of wild animals along the Gola corridor, collection of minor minerals in a 2.50 km long stretch of the river bed located on the Gola corridor shall be prohibited;
- (iv) The State Government shall assess the exact area of portion of the forest land identified for collection of minor mineral after excluding the said 2.50 km long



stretch located on both sides of the Gola corridor and shall before issue of final approval intimate the same to the Ministry of Environment & Forests along with a duly authenticated Survey of India toposheet, in original, in 1:50,000 scale indicating the boundary of the forest land identified for collection of minor mineral and the said 2.50 km long no collection zone;

- (v) To ensure long term survival of the wildlife in the important habitats located on Northern side of the Ramnagar - Haldwani State Highway the State Government shall initiate appropriate measures to improve conservation status of the areas such as Pawalgarh and Nandhor by notifying them as Wildlife Sanctuaries. This should be done in the time bound manner before applying for further extension of this permission;
- (vi) The State Government shall constitute a committee under Chairmanship of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Uttarakhand and having the representative of the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Wildlife Institute of India and NGOs such as Sanskara, WWF-India, WTI, IUCN etc. as its members to review annually the status of compliance of the stipulated conditions and issue appropriate direction to the user agency in case of any deviation as well as any hazard due to non-removal of minor minerals from the protected corridor;
- (vii) To ensure extraction of minor minerals in a sustainable manner the user agency shall formulate a transparent and unbiased procedure to engage labourers for extraction of the minor minerals from the forest land proposed for diversion;
- (viii) Fifty percent of the net profit earned by the user agency from the collection of minor minerals shall be deposited to a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) to be constituted by the State Government under the Chairmanship of the Chief Wildlife Warden, Government of Uttarakhand. The amount to be deposited in the SPV shall be used exclusively for river training activities and management & protection of forest & wildlife in vicinity of forest land diverted for collection of minor minerals;
- (ix) The total quantity of minor minerals extracted during a year shall not be more than 54.25 lakh cubic meter;
- (x) Extraction of minor minerals shall be restricted to the middle half of the of the width of river bed after leaving intact one-fourth of width of the river bed along its each bank;
- (xi) To ensure maintenance of river geometry, collection of minor minerals during a working season shall start from centre of the river width and shall gradually extend to the boundary of the permissible area. The maximum permissible depth for collection of minor minerals at centre of the river width shall be

limited to 3m and it shall gradually be reduced till it reaches boundary of the permissible zone;

- (xii) To regulate and maintain record of the quantity of minor minerals extracted during a season, the State Forest Department shall set up adequate number of check posts during the collection season;
- (xiii) Extraction of minor mineral shall be restricted from 1<sup>st</sup> October to 31<sup>st</sup> May of the subsequent year. The present permission covers the working period up to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2011, and subsequently from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2011 to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2012, after which the matter will be considered again by the FAC, on application and receipt of compliance;
- (xiv) Minor minerals shall be collected by manually by using hand tools. Use of explosive and heavy machineries for breaking/collection of minor minerals shall be strictly prohibited;
- (xv) Collection time shall be from sun-rise to sun-set;
- (xvi) No labour camp shall be set up in the forest area for the labourers engaged in collection of the minor minerals;
- (xvii) Breaking of boulders shall be undertaken outside the forest boundaries; and
- (xviii) The labourers engaged in collection work shall be provided free of cost, fuel wood/alternate source of energy to avoid any pressure on adjoining forests.

**Agenda- 7: Renewal of the earlier approval accorded by the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for collection of minor minerals from 384.69 ha. forest land located in river bed of Sharda river in Champawat district of Uttarakhand for a further period of 10 years [File No. 8-61/1999-FC (pt.-III)]**

The FAC examined the proposal in detail. The FAC also discussed the matter with the PCCF, Uttarakhand and representatives of the Uttarakhand Forest Development Corporation, Wildlife Trust of India, Wildlife Institute of India (WII) and Sanskara present during the meeting. The representatives of the State Forest Department and Sanskara made detailed presentations.

After detailed examination of the proposal and interaction with the officials/experts, the FAC observed as below:

- (i) Final report of the study assigned to the WII, Dehradun to assess/identify and suggest appropriate ameliorative measures to eliminate/minimize the adverse impacts, if any, of the collection of minor minerals from river beds on the wildlife in general, and migratory corridors in particular, has not been received by the Ministry of Environment & Forests, so far;

- (ii) The area located on northern side of the Sharda Barrage is an important habitat of the wildlife. It has been agreed that no permission will be sought or given for collection of minor mineral from portion of the Sharda river located on upstream side of the Sharda barrage; and
- (iii) Non grant of permission for collection of minor minerals is causing widespread public resentment, and is also one of the main reasons for illegal collection of minor minerals from the above area.

The FAC after detailed deliberations recommended that pending receipt of the final report of the study assigned to the WII, the earlier permission accorded by the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, for collection of minor minerals from the 384.69 ha. forest land located in river bed of Sharda river in Champawat district of Uttarakhand may be renewed till the end of the next working season (*i.e.* till 31.05.2012), subject to the general conditions, and the following additional conditions:

- (i) The State Government of Uttarakhand shall submit the final report of the study assigned to Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun to assess/identify and suggest appropriate ameliorative measures to eliminate/minimize the adverse impacts, if any, of the collection of minor minerals from river beds on the wildlife in general, and migratory corridors in particular;
- (ii) No collection of minor minerals shall be permitted from the portion of the Sharda river located on upstream of the Sharda barrage;
- (iii) The State Government shall assess the exact area of portion of the forest land located on downstream side of the Sharda barrage and intimate the same to the Ministry of Environment & Forests along with a duly authenticated Survey of India toposheet, in original, in 1:50,000 scale indicating location of the said forest land before issue of the final approval;
- (iv) To ensure extraction of minor minerals in a sustainable manner the user agency shall formulate a transparent and unbiased procedure to engage labourers for extraction of the minor minerals from the forest land proposed for diversion;
- (v) The State Government shall constitute a committee under Chairmanship of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Uttarakhand and having the representative of the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Wildlife Institute of India and NGOs such as Sanskara, WWF-India, WTI, IUCN etc. as its members to review annually the status of compliance of the stipulated

conditions and issue appropriate direction to the User Agency in case of any deviation;

- (vi) To ensure long term survival of the wildlife in the important habitats located on Northern side of the Ramnagar - Haldwani State Highway the State Government shall initiate appropriate measures to improve conservation status of the areas such as Pawalgarh and Nandhor by notifying them as Wildlife Sanctuaries. This should be done in the time bound manner before applying for further extension of the permission after this permission;
- (vii) Fifty percent of the net profit earned by the user agency from the collection of minor minerals shall be deposited to a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) to be constituted by the State Government under the Chairmanship of the Chief Wildlife Warden, Government of Uttarakhand. The amount to be deposited in the SPV shall be used exclusively for river training activities and management & protection of forest & wildlife in vicinity of forest land diverted for collection of minor minerals;
- (viii) The State Government shall through the Central Soil and Water Conservation Research & Training Institute (CSWCRTI), Dehradun assess the quantity of the minor minerals that may sustainably be collected from the said portion of the Sharda river and intimate the same to the Ministry of Environment & Forests;
- (ix) The quantity of minor mineral collected during a working season shall not be more than the sustainable quantity as assessed by the CSWCRTI, Dehradun;
- (x) Extraction of minor minerals shall be restricted to middle half of the width of river bed after leaving intact the one-fourth of width of the river bed along its each bank;
- (xi) To ensure maintenance of river geometry, collection of minor minerals during a working season shall start from centre of the river width and shall gradually extend to the boundary of the permissible area. The maximum permissible depth for collection of minor minerals at centre of the river width shall be limited to 3 m and it shall gradually reduce till it reaches boundary of the permissible zone;
- (xii) To regulate and maintain record of the quantity of minor minerals extracted during a season State Forest Department shall set up adequate number of check posts during the collection season;

- (xiii) Extraction of minor mineral shall be restricted from 1<sup>st</sup> October to 31<sup>st</sup> May of the subsequent year. The present permission covers the working period up to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2011, and subsequently from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2011 to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2012, after which the matter will be considered again by the FAC, on application and receipt of compliance;
- (xiv) Minor minerals shall be collected by manually by using hand tools. Use of explosive and heavy machineries for breaking/collection of minor minerals shall be strictly prohibited;
- (xv) Collection time shall be from sun-rise to sun-set;
- (xvi) No labour camp shall be set up in the forest area for the labourers engaged in collection of the minor minerals;
- (xvii) Breaking of boulders shall be undertaken outside the forest boundaries; and
- (xviii) The labourers engaged in collection work will be provided free fuelwood/alternate source of energy to avoid any pressure on adjoining forest land.

**Agenda 8: Renewal of the earlier approval accorded by the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for collection of minor minerals from 254.00 ha. forest land located in river bed of Kosi river in Nainital district of Uttarakhand for a further period of 10 years [File No. 8-61/ 1999-FC (pt.-I)]**

The FAC examined the proposal in detail. The FAC also discussed the matter with the PCCF, Uttarakhand and representatives of the Uttarakhand Forest Development Corporation, Wildlife Trust of India, Wildlife Institute of India (WII) and Sanskara present during the meeting. The representatives of the State Forest Department and Sanskara made detailed presentations.

After detailed examination of the proposal and interaction with the officials/experts, the FAC observed as below:

- (i) Final report of the study assigned to Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun to assess/identify and suggest appropriate ameliorative measures to eliminate/minimize the adverse impacts, if any, of the collection of minor minerals from river beds on the wildlife in general, and migratory corridors in particular, has not been received by the Ministry of Environment & Forests, so far;

- (ii) Non grant of permission for collection of minor minerals is causing widespread public resentment, and is also one of the main reason for illegal collection of minor minerals from the above area;
- (iii) The area located on northern side of the Ramnagar Haldwani State Highway is an important habitat for wildlife. The entire area from which the minor minerals are proposed to be collected is however, located on southern side of the said highways;
- (iv) The forest land proposed for diversion is located at 3 km distance from the Corbet National Park; and
- (v) As per the preliminary report submitted by the Central Soil and Water Conservation Research and Training Institute (CSWCRTI) 20.30 lakh cubic meter RBM may be extracted from the above area in a year.

The FAC after detailed deliberations recommended that pending receipt of the final report of the study assigned to the WII, the earlier permission accorded by the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, for collection of minor minerals from the 254.00 ha. forest land located in river bed of Kosi river in Nainital district may be renewed till the end of the next working season (*i.e.* till 31.05.2012), subject to the general conditions, and the following additional conditions:

- (i) The State Government of Uttarakhand shall submit the final report of the study assigned to Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun to assess/identify and suggest appropriate ameliorative measures to eliminate/minimize the adverse impacts, if any, of the collection of minor minerals from river beds on the wildlife in general, and migratory corridors in particular;
- (ii) To ensure long term survival of the wildlife in the important habitats located on Northern side of the Ramnagar - Haldwani State Highway the State Government shall initiate appropriate measures to improve conservation status of the areas such as Pawalgarh and Nandhor by notifying them as Wildlife Sanctuaries;
- (iii) As the forest land proposed for diversion is located at less than 10 kilometre distance from a protected area, the EIA of the project shall be placed before the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL);
- (iv) To ensure extraction of minerals in a sustainable manner the user agency shall formulate a transparent and unbiased procedure to engage labourers for extraction of the minor minerals from the forest land proposed for diversion;

- (v) The State Government shall constitute a committee under Chairmanship of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Uttarakhand and having the representative of the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Wildlife Institute of India and NGOs such as Sanskara, WWF-India, WTI, IUCN etc. as its members to review annually the status of compliance of the stipulated conditions and issue appropriate direction to the User Agency in case of any deviation;
- (vi) Fifty percent of the net profit earned by the user agency from the collection of minor minerals shall be deposited to a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) to be constituted by the State Government under the Chairmanship of the Chief Wildlife Warden, Government of Uttarakhand. The amount to be deposited in the SPV shall be used exclusively for river training activities and management & protection of forest & wildlife in vicinity of forest land diverted for collection of minor minerals;
- (vii) The total quantity of minor minerals extracted during a year shall not be more than 20.30 lakh cubic meter;
- (viii) Extraction of minor minerals shall be restricted to middle half of the of the width of river bed after leaving intact the one-fourth of width of the river bed along its each bank;
- (ix) To ensure maintenance of river geometry, collection of minor minerals during a working season shall start from centre of the river width and shall gradually extend to the boundary of the permissible area. The maximum permissible depth for collection of minor minerals at centre of the river width shall be limited to 3m and it shall gradually reduce till it reaches boundary of the permissible zone;
- (x) To regulate and maintain record of the quantity of minor minerals extracted during a season, the State Forest Department shall set up adequate number of check posts during the collection season;
- (xi) Extraction of minor mineral shall be restricted from 1<sup>st</sup> October to 31<sup>st</sup> May of the subsequent year. The present permission covers the working period up to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2011, and subsequently from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2011 to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2012, after which the matter will be considered again by the FAC, on application and receipt of compliance;

- (xii) Minor minerals shall be collected by manually by using hand tools. Use of explosive and heavy machineries for breaking/collection of minor minerals shall be strictly prohibited;
- (xiii) Collection time shall be from sun-rise to sun-set;
- (xiv) No labour camp shall be set up in the forest area for the labourers engaged in collection of the minor minerals;
- (xv) Breaking of boulders shall be undertaken outside the forest boundaries; and
- (xvi) The labourers engaged in collection work will be provided free fuelwood/alternate source of energy to avoid any pressure on adjoining forest land.

**Agenda-9: Renewal of the earlier approval accorded by the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for collection of minor minerals from 223.00 ha. forest land located in river bed of Dabka river in Nainital district of Uttarakhand for a further period of 10 years [File No. 8-61/ 1999-FC (pt.-II)]**

The FAC examined the proposal in detail. The FAC also discussed the matter with the representatives of the State Forest Department, Uttarakhand Forest Development Corporation, Wildlife Trust of India, World Wildlife Fund-India, Wildlife Institute of India (WII) and Sanskara present during the meeting. The representative of the State Forest Department and Sanskara present in the meeting made detailed presentation during the meeting.

After detailed examination of the proposal and interaction with the officials/experts, the FAC observed as below:

- (i) Final report of the study assigned to Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun to assess/identify and suggest appropriate ameliorative measures to eliminate/minimize the adverse impacts, if any, of the collection of minor minerals from river beds on the wildlife in general, and migratory corridors in particular, has not been received by the Ministry of Environment & Forests, so far;
- (ii) The area located on northern side of the Ramnagar- Haldwani State Highway is an important habitat of the wildlife. It has been agreed that no permission will be sought or given for collection of minor mineral from portion of the Dabka river located on upstream side of the Ramnagar -Haldwani State Highways; and



- (iii) Non grant of permission for collection of minor minerals is causing widespread public resentment, and is also one of the main reasons for illegal collection of minor minerals from the above area.

The FAC after detailed deliberations recommended that pending receipt of the final report of the study assigned to the WII, the earlier permission accorded by the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, for collection of minor minerals from the 223.00 ha. forest land located in river bed of Dabka river in Nainital district of Uttarakhand may be renewed till the end of the next working season (*i.e.* till 30.06.2012), subject to the general conditions, and the following additional conditions:

- (i) The State Government of Uttarakhand shall submit the final report of the study assigned to Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun to assess/identify and suggest appropriate ameliorative measures to eliminate/minimize the adverse impacts, if any, of the collection of minor minerals from river beds on the wildlife in general, and migratory corridors in particular;
- (ii) No collection of minor minerals shall be permitted from the portion of the Dabka river located on northern side of the Ramnagar Haldwani Highway;
- (iii) The State Government shall measure the exact area of portion of the forest land located on southern side of the Ramnagar Haldwani Highway and intimate the same to the Ministry of Environment & Forests along with a duly authenticated Survey of India toposheet, in original, in 1:50,000 scale indicating boundary of the said forest land before issue of the final approval;
- (iv) To ensure long term survival of the wildlife in the important habitats located on Northern side of the Ramnagar - Haldwani State Highway the State Government shall initiate appropriate measures to improve conservation status of the areas such as Pawalgarh and Nandhor by notifying them as Wildlife Sanctuaries;
- (v) The State Government shall constitute a committee under Chairmanship of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Uttarakhand and having the representative of the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Wildlife Institute of India and NGOs such as Sanskara, WWF-India, WTI, IUCN etc. as its members to review annually the status of compliance of the stipulated conditions and issue appropriate direction to the User Agency in case of any deviation;
- (vi) The State Government shall through the Central Soil and Water Conservation Research & Training Institute (CSWCRTI), Dehradun assess the quantity of

the minor minerals that may sustainably be collected from the said portion of the Dabka river and intimate the same to the Ministry of Environment & Forests;

- (vii) The quantity of minor mineral collected during a working season shall not be more than the sustainable quantity as assessed by the CSWCRTI, Dehradun;
- (viii) To ensure extraction of minerals in a sustainable manner the user agency shall formulate a transparent and unbiased procedure to engage labourers for extraction of the minor minerals from the forest land proposed for diversion;
- (ix) Fifty percent of the net profit earned by the user agency from the collection of minor minerals shall be deposited to a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) to be constituted by the State Government under the Chairmanship of the Chief Wildlife Warden, Government of Uttarakhand. The amount to be deposited in the SPV shall be used exclusively for river training activities and management & protection of forest & wildlife in vicinity of forest land diverted for collection of minor minerals;
- (x) Extraction of minor minerals shall be restricted to middle half of the of the width of river bed after leaving intact the one-fourth of width of the river bed along its each bank;
- (xi) To ensure maintenance of river geometry, collection of minor minerals during a working season shall start from centre of the river width and shall gradually extend to the boundary of the permissible area. The maximum permissible depth for collection of minor minerals at centre of the river width shall be limited to 3 m and it shall gradually reduce till it reaches boundary of the permissible zone;
- (xii) To regulate and maintain record of the quantity of minor minerals extracted during a season, the State Forest Department shall set up adequate number of check posts during the collection season;
- (xiii) Extraction of minor mineral shall be restricted from 1<sup>st</sup> October to 31<sup>st</sup> May of the subsequent year. The present permission covers the working period up to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2011, and subsequently from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2011 to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2012, after which the matter will be considered again by the FAC, on application and receipt of compliance;

- (xiv) Minor minerals shall be collected by manually by using hand tools. Use of explosive and heavy machineries for breaking/collection of minor minerals shall be strictly prohibited.;
- (xv) Collection time shall be from sun-rise to sun-set;
- (xvi) No labour camp shall be set up in the forest area for the labourers engaged in collection of the minor minerals;
- (xvii) Breaking of boulders shall be undertaken outside the forest boundaries; and
- (xviii) The labourers engaged in collection work will be provided free fuelwood/alternate source of energy to avoid any pressure on adjoining forest land.

**Agenda 10- Diversion of 121.854 ha. forest land in favour of Rail Vikas Nigam Limited for laying of New Obulavaripalli - Venkatachalam reach Broad Gauge Railways line from Km 22.4 to 36.5/43 to 43.5/ 47.8 & 80.7 to 84.5 in Reserved Forests of Nellore and Rajampet Divisions (File No. 8-35/2011-FC)**

Due to paucity of time the proposal could not be examined in the meeting.

**Agenda 11: Diversion of 445 ha. forest land in favour of Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation Limited (APIIC), Hyderabad for establishment of a Pulp and Paper Industry in Kistagar Reserved Forest of Paloncha Forest Division in Khammam district of Andhra Pradesh by M/s. ITC Industries Ltd. (File No. 8-19/2011-FC)**

Due to paucity of time the proposal could not be examined in the meeting.

**B. PROPOSALS DEALT BY SHRI UMAKANT, AIGF**

**Number of Proposals: 14  
Number of Pages: 5**

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Decision of FAC</b>
<b>1.</b>	Diversion of 139.00 ha of forest land for Jitpur Open Cast Coal Mining project in favour of M/s. Jindal Steel & Power Limited in Godda Forest Division in Godda district of Jharkhand. (F. No. 8-24/2010 - FC)
	<b>Deferred due to the paucity of time.</b>
<b>2.</b>	Diversion of 371.07 ha of forest land for captive coal mining in Pachwara North

	<p>block in favour of M/s Bengal Emta Coal Mines Limited in Pakur Forest Division in Pakur district of Jharkhand. (F. No. 8-37/2010-FC)</p>
	<p>The FAC considered the proposal and also heard the project proponent. It was informed to the FAC that the proposal was earlier discussed in the Committee on 25<sup>th</sup> October, 2010 and following queries were sought from the State Government.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Total number of coal blocks identified, permitted and proposed in the area.</li> <li>ii. The details of plan for engaging local people in the project.</li> <li>iii. The correct enumeration of the trees in different girth classes.</li> <li>iv. As there are 391 families to be displaced, the project proponent to provide information on settlement of rights under FRA 2006, even though no villages fall within the forest area.</li> </ol> <p>In response, the State Government has submitted that Pachwara Coal Block has been divided into Pachwara North, Pachwara South and Pachwara Central. Urma Pahari Tola Block is located towards East of the Pachwara Central. Pachwara Central and Urma Pahari Tola have been allocated whereas Pachawar South has not been allocated as yet. Altogether 391 families are to be displaced. The FAC noted that RR Policy for the PAF has been formulated and will be made applicable. A provision of minimum 2.5% of the Net Profit of Rs. 2.00 crore / year has been made for CSR of the area within 15 km of the project. Detailed enumeration of tree list has also been provided by the User Agency which includes 62,340 trees having less than 60 cm girth and 16,513 trees having more than 60 cm girth. CA has been proposed on equivalent non-forest land in Pakur Forest Division. The CCF (Central), Bhubaneswar has recommended the proposal with certain submissions which include a suggestion for preparation and implementation of Regional Forest Conservation Plan for protection and improvement of forest and wildlife. Proportionate contribution from all project proponents of the region may be asked for.</p> <p><b>The Committee discussed the proposal in detail and also heard the project proponent. The FAC recommended the proposal for approval subject to standard conditions and stipulations put forth by the Regional CCF, Bhubaneswar while forwarding the proposal to the Ministry of Environment &amp; Forests. It was also emphasized that ample care should be taken while reclaiming the mined area by employing suitable top soil management scheme and ensuring plantation of native species of the area.</b></p>
3.	<p>Diversion of 79.56 ha of forest land for iron ore mining in East Bhanupratapur Forest Division in favour of M/s Monnet Ispat &amp; Energy Limited in Kanker district of Chhattisgarh. (Deferred item) (F. No. 8-81/2010-FC)</p>
	<p><b>Deferred due to the paucity of time.</b></p>
4.	<p>(a) Diversion of 209.814 ha of forest land for construction of Railway line from Tori to Shivpur in the State of Jharkand. (F. No. 8-72/2008-FC)</p> <p>(b) Diversion of 168.112 ha of forest land for the construction of Railway Line</p>

	<p>between Hazaribagh to Shivpur in the State of Jharkhand. (F. No. 8-106/2007-FC)</p>
	<p>The FAC considered the proposals which were earlier rejected by the Ministry. However, on the request of State Government, the proposals were considered by the FAC once again and the State Government was requested to look into the possibility of re-alignment of the railway lines. The FAC again deliberated on the exercise of re-alignment done by the State Government.</p> <p><b>The Committee considered the proposal and heard the project proponent also. The two diversion proposals under consideration were treated separately and as independent ones. The diversion proposal for Shivpur-Tori Railway Line was found to be convincing after the realignment exercise undertaken by the project proponent that resulted in reduction in requirement of forest land from 219.814 ha to 197.933 ha. Also it was observed that the new alignment of the Shivpur-Tori rail line has been taken as far as possible along the periphery of the degraded forest reducing the trees to be felled from 16,396 to 10,878. The Committee recommended that the State Government shall ensure that no movement of railway rakes takes place between 12.00 (Midnight) to 5.00 AM during night hours. The Committee recommended regular monitoring of impact of the project and railway operations on the wildlife of the area under the guidance of the CWLW, and if required, more restrictions should be imposed.</b></p> <p><b>Approval accorded for the Shivpur-Tori railway line does not impose any obligation on the Ministry to accord approval for Hazaribagh-Shivpur railway line which shall be considered separately.</b></p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Diversion of forest land for widening of NH-24 in districts Lakhimpur Khiri (32.35 ha), Hardoi (12.13 ha) and Bareilly (34.409) ha (Total 78.889 ha) of Uttar Pradesh. (F. No. 8-30/2011-FC)</p>
	<p>The FAC considered the proposal and noted that the diversion of 78.889 ha Protected Forest land is required for widening of NH-24 in three districts – Lakhimpur Khiri (32.35 ha), Hardoi (12.13 ha) and Bareilly (34.409 ha) in Uttar Pradesh. Existing RoW is 12 m which includes carriage way 7 m and shoulder of 2.5 m on either side of the road. The proposed RoW is 60 m but the PF involved on one side of the road is 8 m only and on the other side it is 20 m. The proposal includes 10 m width on either side of the road for Avenue Plantation in Hardoi and Lakhimpur Khiri districts and 5m / 15m on either sides of the road in Bareilly district. The Committee noted that the number of trees proposed to be felled for this project is 12,131, comprising of 3191 no. of Eucalyptus trees and other trees, below 60 cm - 1469 no. and above 60 cm - 7471 nos., making it total to 8940 nos. The species includes Arjun, Neem, Aam, Sheesam, Mahua, Jamun, Semal, Peepal, Kadamb and Amaltas, etc.</p> <p>The Committee desired to have following information for further consideration –</p> <p>(a) Sample photographs of the trees having more than 60 cm girth;  (b) Possibility of eccentric alignment of the road for the purpose of saving</p>

	<p>exiting old trees; and</p> <p>(c) Possibility of taking up separate carriage way in lieu of proposed diversion of protected forests.</p>
6.	<p>Diversion of 494.1455 ha of forest land for construction of drinking water supply project for Thane Municipal Corporation on Shai River Project in Thane district of Maharashtra. (F. No. 8-90/2010-FC)</p>
	<p>The FAC considered the proposal and noted that the proposal was earlier discussed in FAC meeting held on 10.03.2011. The FAC noted that diversion of forest land is meant for construction of an earthen dam for drinking water on Shai river in Thane district of Maharashtra. Out of the total forest land required for the project, 319.0920 ha is Wood land Protected Forest, 19.429 ha is Reserved Forest and 155.6245 ha is Private Forest. At FRL-4, the number of trees affected will be 42,256. Altogether, areas of 13 villages will go under submergence fully and that of 7 villages partly, involving a population of 5124. It was also noted that 263 SC families and 593 ST families are getting affected by the project.</p> <p>As recommended by the FAC on 10.03.2011, the State Government has submitted the RR Plan in accordance with the State Government's Policy and draft policy of GoI Guideline, 2007. Regarding information on details of the land on which RR will be accomplished and the proof of adequate funds to meet the expenses in a designated escrow account, the Committee noted that the State Government has submitted an MoU signed between Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority and the Executive Director, Kokan Irrigation Development Corporation, Thane wherein clause B.1 shows a binding on the part of the parties to bear the actual expenditure with regard to the RR Plan.</p> <p><b>The Committee heard the project proponent as well. After detailed discussions, the Committee recommended the proposal for approval subject to standard conditions. The Committee also stipulated strict compliance of (a) RR Plan by ensuring proof of acquisition of the land parcels particularly earmarked for resettlement of PAF, and (b) execution of provisions of compensatory afforestation before seeking final approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The CA work in catchment areas should be done by involving local people through the Joint Forest Management (JFM) approach.</b></p>
7.	<p>Diversion of 30 Sq. Km. of forest land for AIZWAL district for Serlui 'B' Hydel Project, Mizoram (F. No. 8-202/87-FC)</p>
	<p><b>Deferred due to the paucity of time.</b></p>
8.	<p>Diversion of 196.75 ha of forest land for construction of road from NH-54 to Indo-Myanmar Border under Kaladan Multi-Modal Trade-Route in the State of Mizoram. (F. No. 8-22/2010-FC)</p>
	<p><b>Deferred.</b></p>
9.	<p>Diversion of 29.382 ha of Sanctuary in Reserve Forest land for 400 KV/DC,</p>

	Mundra-Vadavi, Mundra-Limadi and Mundra-Jetpur Electric line at Piprala S.N. 42 Pt Ta. Santalpur, Dist. Patan in favour of Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd., Mehsana in Mehsana District of Gujarat. (F. No. 8-57/2010-FC(Vol. I))
	<b>Deferred due to the paucity of time.</b>
<b>10.</b>	Complaint against the diversion proposal for construction of Upper Ganga Canal Expressway in violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, the Wildlife Protection Act and the Environment Protection Act. (F. No. 11-82/2011-FC)  Diversion of 782.478 ha of forest land for construction of Upper Ganga Canal 8 lane Express-Way Project in districts Muzaffarnagar, Meerut, Ghaziabad, Gautam Budh Nagar and Bulandshahar, Uttar Pradesh.(F. No. 8-88/2010-FC)
	As desired by DGF&SS, the FAC took note of the complaint recently received in the Ministry against the diversion proposal of 782.478 ha forest land for construction of Upper Ganga Canal 8 lane Express-Way Project in districts Muzaffarnagar, Meerut, Ghaziabad, Gautam Budh Nagar and Bulandshahar, Uttar Pradesh. The FAC was also informed that the Ministry has raised certain queries from the State Government for which reply is still awaited. The Committee desired to issue a reminder to the State Government for submission of the reply to the queries raised by the Ministry. A copy of the complaint should also be sent to the Environment Wing of the Ministry for their information and to take a decision while considering Environmental Clearance. Regional CCF, Lucknow should also be requested to furnish their comments on the said complaint submitted to the Ministry. The matter may be discussed once again in the FAC after receipt of requisite information and response from the concerned.
<b>11.</b>	Diversion of 163.84 ha of forest land for establishment of Adani Power Project in Garada Village of Tiroda Taluka in District Gondia, Maharashtra. (F. No. 8-19/2009-FC)
	<b>Deferred due to the paucity of time.</b>
<b>12.</b>	Diversion of 527.043 ha of forest land for coal mining from Hurra 'C' Mine Project located in Rajmahal area of Godda Forest Division in favour of M/s Eastern Coalfield Limited (ECL) in Godda district of Jharkhand. (F. No. 8-6/2009-FC)
	<b>Deferred due to the paucity of time.</b>
<b>13.</b>	Diversion of 131.62 ha of forest land for construction of 220 KV D/C Lohardaga - Latehar - Daltonganj transmission line in favour of M/s Jharkhand State Electricity Board in Ranchi West & Latehar Forest Division in Lohardaga & Latehar districts of Jharkhand. (F. No. 8-6/2011-FC)
	<b>Deferred due to the paucity of time.</b>
<b>14.</b>	Prospecting and exploration over an area of 3.5 sq km in Mauza Seregarha & Ganeshpur coal block of North Karanpura coalfield in favour of M/s Seregarha Mines Limited in Latehar Forest Division in Latehar district of Jharkhand. (F. No. 8-20/2011-FC)

	Deferred due to the paucity of time.
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**C. PROPOSALS DEALT BY SHRI RAJESH SHARMA, AIGF**

Total No. of proposals: 3

Total No. of pages: 2

Sl. No.	Decision of FAC
<b>1.</b>	<p><b>Reconsideration of earlier decision on diversion of 69.19 ha of forest land for upgradation &amp; realigning of existing 2 lane road to 4/6-lane from Jaipur to Jhalawar of NH-12 in favour of M/s National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) in Bundi and Kota Forest Divisions of Rajasthan (File No. 8-75/2010-FC)</b></p> <p>The Committee re-considered the proposal and also had interactions with representatives of the user agency, who made detailed presentation during the meeting. The FAC noted as below:</p> <p>(i) The Ministry vide its letter dated 10.01.2011 accorded stage-I approval for diversion of 69.19 ha of forest land for upgradation &amp; realignment of existing 2 lane road to 4/6-lane from Jaipur to Jhalawar of NH-12 in Bundi and Kota Forest Divisions of Rajasthan subject to certain conditions. However, the user agency requested the Ministry to withdrawn the following conditions stipulated in the Stage-I approval:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Condition No. 8: The ROW and the tree felling be restricted to only 30 meters through the forests areas.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Condition No. 17: The user agency will not collect any toll tax from the Forest department Vehicles.</i></p> <p>After detailed discussion and hearing the arguments of the project proponent, the Committee recommended the following:</p> <p>(i) The committee reconfirms that ROW may be restricted to 30 meters.</p> <p>(ii) At the entry and exit point of the tunnel, there is a requirement for wider ROW up to certain distance. To assess actual requirement of the ROW project proponent may be requested to provide separate orthogonal /plans with full justification for additional which may be considered;</p> <p>(iii) It is understood that the forest vehicles are already exempted from paying toll tax. A written confirmation for the same may however be obtained from the user agency.</p> <p>(iv) Other conditions stipulated in the stage-I approval accorded by this Ministry vide its letter dated 10.01.2011 shall remain unchanged.</p>
<b>2</b>	<p><b>Diversion of 71.84 ha of forest land for improvement of Changlang-Khonsa Road(23.40km to67.42km) of Arunachal Highway (NH-52 B) BY PWD under PM's package in Tirap District of Arunachal Pradesh.</b></p>
	<p>The Committee considered the proposal for diversion of 71.84 ha forest land for construction</p>



	<p>and improvement of 44.020 km Changlang-Khonsa Road(23.40km to67.42km) (NH-52 B) BY PWD in of Arunachal Pradesh. The width of the road is 15 meters in open areas and 12 meters in built up areas. This is a road of strategic importance and related to development of road infrastructure in the State. This road passes through hilly undulated terrain in a zigzag manner cutting across many streams, with a lot of earth cutting and filling, hence requires adequate measures to arrest soil erosion and landslides..The Committee also noted that the proposed area does not from part of any National Park, Sanctuary or Biosphere Reserve. The proposal involves felling of over 696 trees and the CA has been proposed over double the degraded forest land, i.e., 143.68 ha in Khonsa Forest division with financial outlay of Rs.2,07,29,000. No violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.</p> <p>After detailed discussion and hearing the arguments of the project proponent, the Committee recommended the proposal for diversion of the said forest land subject to <b>general conditions and standard conditions applicable to the diversion of forest land for construction of border roads in hilly terrain.</b></p>
<p><b>3.</b></p>	<p><b>Diversion of 78.45 ha of forest land for construction of 96 MW Nafra Hydro Electric Project in West Kameng District of Arunachal Pradesh in favour of M/s Sew Nafra Power Corporation Pvt. Ltd.</b></p>
	<p>The Committee considered the above and had interactions with representatives of the user agency, who made detailed presentation during the meeting and noted as below:</p> <p>(i) The GOI has launched the “50000 MW Hydro-electric Initiative” with the objective of increasing the hydropower capacity in India, out of which more than half the capacity has been identified in the state of Arunachal Pradesh. Out of the 78.45 ha forest land required for construction of the project, 48.20 ha will be required on permanent basis and the remaining 30.25 ha will be required temporarily only during construction of the project.</p> <p>(ii) The Committee also noted that a study to assess <i>cumulative environmental impact of various hydro electric projects particularly on the riverine eco system and land and aquatic biodiversity</i> has been commissioned by the Impact Assessment Division in the Ministry.</p> <p>After detailed discussion and hearing the arguments of the project proponent, the Committee recommended as below:</p> <p>(i) The IA division may be requested to indicate the status of the submission of the said study commissioned by them to assess cumulative impact of hydroelectric projects;</p> <p>(ii) The IA Division in the Ministry may also be requested to furnish a copy of the EIA report for the project to verify the quantity of minimum discharge from the protected stipulated therein in the downstream.</p>