

**Government of India**  
**Ministry of Environment & Forests**  
**(FC Division)**

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**PROCEEDINGS OF THE FOREST ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**CONVENED ON MARCH 10, 2011**

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

**No. of Proposals: 06**

**Agenda No. 1: 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 and heard additional representations from Uttarakhand State Forest Department, Uttarakhand Forest Development Corporation, Wildlife Trust of India, World Wildlife Fund-India, Wildlife Institute of India (WII) and Sanskara. The discussion also took into account the personal observations made by DGF&SS during his visit to the area in June 2010. After detailed examination of the proposal and interaction with the officials/experts, the FAC recommended as below:

- (i) The committee felt that the issue of connectivity of habitat and elephant movements in the entire region through which Kosi, Dabka and Gola rivers flows needed to be considered and not just the issue of connectivity in Bindu Khata area. An integral part of such a long term view of wildlife corridors would involve a comprehensive assessment of the issue of the need (or lack of it) for removal of minerals for flood control, potential connectivity for elephant and other wildlife movements and other social and implementation-related issues. The committee reiterated the instruction previously given i.e. the State Government should in consultation with the WTI, WWF-India, WII, Central Soil and Water Conservation Research and Training Institute, Sanskara etc. actively bring to a conclusion the exercise to critically examine the entire Gola landscape for connectivity and identify and delineate boundaries of all feasible corridors to facilitate safe and convenient movements for wildlife across Gola river, wherever feasible, and place it before FAC.
- (ii) A report containing details of location, plan and broad outline of a plan for restoration/rejuvenation of all identified corridors in respect of Gola river may be submitted to the Ministry at the earliest possible and be placed before the FAC during its next meeting. Dr. P.B. Gangopadhyay, former Addl. DGF(FC) who is well conversant with the matter may specially be invited to attend next meeting of the FAC to provide his expert advise on the matter.

(iii) The issue of restoring/preserving the wildlife corridors in respect of other such rivers *e.g* Kosi, Dabka, Sharda etc. could be taken up on similar lines immediately thereafter.

**Agenda No.2: 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.)]**

Due to paucity of time the proposal could not be discussed during the meeting.

**Agenda No. 3: Change of land use pattern of 371.30 ha. forest land within 865.2760 ha. forest land diverted in favour of M/s. Sarda Mines Pvt. Ltd. for their Thakurani Iron Ore Mine Block-B located in village Sayabali, Balita and Thakurani Reserved Forest in Keonjhar District of Orissa. [8-55/ 2000 - FC (pt.)]**

Due to paucity of time the proposal could not be discussed during the meeting.

**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 discussed during the meeting.

**Agenda No. 5: 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 discussed during the meeting.

**Agenda No. 6: 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.)]**

Due to paucity of time the proposal could not be discussed during the meeting.

## B. PROPOSALS DEALT BY SHRI UMAKANT, AIGF

No. of Proposals: 06

1. **Diversion of 62.07 ha of forest land in Kamasandra Reserve Forest for construction of 500 Meft Capacity Gravity Dam across Markandeya River at Yargola village in Bangarpet Taluk, in favour of the Executive Engineer, Karnataka Urban Water Supply and Drainage Board, Bangalore. (F. No. 8-103/2010-FC)**

The Committee considered the proposal. It was informed to the Committee that the proposal was earlier considered by the Committee in its meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2011 and certain queries regarding density of forest area, likely impact of the project on wildlife and wildlife habitat, CA land identification, consent of Gram Sabha under FRA-2006 were sought from the State Government. The Committee also noted that the State Government has now provided photographs and satellite images of the project area, maps showing approximately canopy density in the forest area to be submerged, comments on likely impact of the dam construction on the wildlife in forest areas and information regarding the type of trees available in the project area. It was noted that *Albizzia amara* is one of the most pre-dominant tree species. The FAC also took note of the fact that the recommendation of the State Government for retention of entire trees and other vegetative growth in the submergence area is acceptable.

The Committee after detailed deliberations recommended the proposal for approval subject to standard conditions applicable to this category of project. The committee also put following additional conditions- (a) 5% of the project cost shall be given to the State Forest Department for the purpose of protection of wildlife and forests near the site, (b) The provisions of FRA, 2006 shall be addressed properly, and (c) The State Government shall ensure that there is no encroachment on adjacent forest land as a result of the project activities.

2. **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)**

The FAC considered the proposal and noted that the proposal was earlier discussed in its meeting on 11.02.2011. The Committee had then recommended the proposal for approval with following conditions; (a) Land parcel at seven locations involving 149.925 ha of forest land was not agreed to, (b) the provision of CA land should be addressed before final approval and (c) Avenue plantation on other side of the road should be as per the guidelines of NHAI and Indian Roads Congress, (d) forest area falling under Meerut Forest Division was treated as 231.441 ha and (e) requisite clearance from NBWL shall be obtained by the State Government. Based on the above recommendations the proposed area of diversion i.e. 782.478 ha stands reduced as

624.553 ha.

However, the competent authority observed following -

*"1) I find that Regional CCF Lucknow has a different view on this proposal and I do not find any compelling reasons given by FAC to disregard RCCF's views.*

*2) Also, we should look at Forest Clearance and Wildlife Clearance together.*

*I would like FAC to respond to these two points before I consider."*

The FAC deliberated upon the project once again in view of the observations mentioned above. The State Government should be asked to provide following information- (a) Since there are already 2 roads existing, requisite justification for requirement of the project as such and forest land for the project shall be submitted. (b) Environment Impact Assessment and public hearing shall be conducted to in compliance with Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, (c) Additional land for taking up Compensatory Afforestation has to be identified, (d) Since the project area is close to the very sensitive Terai Grassland ecosystem, a study report on potential threat on the wildlife habitat and Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary, which has a population of highly endangered Hog Deer and other species, may also be submitted by the State Government for consideration by NBWL and FAC (e) Efforts shall be made to reduce the width of the proposed road to save the old existing trees.

**3. 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)**

The FAC considered the proposal and noted that the 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 required to be felled will 42,256. The Committee also noted that the project area does not form part of any existing National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary or Nature Reserves. It was also taken note of that DCF and CF, Thane have certified that the private forest area and non-forest area proposed for the project are neither deemed Reserved Forest under Maharashtra Private Forest (Acquisition) Act, 1975 nor it has been identified as a forest as envisaged in the interim order of Supreme Court dated 12.1.21996. Altogether areas of 13 villages will go into 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 affecting by the project for which rehabilitation plan has been submitted by the State Government.

The FAC discussed the project in detail and also heard the project proponent. Since there is displacement of more than 5000 persons, it was recommended that detailed information including a comprehensive R & R Plan should be prepared by the State Government by incorporating inputs from a competent organization. This R and R Plan should be in accordance with the draft policy of the GOI, 2007. The State Government

should also ensure that because of the displacement of large number of people, likely adverse impacts on adjacent forest land from them is fully mitigated, to which end, the concerned agency shall provide details of the land on which R&R will be accomplished and proof of adequate funds to meet the expenses in a designated escrow account.

**4. Diversion of 57.86 ha of PF and 0.78 ha of RF = 58.64 ha of forest land and cutting of 6910 trees for widening of NH-24 from km. 377.200 to Km. 413.200 in the district of Sitapur, Uttar Pradesh. (F. No. 8-3/2011-FC)**

The FAC considered the proposal and noted that the diversion of Protected Forest 57.86 ha and Reserved Forest 0.78 ha, total 58.64 ha is required for widening of NH-24 in Sitapur district of 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. The Committee noted that a number of trees proposed to be felled for this project is 6910 (below 60 cm – 576 and above 60 cm 6334). Environmental clearance has already been accorded by the Ministry on 10.12.2008.

After detailed discussion and hearing the arguments of the project proponent, the Committee recommended the proposal for approval subject to standard conditions and the following additional conditions- (a) Additional CA land has to be identified, (b) Avenue plantation should include all the indigenous trees like neem, arjun, ficus, gular, dhak, kadamba, pakar, mahua etc., and (c) 5% of the project cost shall be transferred to the State Forest Department to take plantations in urban areas.

**5. Diversion of 47.775 ha of forest land for widening of NH-77 in Purnea and Katihar districts (Km. 0-63.70 road) total 63.70 Km long road from Kursela to Kalabalua in favour of State Highway Division, Road Construction Department, Bihar. (F. No. 8-21/2011-FC)**

The FAC considered the proposal and noted that 47.775 ha of Protected Forest land have been requested for diversion for the purpose of widening of State Highways 77 in Purnia and Katihar districts of Bihar. The density of vegetation is less than 0.1 and there is no involvement of any National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve or Elephant Reserve areas. The exiting ROW is 7.5 m and the proposed ROW is 15 to 25 m. The number of trees proposed to be felled is 4815. The compensatory afforestation of 15,000 plants has been proposed in linear fashion of 6 km stretch on either side of the road. The Committee noted that the project work has been started by earth filling and consolidation work, black topping of some stretches of road and also by constructing some stretches of road in market areas of some locations and State Government has recommended the proposal with a penal condition.

**After detailed discussions the Committee recommended the proposal for approval subject to standard conditions. The Committee also recommended that utmost care should be taken to save trees at the time of execution of the project work.**

**6. Diversion of 60.60 ha of forest land for widening/up-gradation of State Highway No. 76 in districts Supaul, Bihar. (F. No. 8-24/2011-FC)**

The FAC considered the proposal and noted that 60.60 ha of Protected Forest land has been requested for diversion for the purpose of widening of State Highways 77 in Supaul district of Bihar. There is no involvement of any National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve or Elephant Reserve areas. The exiting ROW is 7.5 m and the proposed ROW is 15 to 25 m. The exiting ROW is 7.5 m and the proposed ROW is 15 to 25 m. The number of trees proposed to be felled is 7379. The compensatory afforestation has been proposed in the notified PF on 6 locations and penal CA has also been proposed at 12 locations of the notified Protected Forest. The Committee noted that the project work has been started at some places in violation of FC Act and for which show cause notices have been issued by the State Government. State Government has recommended the proposal with a penal condition and payment of compensatory afforestation cost three times of total number of trees and plants to be felled.

After detailed discussions the Committee recommended the proposal for approval subject to standard conditions. The Committee also recommended that utmost care should be taken to save trees at the time of execution of the project work.

**7. Diversion of 359.178 ha of forest land for construction of 400 KV D/C Mahan-Sipat transmission line in favour of M/s Essar Power Transmission Company Limited in North Surguja, South Surguja, Korea, Kathgohra & Bilaspur Forest Divisions of Chhattisgarh. (F. No. 8-96/2010-FC)**

The FAC considered the proposal and noted that 359.178 ha of forest land have been proposed for diversion for transmission line in Sarguja district of Chhattisgarh. The total length of the transmission line is 330 km. It includes Protected Forest, Revenue Forest, Reserved Forest and Chhote Bade Jhar ka jungle. Total notified forest is 152.228 ha and Revenue Forest is 206.950 ha. Total number of trees proposed to be felled is 22,813 which include sal, teak, tinsa, saja and bija, etc. Out of the total number of trees to be felled, 14,137 trees are below 60 cm girth. Compensatory afforestation has been proposed on the double degraded forest land in Katgora, North Sargauja, Spouth Sargauja and Korea Division of Chhattisgarh. It was also noted that against 46 m wide strip of forest patch, only 3 m wide strip below each conductor will be required for clear felling and in remaining area the trees would be only pruned. The FAC took a note that on the suggestion of CWLW, Chhattisgarh, the transmission line has been realigned to avoid dense forest areas.

After detailed discussions and after hearing the arguments of the Nodal Officer of Chattisgarh and other representatives of the project proponent, the Committee recommended the proposal subject to standard conditions. It was also recommended that the Regional CCF concerned should ensure regular monitoring of felling of trees in the project area during the execution of the project work.

8. **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)**

Deferred

9. **Diversion of 371.07 ha of forest land for captive coal mining in Pachwara North 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)**

Deferred.

10. **Diversion of 79.56 ha of forest land for iron ore mining in East Bhanupratapur Forest Division in favour of M/s Monnet Ispat & Energy Limited in Kanker district of Chhattisgarh. (F. No. 8-81/2010-FC)**

Deferred.

11. **Prospecting over 948.256 ha of forest land for exploration of coal in South Sarguja Forest Division by M/s Chhattisgarh State Electricity Board in Surguja district of Chhattisgarh. (F. No. 8-35/2009-FC)**

The FAC considered the proposal and noted that 948.256 ha forest land is required for prospecting exploration of coal in South Sarguja Forest Division in Chhattisgarh. The proposal was earlier considered by the Committee on 20<sup>th</sup> July, 2009 and sought following information -

- (i) The extent of coal bearing area in the district / coal belt proposed for prospecting along with status on present level of mining.
- (ii) District-wise composite picture of forest area under coal deposits / coalfields and total estimated, present and future requirements of coal in the State.
- (iii) The extent of area including forest area under coal mining in the State.

The FAC noted the information furnished by the State Government / User Agency. It was also observed that till date the forest area around the Hasdev Arand Coalfields is still relatively unfragmented and intact except for a small open cast mining project running at Chotia in the South Western part of the Coalfield. The Committee felt that this unfragmented nature of the forest should be preserved until a more careful examination is made of all the relevant issues.

The FAC after discussions decided to organize site inspection at the earliest opportunity to examine the proposal further.

12. **Diversion of 1898.328 ha of forest land for Parsa East and Kente Basan captive coal block open cast mining project in favour of M/s Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited in South Surguja Forest Division in Surguja district of Chhattisgarh. (F. No. 8-31/2010-FC)**

The FAC considered the proposal and noted that 1898.328 ha (PF - 1654.109 ha + Chhote Bade Jhar ka Jungle - 244.219 ha) has been proposed for diversion for Parsa East and Kente Basan Captive Coal Block Open cast Mining Project in Sarguja district of Chhattisgarh. The FAC also took a note of item-wise break-up of details of the forest land proposed for diversion. It was also noted that 8 coal blocks are there in Hasdev Coalfields and all of them are in forest areas. Ministry of Coal has sanctioned Parsa East and Kente Basan Coal Blocks to the present project proponent. The coal produced shall be used in two thermal power projects in Jhalawad district of Rajasthan. A Joint Venture Company M/s Parsa Kente Collieries Limited has been formed between M/s Rajasthan Rajya Vidhut Utpadan Nigam Limited and M/s Adani Group for Development of Mines. Total number of trees required to be felled is 3,68,217 which includes 1,60,007 below 60 cm girth and 2,08,209 above 60 cm girth. The trees include sal, saja, bhawra, salai, bija, etc. Phased Mining Plan has also been submitted by the Project Proponent. Altogether 580 families will be required rehabilitation because of the project which includes ST/ST - 325 and others 94. CA has been proposed on double degraded forest land. Reclamation Plan proposed involves tree felling in the project area in phased manner. Regional CCF Bhubaneswar recommended the proposal subject to certain conditions.

The FAC after discussions decided to visit the site to have better appreciation of the proposal.

**13. Diversion of 2301.260 ha of forest land for open cast coal mining at Tara coal block of Hasdeo-Arand Coalfield in favour of M/s Chhattisgarh Mineral Development Corporation in South Surguja Forest Division in Sarguja district of Chhattisgarh. (F. No. 8-38/2009-FC)**

The FAC considered the proposal which was earlier rejected by the Ministry. The Committee noted that in revised plan submitted by the IFFCO there is alteration in the forest boundary of the coal block under project area. As a result, the medium density forest area has been reduced by over 60%. Some other important changes have also been incorporated in the mining plan.

The FAC after discussions decided to visit the site to have better appreciation of the proposal.

- 14. (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)**
- (b) Diversion of 168.112 ha of forest land for the construction of Railway Line between Hazaribagh to Shivpur in the State of Jharkhand. (F. No. 8-106/2007-FC)**

Deferred.

**C. PROPOSALS DEALT BY SHRI RAJESH SHARMA, AIGF**

**No. of Proposals-03**

- 1. Diversion of 84.15 ha forest land for construction of class-9 road specification form 0.00 Km to 56.10 Km on road Banga- Janga- Gompa- Naga GG (BJG-Naga GG) by BRTF in Tawang and West Kameng District of Arunachal Pradesh.**

The Committee considered the proposal Diversion of 84.15 ha forest land for construction of class-9 road specification form 0.00 Km to 56.10 Km on road Banga- Janga- Gompa- Naga GG (BJG-Naga GG) by BRTF in Tawang and West Kameng District of Arunachal Pradesh. The length of road is 56.10 Km and width of the road is 15 mtr. This is the alternate strategic road proposed by the Army for connecting Twang to rest of country. This will provide alternate to existing Balipara-Charduar- Tenga- Tawang road as well as additional route to the civil population residing North of sela range. The road passes through hilly terrain and steep valleys and moderately dense Tropical Semi-ever green forests. The Committee also noted that the proposed area does not form part of any National Park, Sanctuary or Biosphere Reserve, etc. The proposal involves felling of over 2435 trees and the CA has been proposed over double the degraded forest land, i.e., 168.30 ha in Bomdila and Social Forest Division Khonsa Forest division with financial outlay of Rs.2,03,33,330. No violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Taking into account the necessity for construction & up-gradation of existing road for NH-52B, the FAC recommended the following:

- i. Standard conditions of CA And NPV;
  - ii. The avenue plantation on both side of the road will be undertaken by the project proponent as per the guidelines of the Indian Road Congress.
  - iii. Suitable crossings to allow wildlife, if any, to cross the road.
  - iv. Provisions of side drain must be kept.
  - v. Muck disposal should be in designated muck disposal sites.
  - vi. Raising the breast walls and retaining wall to arrest soil erosion
- 2. 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.**

The FAC has deferred the case.

- 3. 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.**

The FAC has deferred the case.

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