

Government of India  
Ministry of Environment & Forests  
(Wildlife Division)

Paryavaran Bhawan,  
CGO Complex, Lodi Road,  
New Delhi-110003

F. No. 6-43/2007 WL-I(pt)

Dated: 24<sup>th</sup> January, 2013

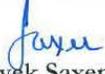
All Members,  
Standing Committee of NBWL.

Sub: Minutes of the 27<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee of NBWL.

Sir/Madam,

Kindly find enclosed minutes of 27<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee of NBWL held on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2012 under the chairpersonship of Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment and Forests. The comments received from members have been appropriately incorporated in the minutes.

Yours faithfully,

  
(Vivek Saxena)

Deputy Inspector General (WL)  
Telefax: 011-24361791

Encl: As above

**Distribution:**

1. Director General of Forests & Special Secretary, MoEF.
2. Director, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun.
3. Dr. Asad Rahmani, Director, BNHS, Mumbai-23.
4. Shri Kishor Rithe, President, Satpuda Foundation, Amravati-444607.
5. Executive Director, Nature Conservation Foundation, Mysore - 570 002.
6. Shri Brijendra Singh, 28, Sunder Nagar, New Delhi-110003.
7. Dr. M.K. Ranjitsinh, 'Krishnasaar', No.5 Tiger Lane, W6 C Lane, Sainik Farms, New Delhi-62.
8. Dr. Divyabhanusinh Chavda, "Suryodaya", 310 Gom Defence Colony, Vaishali Marg, Jaipur-302021.
9. Dr. A.J.T. Johnsingh, 101 Magnolia, Esteem Gardenia, Sahakara Nagar, Bangalore-560092.
10. Ms. Prerna Bindra, Environment Journalist, 2/13, Iris, Jasmine Street, Vatika City, Sector 49, Gurgaon - 122003, Haryana.

**Copy to:**

1. PS to Hon'ble MOS (I/C) E&F.
2. PPS to DGF&SS/PPS to Addl. DGF(WL)
3. PS to IGF(WL)/PS to DIG(WL)

**Ministry of Environment and Forests  
Wildlife Division**

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**Minutes of the 27<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife held on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2012 in Paryavaran Bhawan, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi.**

The 27<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) was held on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2012 in the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), New Delhi with Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment and Forests in chair. The list of participants is at **Annexure-1**.

At the outset, Hon'ble chairperson welcomed the new Secretary (Environment and Forests) and the Additional Director General of Forests (WL) and Member-Secretary, Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife, who had recently assumed their respective offices. This was followed by a round of introduction by the participants. Thereafter, the Additional Director General of Forests (WL) welcomed the Hon'ble Chairperson, the members, Chief Wildlife Wardens of the States, and all other delegates and officials present in the meeting.

The agenda items were then opened for discussion.

**Agenda No. 1: Confirmation of the minutes of the 26<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife held on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2012.**

The Member Secretary informed the Committee that the draft minutes of the 26<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Standing Committee of NBWL, held on 31.10.2012 were circulated to the members on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2012 for their comments within two weeks as decided in the 24<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee. The comments had been received from some members till 7<sup>th</sup> December 2012 and final minutes, after incorporating the comments appropriately, were being finalized and would be circulated to the members thereafter.

The Committee, therefore, decided to consider the minutes of the 26<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2012 in the next meeting for confirmation.

**Agenda No. 2: Action Taken Report**

The Member Secretary informed the Committee that the actions on the decisions of the Standing Committee of NBWL in its 26<sup>th</sup> Meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2012 were being taken up. However, the following items under the Action Taken Report of the last Meeting were deferred. The deliberations and decisions on these agenda items are as below:

**Item 2[4(2)]: Proposal seeking permission for control of fencing and patrol road along the Indo-Bangladesh Border in Dampa Tiger Reserve, Mizoram.**

The Member Secretary informed the Committee that during the 26<sup>th</sup> meeting of Standing Committee of NBWL, the DIG (Operations), BSF had made a presentation on the strategic need of fencing the border, which is part of the larger fencing along the border. He also informed about the submission made by Dr M.K. Ranjitsinh for strict adherence of the condition no. (iii) of the site inspection report, i.e., *"The patrol road and the border outposts*

*should be on the Bangladesh side of the three line fencing to ensure that the habitat of Dampa Tiger Reserve inside the fencing remains sacrosanct and free of disturbance.”. The Member Secretary also added that this matter was thereafter deferred.*

The DIG (Operations), BSF requested the Committee for considering the proposal in view of the presentations made during the 26<sup>th</sup> Meeting and the strategic requirement of the fencing along the border. The Additional Director General of Forests (WL) mentioned that he had attended the meeting of the State Board for Wildlife, Mizoram wherein, the State Board had categorically rejected this proposal. In the circumstances, the SC of NBWL needs to take a view on the proposal.

After discussion, the chairperson advised the BSF that a meeting may be convened with the Additional Director General of Forests (WL) and State Government of Mizoram regarding the conditions stipulated by the site inspection team in their report, to resolve the matter and based on the discussions, the matter could be referred to the State Board for Wildlife for their re-consideration.

**Item 4.1 (2): Diversion of 79.474 ha of forest land in Kutch Desert Wildlife Sanctuary and Wild Ass Sanctuary for construction of Gaduli to Hajipur-Odma-Khavda-Kunariya-Dholavira-Maovana-Gadakbet-Santalpur road.**

The Member Secretary informed the Committee that in the 26<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee of NBWL, the IG (BSF), Gujarat had made a detailed presentation before the Committee and Dr Ranjitsinh had explained the recommendations of the inspection team that the existing parallel road from Nanabhitara to Tingribet can be permitted to be extended up to Gaduli. Rest of the proposed road was passing through the best habitats of the Lesser Flamingoes and therefore, can not be permitted further eastwards. The Member Secretary also mentioned that the committee had decided to defer the matter.

Dr M.K. Ranjitsinh mentioned that this case was similar to that of Dampa Tiger Reserve, wherein the conditions stipulated in the site inspection report were not being adhered to.

Hon'ble Chairperson opined that the suggestions made by Dr Ranjitsinh and Dr Divyabhanusinh Chavda in the site inspection report were very valid as the habitat of flamingoes needed to be protected and the alternate route as suggested in the report may be considered by the BSF.

The DIG , BSF (Operations), requested the committee members for an onsite visit to ascertain the strategic requirement of the proposed alignment of road in border patrolling.

The Committee after discussion, was of the opinion that the BSF should submit a report on willingness for compliance of the conditions stipulated in the site inspection report. The matter would be only be taken up for discussion after the receipt of the report from the BSF.

**Item 2.1 (5): Implementation Protocol on Critical Wildlife Habitats to be approved by the Standing Committee.**

The Member Secretary informed the Committee that the draft protocol and the comments received from the Ministry of Tribal Affairs along with suggestions of the National Advisory Council were circulated to the Members for their perusal and comments. He also added that in the 27<sup>th</sup> Meeting, it was decided that a separate meeting would be called

for discussing this issue. He also mentioned that the Ministry was in the process of preparation of a comparative status note on the protocol of the Ministry, the comments of MoTA and the suggestions of the National Advisory Council.

Hon'ble chairperson indicated that a separate meeting to discuss this matter would be called soon.

**Agenda item No. 2.2: Proposals that were placed for consideration in the 26<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee of NBWL held on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2011 but could not be discussed due to paucity of time.**

**2.2.1: Proposals for activities within 10 kms from boundaries of National Parks and Sanctuaries**

**2.2.1(1). Proposal for laying 8" dia ATF pipeline from Indian Oil Corporation Refinery, Noonmati to LGBI Airport, Borjhar, Guwahati, Assam**

The Member Secretary informed the Committee that the proposal for laying 8" dia ATF pipeline from Indian Oil Corporation Refinery, Noonmati to LGBI Airport, Borjhar, Guwahati, Assam by Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. He also added that as per the project proposal the project is undertaken for easy and smooth transportation of ATF to the airport and to defence installation and that it has now become essential to avoid the road congestion and other deterrents by laying an underground pipeline (1.5 meter to 2 meter depth).

Hon'ble chairperson desired to know whether the proposal was sub-judice or not. She also indicated that in future, all the proposals should contain a column indicating the details of whether the proposal was sub-judice or not. And that in case the same was not mentioned, the proposal would not be considered by the Standing Committee of NBWL. She also desired to know whether the pipe line was secure from any leakages and the OIL had adequate safety equipments to handle any emergency situations.

The Chief Wildlife Warden, Assam mentioned that the proposal was not sub-judice. The representative from OIL intimated that all necessary equipments will be put in place to ensure the safety and that there is a system that exists to face any emergency situations. He also said that the pipelines were underground and were equipped with SCADA system also and therefore, were completely safe.

After discussions, the committee decided to recommend the proposal subject the following conditions, as stipulated by the Chief Wildlife Warden, Assam:

- i. *IOC shall put valves at the entry and exit points of the eco-sensitive zone of the Wildlife Sanctuary in order to stop oil flow in case of any emergency/accident so that damage to the Wildlife Sanctuary can be prevented/minimized under such situation.*
- ii. *Due precautionary measures should be ensured to prevent any form of pollution in the wetland as well as in its adjoining areas.*
- iii. *The pipeline preferably should be laid minimum 1.5 mt. below from the ground level.*
- iv. *The concerned officials of the State Forest Department shall be empowered to inspect the pipeline at any time to take samples for analysis and may call for any information etc.*
- v. *No permanent structure should be constructed on the pipeline, particularly in the areas that fall in the elephant corridor.*

- vi. *To maintain the environment, provision for plantation of selected species of trees shall have to be made in the selected vacant places in consultation with the State Forest Department.*
- vii. *Oil soaking pad and other such articles should be made readily available at the site to fight out any emergency situation against accidental leakage of oil.*

**2.2.1 (2). Proposal for use of 114.267 ha of non-forestland falling within 10 kms from the boundary of Dibru-Saikhowa National Park and Borjan-Bherjan Padumani Wildlife Sanctuary for laying of crude oil pipeline etc by Oil India Ltd., Assam.**

The Member Secretary informed the Committee that the proposal was for use of 114.267 ha of non-forestland falling within 10 kms from the boundary of Dibru-Saikhowa National Park and Borjan-Bherjan Padumani Wildlife Sanctuary for laying of crude oil pipeline and gas field pipeline, construction of oil collection station etc. in order to meet its commitment of supply of natural gas to Brahmaputra Gas Cracker & Polymer Ltd.

Hon'ble chairperson desired to know whether this proposal was sub-judice or not and whether the pipeline was being laid underground or above the ground.

Dr Asad Rahmani mentioned that Dibru Saikhowa is one of finest Protected Areas in the country and can even be compared with that of Kaziranga National Park in terms of its vast grasslands. He added that the Amarpur grassland in the National Park is taken over by Khutis. He desired to know whether the OIL was ready to assist the State Forest Department for better management of the Dibru Saikhowa National Park.

Ms Prerna Bindra also stressed on the importance of the Dibru Saikhowa National Park --and the fact that it had many endangered species like the Black Breasted Parrotbill, Asiatic wild buffalo, lesser florican etc, She pointed out there were a number of issues related to the park that needed urgent attention and these must be looked into on priority.

The representative of OIL indicated that the pipeline is being laid underground and he also assured the committee that adequate safety measures were being taken to ensure the safety of the environment from any kind of leakage and that the SCADA system has also been installed in all OIL projects. He also expressed willingness to provide help in conservation of the area, if required. After discussions, the Committee decided to recommend the proposal with the following conditions as was stipulated for the earlier case:

- i. *IOC shall put valves at the entry and exit points of the eco-sensitive zone of the Wildlife Sanctuary in order to stop oil flow in case of any emergency/accident so that damage to the Wildlife Sanctuary can be prevented/minimized under such situation.*
- ii. *Due precautionary measures should be ensured to prevent any form of pollution in the wetland as well as in its adjoining areas.*
- iii. *The pipeline preferably should be laid minimum 1.5 mt. below from the ground level.*
- iv. *The concerned officials of the State Forest Department shall be empowered to inspect the pipeline at any time to take samples for analysis and may call for any information etc.*
- v. *No permanent structure should be constructed on the pipeline, particularly in the area that fall in the elephant corridor.*
- vi. *To maintain the environment, provision for plantation of selected species of trees shall have to be made in the selective & vacant places in consultation with the State Forest Department.*

- vii. *Oil soaking pad and other such articles should be made readily available at the site to fight out any emergency situation against accidental leakage of oil.*

**2.2.1(3). Proposal for widening and improvement of 6-laning of Delhi-Agra section of NH-2 from km.20.500 to km 199.000 by M/s NHAI. (within 10 kms)**

The Member Secretary informed the Committee that the proposal was for widening and improvement of 6-laning of Delhi-Agra section of NH-2 from km.20.500 to km 199.000 by M/s NHAI and that as per the proposal, the portion of NH-2 from Delhi to Agra is already having 4-lane divided carriageway configuration and that the corridor has been identified as one of the faster growing economic corridor and therefore, from the safety point of view and growing traffic requirements, a smooth uninterrupted flow of traffic through this corridor was felt necessary. Accordingly capacity augmentation of the existing 4-lane divided highway to 6-lane divided highway under DBFO scheme has been proposed. He also added that as per the project proposal the project road (i.e. NH-2) is an existing highway with Right of way (ROW) of 40 to 60 m and the widening is proposed only within this ROW of 60 m. Therefore, additional 3-4 m of wide side strips will be acquired on both sides all along the road.

After discussions, the Committee recommended the proposal subject to the following conditions as stipulated by the Chief Wildlife Warden, Uttar Pradesh:

- i. Construction debris will be disposed off outside the sanctuary area at a safe distance.*
- ii. There should be safeguard measures against noise pollution.*
- iii. Melting, storage and mixing of coal tar should be at a safe distance from the sanctuary.*
- iv. Requirement of firewood for labourers shall be met by purchasing it from forest corporation and no firewood shall be collected from the nearby forest area.*
- v. No work shall be allowed between sunset to sunrise, near the sanctuary area.*
- vi. Restriction of speed on vehicles will be put with speed breakers with florescent paints near the sanctuary.*
- vii. A 7 (seven) ft. high wall should be constructed by the NHAI along NH-2 between km.179 to km 183 on the side of sanctuary area to prevent accident related death of the wild animal and as a noise barrier.*
- viii. A thematic entry gate shall be constructed by the user agency as per designs approved by the protected area manager.*
- ix. A green belt should be established along the road side towards the sanctuary.*

**2.2.1(4). Proposal is for setting up of 2x660 MW coal fired based Thermal Power Plant at Lakhisarai District, Bihar. (The project area is 3 km away from the sanctuary)**

The Member Secretary apprised the committee that proposal was for setting up of 2x660 MW coal fired based Thermal Power Plant at Lakhisarai District, Bihar and that the said proposal was 3 km away from the Bhimbandh Wildlife sanctuary.

Since the Chief Wildlife Warden, Bihar or his representative was not present in the meeting, the proposal was deferred.

**2.2.1(5). Diversion of 80.507 ha of forestland within 10 kms from boundary of Kedarnath Wildlife Sanctuary for construction of 444 MW Vishnugarh-Pipalkoti Hydroelectric Project in district Chamoli, Uttarakhand.**

The Member Secretary apprised the committee that the proposal was for construction of 444 MW Vishnugarh-Pipalkoti Hydroelectric Project in district Chamoli, Uttarakhand. He added that as per the project proposal, the proposed site falls within 10 kms of Kedarnath wildlife Sanctuary and that the survey and investigation works had already been completed. He further added that the diversion dam is proposed at a horizontal distance of 5.2 km away from the boundary of the Sanctuary and a vertical distance between the dam site and the sanctuary is approximately 1900 m. The layout of the Head Race Tunnel (HRT) is overlain by a rock cover of 2000m and nearest boundary of the Kedarnath Sanctuary is 1.5 kms from HRT. The complete HRT is underground. The excavation of HRT (12kms) is proposed to be done by Tunnel Boring machine and therefore no blasting will be done. The Powerhouse is also underground and is approximately at a distance of 2 kms.

Additional Director General of Forests (FC), holding additional charge of Director General of Forests & Special Secretary mentioned that some case on this proposal was pending before the National Green Tribunal which needs to be ascertained.

Dr. Divyabhanusinh Chavda opined that the project was not recommended by the full State Board for Wildlife and that the approval of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, in the capacity of the chairperson of the SBWL would not suffice.

The Chief Wildlife Warden, Uttarakhand informed the committee that no litigation was pending on this matter. However, a case was referred before the National Green Tribunal which had been disposed off in favour of the user agency. He also added that the State Board for Wildlife was constituted after the proposal was submitted to Standing Committee and, therefore, only approval of Chief Minister was taken.

Ms. Prerna Bindra first commended the Government of Uttarakhand for declaring Nandhaur as a Wildlife Sanctuary. She agreed with Dr Divyabhnusinh and stressed that the Standing Committee, NBWL, could not take up the matter without it being heard/recommended by the State Board for Wildlife. She also pointed out that even if the case had been disposed by the NGT in favour of the user agency, the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, was not under the purview of the NGT and hence the matter needed to be considered from the wildlife perspective. She informed that the the State Board for Wildlife had been constituted in July and the proposal must be placed before the full SBWL for their opinion, and then placed before the SC, NBWL. She added that she was a member of the SBWL of Uttarakhand, and if required, a site inspection could be carried out if the SBWL so feels. She also requested that a member from WII be part of the site visit, as the WII had conducted a cumulative impact study on the projects.

After discussions, the Committee decided that the State Board for Wildlife may undertake site inspection. If deemed necessary, Ms. Prerna Bindra, who is member of the SBWL, Uttarakhand, as well as the Standing Committee, NBWL, will represent the SBWL and the NBWL in the site visit and the proposal will stand recommended if approved by SBWL.

**2.2.1(6). Construction of double laning of railway line proposed by Dedicated Freight corridor in Sanjay Gandhi NP, Maharashtra (Within 10 kms of Tungareshwar Sanctuary).**

The Member Secretary apprised the committee regarding the proposal. He mentioned that the proposal was for construction of double laning of railway line proposed by Dedicated Freight corridor in Sanjay Gandhi NP, Maharashtra and within 10 Kms of Tungareshwar Sanctuary. He added that the project authorities had informed that the construction of Dedicated Freight Corridor shall facilitate development of area on either side of alignment and that the project would generate large scale employment, improvement in transportation system which shall result in faster growth of our country. Dr. Rahmani mentioned that this corridor is besides the existing railway line and only a very small part of Sanjay Gandhi National Park will be touched by this Dedicated Freight Corridor.

Shri Kishor Rithe mentioned that there were specific directions from Hon'ble High Court of Bombay for speedy removal of encroachment from the Sanjay Gandhi National Park and that the State Government should update the Standing Committee on the status of the removal of encroachments in the Sanjay Gandhi National Park.

He stated that State Government should allocate enough funds for removal of encroachments, if necessary.

After discussions, the committee recommended the proposal subject to the conditions as stipulated by the Chief Wildlife Warden:

- i. *Underground railway line or elevated (over bridge) railway line shall be considered at corridors to minimize threat and disturbance to wildlife instead of conventional railway line on ground.*
- ii. *The work may be carried out from 6 AM to 6 PM to avoid disturbance to wildlife.*
- iii. *There shall not be blasting in the forest area.*
- iv. *The user agency shall provide fund for a) commissioning Expert Agency to study the impact and suggest mitigation measures and b) for implementing mitigation measures. The requirement of the funds for this will be indicated by the State Forest Department.*

**2.2.1(7). Proposal for Baranda Laterite mine of M/s Jayprakash Associates Ltd. falling at a distance of 3.00 km from Narayan Sarovar Wildlife Sanctuary, Gujarat.**

The Member Secretary apprised the committee that the proposal was for Baranda Laterite mine of M/s. Jayprakash Associates Ltd. involving a mine lease area of 400 ha. at a distance of 3.00 km from the Narayan Sarovar Wildlife Sanctuary. He also added that as per the project proposal, the major portion of the area is rocky with thin soil cover at patches and the wasteland will be utilized for laterite mining.

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (WL), Government of Gujarat mentioned that there was an order of Hon'ble Supreme Court in dated 7<sup>th</sup> May 2010, recommending that the mining would not be permitted up to 3 kms from the Narayan Sarovar Wildlife Sanctuary. He also added that the Ministry of Environment and Forests had also published notification dated 31.05.2012 for the eco-sensitive zone around Narayan Sarovar Sanctuary

as proposed by Gujarat and this mining proposal was beyond the proposed eco-sensitive zone.

Non-official members expressed concern on the wildlife in this region which includes bustards, caracal, wolf etc and also the fact that a huge portion of the sanctuary had been earlier denotified to accommodate mining, and this proposal would have grave impacts on the wildlife and its habitat. The members also asked to see the judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. However, in view of the Supreme Court order and the fact that the proposal is beyond the notified Eco-sensitive Zone, it was felt this is proposal is not under the purview of the Standing Committee.

After discussions, the Committee decided to recommend the proposal keeping in view Supreme Court order and also since it was beyond the notified eco-sensitive zone around Narayan Sarovar Sanctuary, subject to strict compliance of all mitigatory measures and conditions stipulated in the Environmental Clearance.

**2.2.1(8). Diversion of land for lime stone mines due to location of Son Gharial Crocodile Sanctuary within 10 km of the Mining lease, Madhya Pradesh:**  
**Badgawna Revenue, Distt.Sindhi-68.910 ha.(Revenue land)**  
**Majhigawan Extension, Distt.Sidhi-54.825 ha (Forest Land)**  
**Hinauti Extension, Distt.Satna, 258.864 ha (Forest land)**

The Member Secretary informed the committee that the proposal was recommended by the Standing Committee of NBWL in its Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2011, subject to certain conditions. The first condition was that the Government of Madhya Pradesh should declare Kehenjua and Bakura Hills as a protected area either in the form of a sanctuary or conservation reserve, prior to diversion of forest land for mining for which government of MP has sought exemption.

The Chief Wildlife Warden, Madhya Pradesh mentioned that there are already large number of Protected Areas in the State and people are averse to in creation of more areas as Protected Areas as this would bring in more restrictions.

Dr M.K. Ranjitsinh was of the opinion that Madhya Pradesh had the history of not complying with the conditions for notifying new Protected Areas. He quoted the example of the case of Narmada Dam project, wherein, the Wildlife Institute of India had recommended for creation of four Protected Areas in Madhya Pradesh in lieu of submergence area. However, the State Government was yet to notify these as Protected Areas. Dr Rahmani also suggested that in case declaring these areas (Kehenjua and Bakura Hills) as sanctuary is not possible, they can be declared as Conservation Reserves. Ms. Prerna Bindra endorsed the views of Dr Asad Rahmani.

The Principal Secretary (Forests), Madhya Pradesh mentioned that the Government had already taken necessary action for notification of the proposed four Protected Areas as recommended by the Wildlife Institute of India. He added that in the present proposal, no area from any Protected Area was involved and the proposal was within 10 kms from the boundary of the Son Ghariyal Sanctuary.

After discussion, the committee recommended the proposal in view the justification given by Madhya Pradesh. However, other conditions as stated in the meeting held on 25.4.2011 will have to be met.

**2.2.1 (9). The proposal for diversion of 26.86 ha of forest land within 10 kms radius of the boundary of Askot Musk Deer Wildlife Sanctuary for mining activity by M/s Adi Gold Mining Pvt. Ltd., Uttarakhand.**

The Member Secretary apprised the committee that the proposal was for diversion of 26.86 ha of forest land within 10 kms radius of the boundary of Askot Musk Deer Wildlife Sanctuary.

After discussion, the committee was of the opinion that the project proponents should first obtain the recommendation of the State Board for Wildlife and thereafter, the proposal could be considered by the Standing Committee of NBWL.

**2.2.1 (10) Proposal for River Bed Mining of Sand Bajri and Boulders (Minor Minerals), Lease area 12.06 ha at Lot No. 9, River-Solani, village-Thapal Ismailpur, Tehsil-Behat, District- Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh.**

Discussed along with the following 11 proposals included under agenda item 4 ( fresh proposals):

1. **Proposal for River Bed Mining of Sand Bajri and Boulders (Minor Mineral), Lease area 13.36 ha at Lot No. 29, River –Solani, Village- Badshahpur, Tehsil-Behat, District –Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh.**
2. **Proposal for River Bed Mining of Sand Bajri and Boulders (Minor Mineral), Lease area 10.32 ha at Lot No. 30, River – Solani, Village-Khushhalipur, Tehsil-Behat, District Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh.**
3. **Proposal for River Bed Mining of Sand Bajri and Boulders (Minor Mineral), Lease area 18.75 ha at Lot No. 31, River-Solani, Village- Khushhalipur, Tehsil-Behat, District-Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh.**
4. **Proposal for River Bed Mining of Sand Bajri and Boulders (Minor Mineral), Lease area 6.48 ha at Lot No. 33, River-Kaluwala Rao Village- Kaluwala Jahanpur (Dakshin), Tehsil-Behat, District-Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh.**
5. **Proposal for river bed mining of sand, Bajri & Boulders, Lease Area-8.91 ha at lot no.28, River Solani, Behat, Saharanpur, U.P.**
6. **Proposal for river bed mining of sand, bajri & boulders, lease area-5.59 ha., at lot no.-25, River-Kaluwala Rao, Behat, Saharanpur, U.P.**
7. **Proposal for river bed mining of sand, bajri and boulders, lease area-7.69 ha., at lot no.-24, river-Kaluwala Rao, village-Jayantipur Bans, Tehsil-Behat, Saharanpur, U.P.**
8. **Proposal for River Bed Mining of Sand Bajri and Boulders (Minor Mineral), Lease area 6.25 ha at Lot No. 15, River-Shahjahanpur Rao, Village-Fatehpur Pelon, Tehsil-Behat, District-Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh.**
9. **Proposal for River Bed Mining of Sand Bajri and Boulders (Minor Mineral), Lease area 6.85 ha at Lot No. 12, River-Lalo, Village-Ganeshpur, Tehsil-Behat, District-Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh.**

- 10. Proposal for River Bed Mining of Sand Bajri and Boulders (Minor Mineral), Lease area 7.00 ha at Lot No. 11, River-Lalo, Village- Thapal Ismailpur, Tehsil-Behat, District-Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh.**
- 11. Proposal for River Bed Mining of Sand Bajri and Boulders (Minor Mineral), Lease area 12.15 ha at Lot No. 10, River-Lalo, Village-Thapal Ismailpur, Tehsil-Behat, District-Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh.**

The Member Secretary apprised the committee regarding the proposal . He informed that the proposal involved river bed mining of sand bajri and boulders. He also mentioned that there were 12 other proposals in total of same nature.

The Committee, therefore, decided to take all the 12 proposals together for discussion.

Shri Kishor Rithe and Ms. Prerna Bindra observed that the map for only one of the above proposal was received along with agenda for the meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2012 while maps for other proposals were not provided to them and therefore, it would be difficult to offer any opinion on the proposals. They requested that the maps may be provided to the members for judicious intervention and fruitful discussion of proposals during the Meeting.

Shri Kishor Rithe mentioned that commercial mining around National Parks and Sanctuaries were prohibited by the Hon'ble Supreme Court and even in the guidelines of the Ministry for declaration of eco-sensitive zones around National Parks and Sanctuaries, mining have been put under the prohibited category. He desired that some site inspection would be necessary to ascertain the ground situation before a decision is taken. He also desired to know the quantum of minerals being mined out.

Ms. Prerna Bindra added that opinion of the Chief Wildlife Warden Uttarakhand may be necessary as sites are close to Rajaji National Park.

Dr M.K. Ranjitsinh opined that the guidelines of the Ministry strictly prohibits mining and sand mining , in particular should not be permitted due to its negative impact on the river flow, besides, this would send a wrong precedence for other cases to be taken up. The proposal involves areas of Uttar Pradesh, but the PAs affected are of Uttarakhand, as Rajaji National Park is within 10 kms from the sand mining site.

The Chief Wildlife Warden, Uttar Pradesh mentioned that the mining would be done through shovels for which the details are available with the Divisional Forest Officer.

The Chief Wildlife Warden, Uttarakhand mentioned that the proposals were within 10 kms from the boundary of Rajaji National Park. He also mentioned that since he did not have details of the copy of the proposals, he is not in a position to express his opinion on the projects.

Hon'ble chairperson assured the members that, in future it would be ensured that all requisite maps are made available to the members before the meeting so that they could come well prepared for the meeting.

After discussions, the following were decided by the committee:

- i. A sub-committee comprising of Ms. Prerna Bindra, Shri Kishor Rithe, the Chief Wildlife Warden, Uttar Pradesh or his representative and the Chief Wildlife Warden, Uttarakhand or his representative, would be constituted by the Ministry very soon.
- ii. The sub-committee so constituted would conduct the site inspection with respect to the above mentioned 12 proposals and submit a report within 10 days time.
- iii. The Ministry of Environment and Forests would forward all the requisite project documents, including maps with respect to the 12 proposals to the members of the sub-committee for enabling their site visit.

## **2.2.2: Proposals for diversion of forest land from National Parks and Sanctuaries.**

### **2.2.2(1) Proposal for laying of 400 KV D/C Mundra-Zerda transmission line-II in Wild Ass Sanctuary by Gujarat Energy transmission Corporation Ltd, Gujarat.**

The Member Secretary gave a brief description on the project proposal. He mentioned that the proposal was for laying of 400 KV D/C Mundra-Zerda Transmission Line-II in Wild Ass Sanctuary by Gujarat Energy Transmission Corporation Ltd. in 21.736 ha land. He added that as per the proposal, this 400 KV line would start from Mundra and is to be connected to 400 KV Kansari (Zerda) and that the line was required for addressing the low voltage complaint of Banaskantha district to resolve which will also help the growth of Agriculture, Industries and other sectors in this area.

Dr M.K. Ranjitsinh was of the opinion that transmission line usually has a negative impact on the wildlife. The State Government should give an undertaking on fixing responsibility for the project proponent who violate the stipulated conditions, especially when there are incidences of electrocution to the wild animals because of transmission lines. He also added that the right of way should not be diverted and it should continue to be within Sanctuary. He further mentioned that in some states like Rajasthan, invasive species like *Prosopis julisflora* were being planted below the transmission lines which was not acceptable.

ADGFC in charge of Director General of Forests and Special Secretary mentioned that the right of way below the transmission lines are not diverted but remain as forested areas and small height species are generally recommended for plantations.

The committee after discussion, decided to recommend the proposal subject to the condition that the State Government would fix the responsibility on the project proponent in case the conditions are not complied to and in case there is death/injury to the wild animals due to electrocution and that the nature of the vegetation below the transmission lines would remain unchanged. It was also indicated that the following conditions as stipulated by the Chief Wildlife warden, Gujarat would also be strictly complied with:

- i. *Minimum movement of the staff and vehicles of the user agency will be allowed to move in the sanctuary area.*
- ii. *No damage should be caused to flora and fauna of the said area by user agency and its establishment.*
- iii. *The agency and/or contractor will not use the area of the Sanctuary which is not included in this proposal, for the movement, transportation and any other purpose of the construction and maintenance of the transmission line.*

- iv. *The land will not be liable to sale or to transfer the right and privileges to any other agency.*
- v. *The agency and/ or contractor will strictly follow the Wildlife(Protection) Act .*
- vi. *In creek area, the flow of water should not be obstructed. After completion of the work the ground should be brought back in original shape.*
- vii. *5% of the cost of the line which is passing through the WLS, should be spent for habitat improvement and wildlife conservation in the Wild Ass Sanctuary area.*
- viii. *The user agency should take full care and precaution for the transmission line so that no damage is caused to Wildlife by the transmission lines.*

**2.2.2(2) Diversion of 0.602 ha of forest land from Kachchh Desert Wildlife Sanctuary for replacing the existing overhead tower line by underground cable line in favour of M/s Gujarat Energy Transmission Corporation Ltd., Gujarat.**

The Member Secretary informed that the proposal involved diversion of 0.602 ha of forest land from Kachchh Desert Wildlife Sanctuary for replacing the existing overhead tower line by underground cable line.

After discussions, the committee decided to recommend the proposal subject to the following conditions as suggested by the Chief Wildlife Warden, Gujarat:

- i. *Minimum movement of the staff of the user agency is to be allowed to move in the sanctuary area.*
- ii. *No damage should be caused to flora and fauna of the said area by user agency and its establishment.*
- iii. *The agency and or contractor will not use the area of the sanctuary which is not included in this proposal for the movement, transportation and any other purpose of the construction and maintenance of the transmission line.*
- iv. *The land will not be liable to sale or to transfer of the rights and privileges to any other agency.*
- v. *The agency and or contractor will strictly follow the provisions under the Wildlife (Protection) Act.*
- vi. *5% of the cost of the cable line which is passing through the WLS, should be sent for improvement of habitats of flamingo and wildlife conservation in the Kachchh Desert Wildlife Sanctuary area.*
- vii. *The user agency should take full care and precaution for the construction of cable line so that no damage is caused to flamingo roosting area.*

**2.2.2(3) Proposal for construction of 400 KV D/C (Quad) Nigrie-Satna Transmission line passing through Son Ghariyal Sanctuary, Madhya Pradesh.**

The Member Secretary gave a brief description about the project proposal. He mentioned that the proposal involved construction of 400 KV/DC transmission line passing through Son Ghariyal Sanctuary.

The committee after discussion, decided to recommend the proposal subject to the condition that the State Government would fix the responsibility on the project proponent in case the conditions are not complied to and in case there is death/injury to the wild animals

due to electrocution and subject to the conditions that status of land will continue to be forest/sanctuary. It was also indicated that the following conditions as stipulated in other similar proposals for transmission lines would also be strictly complied with:

- i. Minimum movement of the staff of the user agency and its vehicles will be allowed to move in the sanctuary area.*
- ii. No damage should be caused to flora and fauna of the said area by user agency and its establishment.*
- iii. The agency and/or its contractor will not use the area of the sanctuary which is not included in this proposal for the movement, transportation and any other purpose of the construction and maintenance of the transmission line.*
- iv. The land will not be liable to sale or to transfer the rights and privileges to any other agency.*
- v. The agency and or contractor will strictly follow the provision under the Wildlife (Protection) Act.*
- vi. 5% of the cost of the cable line which is passing through WLS, should be spent for wildlife conservation in the Wildlife Sanctuary area.*
- vii. The user agency should take full care and precaution for the construction of cable line so that no damage is caused to wildlife in the area.*
- viii. The agency will put a mechanism in place whereby the power will trip in case there is breakage in transmission so that animals do not get electrocuted.*

**2.2.2(4) Proposal for laying of 220 K.V.D.C. Tuljapur-Solapur-Lamboti electricity transmission line passing through Great Indian Bustard (GIB) Sanctuary, Maharashtra.**

The Member Secretary informed that the proposal is for laying of 220 K.V.D.C. Tuljapur-Solapur-Lamboti electricity transmission line passing through Great Indian Bustard (GIB) Sanctuary, Maharashtra. He added that the alignment of the proposed 220 KV transmission line passes through the non-forest areas of the sanctuary and since the entire taluka is under GIB Sanctuary, no alternative arrangement was possible.

The committee after discussion, decided to recommend the proposal subject to the condition that the State Government would fix the responsibility on the project proponent in case the conditions are not complied to and in case there is death/injury to the wild animals due to electrocution and also subject to the conditions that status of land will continue to be forest/sanctuary. It was also indicated that the following conditions as stipulated in the other similar proposals for transmission lines would also be strictly complied with:

- i. Minimum movement of the staff and vehicles of the user agency will be allowed to move in the sanctuary area.*
- ii. No damage should be caused to flora and fauna of the said area by user agency and its establishment.*
- iii. The agency and or contractor will not use the area of the sanctuary which is not included in this proposal for the movement, transportation and any other purpose of the construction and maintenance of the transmission line.*
- iv. The land will not be liable to sale transfer of the rights and privileges to any other agency.*
- v. The agency and/or contractor will strictly follow the provisions under the Wildlife (Protection) Act.*

- vi. *5% of the cost of the cable line, which is passing through WLS, should be spent for wildlife conservation in the Wildlife Sanctuary area.*
- vii. *The user agency should take full care and precaution for the construction of cable line so that no damage is caused to wildlife in the area.*
- viii. *The agency will put a mechanism in place whereby the power will trip in case there is breakage in transmission so that animals do not get electrocuted.*

**2.2.2(5) Diversion of 1.6384 ha of forest land from National Gharial Sanctuary for transmission power line from 765 KV GSS Anta (Baran)-765 KV GSS Phagi to improve the power system of Rajasthan and North Grid of India.**

The Member Secretary gave a brief description regarding the project proposal. He mentioned that the proposal was for diversion of 1.6384 ha of forest land from National Gharial Sanctuary for transmission power line from 765 KV GSS Anta (Baran)-765 KV GSS Phagi to improve the power system of Rajasthan and North Grid of India. He added that as per the project proposal, the transmission line would pass over the Chambal river and that the last tower was located 160 m away from the bank of Chambal river in Kota Distt. and 168 m in Bundi Distt. He added that in proposed line, nine towers will be established in which six towers will be in Kota and three in Bundi distt. The above mentioned nine towers and the transmission line would require an area of 17.5104 ha from the Sanctuary area out of which 15.872 ha is revenue land and 1.6384 ha is forest land.

The committee after discussion, decided to recommend the proposal subject to the condition that the State Government would fix the responsibility of the project proponent in case the conditions are not complied to and in case there is death/injury to the wild animals due to electrocution also subject to the condition that status of land will not change. It was also indicated that the following conditions as stipulated in all other similar proposals for transmission lines would also be strictly complied with:

- i. *Minimum movement of the staff and vehicles of the user agency is to be allowed to move in the sanctuary area.*
- ii. *No damage should be caused to flora and fauna of the said area by user agency and its establishment.*
- iii. *The agency and/or its contractors will not use the area of the sanctuary, which is not included in this proposal for the movement, transportation and any other purpose of the construction and maintenance of the transmission line.*
- iv. *The land will not be liable to sale or transfer of the rights and privileges to any other agency.*
- v. *The agency and/or its contractor will strictly follow the provisions under the Wildlife (Protection) Act.*
- vi. *5% of the cost of the cable line passing through WLS should be spent for wildlife conservation in the Wildlife Sanctuary area.*
- vii. *The user agency should take full care and precaution for the construction of cable line so that no damage is caused to wildlife in the area.*
- viii. *The user agency will get a proper study conducted on the impact of the implementation of the project on the local avifauna by Wild Life Institute of India, Dehradun or other competent agency. The cost of the study will be borne by the user agency and the Forest Department will coordinate the same.*
- ix. *The establishment/construction of towers in and adjoining the sanctuary area will be done in the presence of local wildlife/forest staff.*

- x. *Tree felling/cutting will not be allowed.*
- xi. *No night camping should be allowed during erection of electric line in the sanctuary area.*
- xii. *The agency will put a mechanism in place whereby the power will trip in case there is breakage in transmission so that animals do not get electrocuted.*

**2.2.2(6) Proposal for strengthening and repair of the existing dam at Latada situated at the boundary of Forest Block Sadri of Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary, Rajasthan.**

The Member Secretary mentioned that the proposal was for strengthening and repair of the existing dam structure for the irrigation facilities in rural areas of Pali District of Rajasthan. He added that as per the project proposal, no diversion of sanctuary land was required, instead permission was required to strengthen and repair the Latada dam situated at the periphery of Sadri forest block in Kumbhalgarh Sanctuary area by carrying out soil working and under surface masonry work in submerged area of the dam.

The Committee, after discussions, decided to recommend the proposal subject to the following conditions, as recommended by the Chief Wildlife Warden:

- i. *Five percent of the total project cost would be paid by user agency towards better management and protection of Kumbhalgarh sanctuary.*
- ii. *No night camping by labour should be allowed in sanctuary area during the repairing work.*
- iii. *The repairing work will be done during day time only and no disturbance will be done to wild life.*
- iv. *The repairing work will be strictly done on existing dam only and there will be no extension of floodwall or the apron or any other structural modification.*
- v. *No raising of the top above 21 meters of the dam will be allowed.*
- vi. *No raising of over flow of the dam will be allowed.*
- vii. *10 mcft water will be reserved as live storage for wild life habitat.*
- viii. *No tree cutting and soil digging will be done in the sanctuary area other than the workable area during construction work.*
- ix. *Any condition stipulated by National Board of Wild Life and Hon'ble Supreme Court will be complied with.*

**2.2.2(7) Permission for carrying out survey & investigation works/Forest clearance in the Itanagar Wildlife Sanctuary division, Arunachal Pradesh, for improvement/upgradation of NH-52 A from Police headquarter to Chimpu Nallah (2.75 Km) under Prime Minister's package-reg.**

The Member Secretary informed that the proposal was for carrying out survey and investigation works/Forest clearance in the Itanagar Wildlife Sanctuary division, Arunachal Pradesh, for improvement/upgradation of NH-52 A from Police headquarter to Chimpu Nallah (2.75 Km). He added that the road from Itanagar Police Headquarter to Chimpu forms part of the existing NH-52A from Itanagar to Holongi, which is being implemented under the Special Accelerated Road Development Programme launched by the Government of the India.

The committee after discussion decided to recommend the proposal for survey and investigation.

**2.2.2(8) Proposal for black topping of the forest road between Akbarpur and Adhaura village in the already existing alignment inside the Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary, Bihar.**

The Member Secretary gave a brief description of the project. He added that as per the project proposal, the proposed black topping of the forest road in the Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary will be taken up following the already existing alignment and there is no need to freshly break the forest land or to change the alignment of the road.

Since neither the Chief Wildlife Warden, Bihar nor his representative was present during the meeting, the committee decided to defer the proposal.

**2.2.2(9) Proposal for reconstruction and maintenance of existing road from km.57/400 to 155/000 of Satna-Bamitha- Section of NH-75 (2 laning with paved shoulders) passing through Panna National Park, Madhya Pradesh.**

The Member Secretary informed that the proposal is for reconstruction and maintenance of existing road from km 57/400 to 155/000 of Satna-Bamitha Section of NH-75 (2 laning with paved shoulders) that passes through Panna National Park, Madhya Pradesh. He added that as per the project proposal, the road was constructed during British period prior to declaration of Panna Tiger Reserve/Gangau WLS and is the only link between the districts of Gwalior, Chhattarpur, Panna, Satna, Rewa of Madhya Pradesh and Allahabad and Banaras of Uttar Pradesh.

The Secretary, PWD, Government of Madhya Pradesh explained that the proposal was for reconstruction and maintenance of the existing alignment and that they had already consulted the State Forest Department and they propose to construct 22 under passes along the National Highway passing through the Sanctuary.

The Member Secretary, NTCA mentioned that the road was in a bad shape and adequate safeguards need to be taken to prevent road hits.

After discussion, the committee recommended the proposal subject to the condition that no additional/new area would be included for the purpose of maintenance and fencing and underpasses will be put in place in consultation with the State Forest Department.

**2.2.2(10) Proposal for widening, upgradation and rehabilitation of exiting 2 lane road to 4-lane with paved shoulder of Bhopal-Biaora (NH-12) road from Bhopal city (Km-316/10) and ending at (km 423/4), Madhya Pradesh.**

The Member Secretary presented and informed that the proposed Bhopal-Biaora (NH-12) road is an old National Highway and that the road is being proposed to be widened, upgraded and rehabilitated from the existing 2 lane to 4-lane with paved shoulder. The existing road having 7.0 m wide carriage way and 2 to 2.5 m wide hard shoulder is proposed to be 4-laned with paved shoulder including service road and footpath in built-up area. The present road condition is very bad and needs improvement. It is the only link from Jabalpur to Rajasthan, Agra and Mumbai.

The Secretary, PWD, Government of Madhya Pradesh, mentioned that the existing alignment was along the edge of the Sanctuary. There is also the Cheedi Kho lake which has crocodiles that is adjoining the sanctuary and alternate alignment was not feasible as it will pass through this lake. He added that this was the main arterial road of Madhya Pradesh and compensatory land has been given for afforestation.

Dr M.K. Ranjitsinh was of the opinion that the project could be recommended subject to having equal or more area under the Protected Area coverage in the state of Madhya Pradesh, which could, preferably be on the northern part of the existing road.

After discussions, the committee decided to recommend the proposal subject to the condition that an equivalent area to that being used for the project or more would be identified by the State Government of Madhya Pradesh and appended to this or another PA or notified as a new Protected Area.

**2.2.2(11) Permission to execute the upgradation to 2 lane configuration of Obaidullaganj - Rehti road under PWD in Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary, Madhya Pradesh.**

The Member Secretary gave a brief description of the project. He added that the proposal was for construction and upgradation to 2 lane configuration of Obaidullaganj-Rehti road under PWD in Ratapani Sanctuary. He mentioned that as per the proposal, the road is already existing and being used, and upgradation and black topping is to be done in 14.55 km length (14.55 ha) on the existing road in Ratapani Sanctuary.

The Secretary, PWD mentioned that the proposal involves only maintenance of the existing road and the existing road width only would be upgraded.

After discussion, the committee decided to recommend the proposal subject to the condition that no new/additional land would be used for the purpose of maintenance of the road.

**2.2.2(12) Proposal for rehabilitation and strengthening of existing 2-lane to 4-lane of NH- 12 (km 10.40 -junction of NH-7 bypass at Jabalpur to km 103.20-junction of NH- 26, Rajmarg Crossing) section in the State of Madhya Pradesh under NHDP Phase-III.**

The Member Secretary gave a brief description of the project. It was informed that proposal was for rehabilitation and strengthening of existing 2-lane to 4-lane of NH-12 (km 10.40 -junction of NH-7 bypass at Jabalpur to km 103.20-junction of NH-26, Rajmarg Crossing) section in the State of Madhya Pradesh under NHDP Phase-III.

After discussions, the committee decided to recommend the proposal subject to the conditions that no new or additional area would be used for the purpose.

**2.2.2(13) Diversion of 25 ha of forest land from Yaanoupokpi-Lokchao Wildlife Sanctuary (YLWS) for Reconnaissance Survey and Track clearance (RSTC) which includes construction of service track in along the Indo-Myanmar border between boundary pillar No.79-81in Moreh Area, district Chandel of Manipur by Assam Rifles.**

The Member Secretary gave a brief description regarding the project. He mentioned that the proposal involves diversion of 25 ha of forest land from Yaanoupokpi-Lokchao Wildlife Sanctuary (YLWS) for Reconnaissance Survey and Track clearance (RSTC) which includes construction of service track in along the Indo-Myanmar border between boundary pillar No.79-81in Moreh Area, district Chandel of Manipur by Assam Rifles.

Since neither the Chief Wildlife Warden, Manipur, nor his representative was present during the meeting, the matter was deferred.

**2.2.2(14) Proposal for repair and re-carpeting of existing B.T road from MDR-111 (Baroni Shiwar SWM Shyampura Bhuri Pahari Kurgaon)to Ranthambore Fort, Rajasthan.**

The Member Secretary informed that the proposal involved repair and re-carpeting of existing B.T road from MDR-111 (Baroni Shiwar SWM Shyampura Bhuri Pahari Kurgaon) to Ranthambore Fort, Rajasthan.

After discussions on the proposal, the committee decided to recommend the proposal subject to the following conditions, as stipulated by the Chief Wildlife Warden:

- i. *The repairing work will be done on existing road only. No extension in the width of existing road is allowed.*
- ii. *No night camping shall be allowed during the construction of road by labour. The construction activity will be permitted during day time only.*
- iii. *No construction material should be taken from sanctuary or forest area like sand, soil and stone etc.*
- iv. *The user agency will put and maintain sign boards in sanctuary area.*
- v. *No tree cutting will be allowed.*
- vi. *The user agency will not create burrow pit in sanctuary area.*
- vii. *User agency will clear all the debris left after construction activity.*

**2.2.2(15) Survey for construction of new broad gauge railway line by North Frontier Railways from Sevok in West Bengal to Rongpo at Sikkim over 32.586 ha within Mahananda Wildlife Sanctuary, West Bengal.**

The Member Secretary gave a brief description regarding the project. He also mentioned that the proposal was for survey for construction of new broad gauge railway line by North Frontier Railways from Sevok in West Bengal to Rongpo at Sikkim over 32.586 ha within Mahananda Wildlife Sanctuary, West Bengal.

The representative from the Railways mentioned that the alignment passes through area having steep hills and dense reserved forest in the Darjeeling district of West Bengal and East Sikkim, only for a very short length. He added that the proposed B.G. Line passes along

the western bank of River Teesta and then passes through NH-31A on right. Since the area falls within steep hills and valley, the proposed alignment is to pass through tunnel. About 14 tunnels are to be provided along the route and the longest tunnel is about 4060 M. The total length of tunnel is about 31.965 km which is about 72% of the total route.

Ms. Perna Bindra opined that Mahananda is rich in biodiversity and such an activity may have a very negative impact on the fragile ecosystem. She suggested that the Railways should think of an alternate route.

After discussion, the committee decided that a team comprising of Dr M.K. Ranjitsinh, Ms. Perna Bindra, Dr M.D. Madhusudan and a representative of the Chief Wildlife Warden, would make a site inspection and submit a report before the Standing Committee expeditiously. The Standing Committee would take a view on the proposal after considering the site inspection report of the team.

**2.2.2(16) Diversion of 0.315 ha of forestland from Girnar Wildlife Sanctuary for construction of New Panjnaka Bhavnath Bridge, Near Damodar Kund across Sonarkh River in by Municipal Corporation, Junagardh, Gujarat by Municipal Corporation Limited.**

The Member Secretary informed that the proposal was for diversion of 0.315 ha of forestland from Girnar Wildlife Sanctuary for construction of New Panjnaka Bhavnath Bridge, Near Damodar Kund across Sonarkh River in by Municipal Corporation, Junagardh, Gujarat by Municipal Corporation Limited.

After discussion, the committee decided to recommend the proposal subject to the following conditions stipulated by the Chief Wildlife Warden:

- i. *Minimal movement of the staff and vehicles of the user agency is to be allowed to move in the sanctuary area.*
- ii. *No damage should be caused to flora and fauna of the said area by user agency and its establishment.*
- iii. *The agency and or contractor will not use the area of the Sanctuary which is not included in this proposal for the movement, transportation and any other purpose of the construction and maintenance of the transmission line.*
- iv. *The land will not be liable to sale of to transfer the right and prevail ages to any other agency.*
- v. *The agency and or contractor will strictly follow wildlife Act and also the provision under Wildlife Act.*

**AGENDA ITEM NO.3: Agenda proposed by Members, Standing Committee of NBWL**

**(i) Agenda proposed by Dr Divyabhanusinh Chavda; and**

**(iv) Agenda proposed by Dr M.K. Ranjitsinh**

The Member Secretary introduced the agenda proposed by both Dr Divyabhanusinh Chavda and Dr M.K. Ranjitsinh, in which they had raised the issue regarding the status of the Species Recovery Programme.

Dr Ranjitsinh mentioned that he desired to know whether the Ministry had the details of the status of the 15 species that have been taken up under the recovery programme. He added that the recovery programme of the 15 species had been introduced a few years ago and till date no substantive progress seems to have been made in bringing up the population of these species. He emphasised that the Committee constituted by the National Board for Wildlife for identifying the species for the scheme on recovery of critically endangered species, both terrestrial as well as marine, had also worked on the action plan. He stated that while 70 % of resources are committed for one species, only 30 % of the funds is available for rest of the species. We need to have a serious look into this.

Dr Divyabhanusinh Chavda mentioned that some nodal point should be made in the Ministry and in the State Governments to monitor the progress of the recovery of the critically endangered species. He reiterated that with the present rate of dwindling population of the species, all will soon become non-recoverable. He stated that the states did maintain population status of several of the species if not all of the 15 species by making periodic estimations. These facts can be easily obtained from them and a status report can be made to the SC. The states may be asked to give the steps they are taking for the protection and well being of these species. He desired to know the action plan for the future implementation of the recovery programme and also the status of the present population of the 15 species. He also desired to know whether the Ministry had moved for additional financial allocation under its schemes for the recovery of the critically endangered species.

The Additional Director general of Forests (WL) mentioned that the Wildlife Division had proposed an outlay of Rs. 3000 crore for the Eleventh Five Year Plan under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats', but it was allocated only Rs. 800 crore. He added that under the scheme 668 Protected Areas were to be supported and the allocation of funds for the purpose was very meager.

The Director, Wildlife Institute of India explained that it is not practically feasible to ascertain current population status of individual species unless some definite protocols are developed on similar lines with the Tiger estimation. He added that the task not only involved high cost but a lot of personnel too.

The Inspector General of Forests (WL) informed that component for recovery of critically endangered species was added in the scheme of 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats' in eleventh plan. However, out of the allocated amount of Rs. 800 crores, only an amount of at Rs. 360 crores was received for the entire scheme. He informed that the basic tenet of the species recovery programme was involvement of experts in preparation of individual action plans for the species and some of the members of the Standing Committee themselves have been associated with this work for some species. Due to insufficient funds, only initial work has been done in 8 species. The progress in the recovery programme was slow because of irregular availability of funds but is moving ahead in getting specific action plan based on the advice of the experts.

Dr Asad Rahmani confirmed that he was one of the members of the committee for preparation of the Action Plan for the recovery of Great Indian Bustard, but the action plan was still to be implemented. He added that the population of Bustard species were abysmally less, like it was less than 250 only in case of Great Indian Bustard, around 300 for Bengal Florican, less than 1,000 for Greater Adjutant, between 25-50 in case of Jerdon's courser and between 100-150 for Forest Owlet. He also quoted the example of Manipur Bush Quail which was last seen in 1935. He also gave the overall figures of several critically endangered species. He

added that in India, 15 species of birds were critically endangered, 15 were endangered, 52 were threatened. He urged that some concrete action needs to be taken for the species otherwise they would all go extinct very soon.

Shri Kishor Rithe mentioned that these issues should be taken up for discussion during the meeting of the Chief Wildlife Wardens.

It was decided that a status note would be sought from the State Governments and would be placed for consideration of the Standing Committee.

**(ii) Agenda proposed by Dr T.R. Shankar Raman**

The Member Secretary mentioned that Dr. Shankar Raman had raised two issues regarding implementation of the Elephant Task Force and for fostering wildlife research and related amendment of the Wildlife Protection Act.

The Inspector General of Forests and Director, Project Elephant, MoEF, informed that a note for the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) for Elephant Conservation Authority has been prepared and the matter is being taken up actively in the Ministry. He also added that a sub committee for looking into the recommendations of the Elephant Task Force has is being constituted by the Ministry and this committee would soon be meeting to take a review of the recommendations.

The Inspector General of Forests (WL) mentioned that the matter of Wildlife Research was taken up by member in the meeting of NBWL in September 2012 and Hon'ble Minister had informed that once the amendment of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 is affected, further follow up action will be initiated for framing Rules for taking up research activities in the wildlife areas.

**(iii) Agenda items proposed by Ms. Purna Bindra.**

The Member Secretary mentioned that Ms. Purna Bindra had proposed two agenda items regarding bringing Elephant Reserves and wildlife corridors under the purview of the Standing Committee of NBWL and that for commercial exploitation of bamboo and other NTFP.

The Inspector General of Forests and Director, Project Elephant, MoEF mentioned that in the 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the NBWL, the issue of Elephant Reserves and corridors were discussed and a committee is now being constituted for which the TOR's have been approved and that this committee would look into all these aspects and make recommendations to the Ministry very soon.

Ms. Purna Bindra mentioned that the Elephant Reserves need special protection measures and the guidelines issued by the Ministry in March 2011 should be considered for taking up activities within the Elephant Reserves. She also suggested that the Elephant Reserves should be declared as eco-sensitive zones.

Dr M.D. Madhusudan mentioned that the Karnataka Elephant Task Force had suggested a lot of issues including taking up activities in Elephant Reserves. He added that in

several states, stone quarry works are being taken up in the vicinity of wildlife habitats without the concurrence of the NBWL.

Shri Kishor Rithe mentioned that the National Wildlife Action Plan envisages that all wildlife corridors should be declared as eco-sensitive zones and then all these proposals must mandatorily come before the Standing Committee of NBWL. He also suggested that the buffer areas of Tiger Reserves should also be declared as eco-sensitive zones.

Dr Ranjitsinh suggested that the MoEF Regional offices should play an active role in monitoring the compliance of the conditions stipulated by the regulatory authorities. The Regional offices should have a wildlife wing to monitor wildlife related cases as well as that for monitoring the Species Recovery Programme.

It was agreed that all the issues raised by the members are important and crucial for conservation and protection of Protected Areas and all the issues raised will be taken into account while dealing the eco-sensitive zones and other matters.

#### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 4:**

##### **4.1: Proposals involving areas within 10 kms from boundaries of National Parks and Sanctuaries.**

**4.1(1) to (11)** Proposals listed from Sl. No.1 to 11 pertaining to river bed mining in Saharanpur area of Uttar Pradesh has already been considered under agenda item no.2.2.10.

**4.1 (12) Proposal for Kharoi Jadva Vhaghapaddhar, Harudi limestone mine of M/s Jayprakash Associates Ltd. (Formerly known as Gujarat Anjan Cements Ltd.) at a distance of 4.8 km from Narayan Sarovar Wildlife Sanctuary, Gujarat.**

The Member Secretary informed that the proposal was for a mine lease area of 2,831.61 and falling at a distance of 4.8 km from Narayan Sarovar Wildlife Sanctuary, Gujarat. He also mentioned that the Environmental Clearance for the project has been obtained on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2011 with a condition that requisite prior clearance from the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife shall be obtained.

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (WL) Gujarat mentioned that there is an order of Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 7<sup>th</sup> May 2010 regarding prohibition of mining activities up to only 3 kms from the boundaries of the Narayan Sarovar Sanctuary. He added that the eco-sensitive zone around Narayan Sarovar Sanctuary has been notified by the Government of India on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2012 and the present mining site falls beyond that proposed eco sensitive zone.

Dr Asad Rahmani mentioned that Narayan Sarovar Sanctuary was a good Bustard habitat and needs to be protected. He added that the State Government should come up with more areas for the protection of the bustard species.

Dr M.K. Ranjitsinh opined that the Narayan Sarovar Sanctuary was denotified for taking the mining activities outside the limits of the Sanctuary and that the lignite mine in the area was a trend setter in this regard.

Dr Divyabhanusinh Chavda mentioned that there have been several projects in the same area leading to disturbances to the wildlife within the Sanctuary. He also quoted the example of an earlier case pertaining to oil exploration.

Ms Prerna Bindra mentioned that said the sanctuary --and the habitat around it (as per the information provided) is the home for wolf, hyena and other endangered species like caracal, bustard. She added that the concerned officer writes in the agenda that "*This population will get disturbed and will be dislocated. and that the two proposals submitted by the user agency for laterite mining ore from village Baranda and second for limestone mining due to which the present Reserve Forest of village Harudi will be mined almost all around which will close corridor for the wildlife living inside the reserve forest.*

After discussions, Hon'ble chairperson desired that the concerns raised by the members should be given due credence.

The Committee, after discussions, decided that the compliance status of the conditions stipulated in the Environmental Clearance be verified by the Regional office of MoEF and in case it is found that any of the conditions have not been complied with, the proposal would be rejected. In case the compliance of the conditions have been fully met, the proposal would stand recommended by the Standing Committee.

**4.1 (13) Proposal is for Mevasa Bauxite mine of GMDC, on 186.96 ha at a distance of 3.44 km from Marine Wildlife Sanctuary, Gujarat.**

The Member Secretary gave a brief description of the project proposal. He added that the proposal was for Mevasa Bauxite mine by the Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation at a distance of 3.44 km from Marine Wildlife Sanctuary.

Dr M.K. Ranjitsinh mentioned that mining of bauxite in different areas have been the cause for great negative impact on wildlife, especially in Gujarat. Very rarely the mining agencies take care to comply with the mitigation measures indicated in the Environmental Management Plan. He added that the disposal of the slurry needs special monitoring, as in the instant case there is every chance of disposal of the slurry in the marine sanctuary.

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (WL), Gujarat, mentioned that this was an existing mine and is not in any forest land and was beyond the proposed eco-sensitive zone. He clarified that the State Government has taken adequate measures for disposal of the slurry and to implement the mitigation plan.

After discussion, the committee decided to recommend the proposal subject to the condition that the State Forest Department would inspect the site to ensure that the slurry is not being disposed into the marine sanctuary and that in case any of the following conditions, in addition to the conditions stipulated in the Environmental clearance to be monitored by Regional Offices, are not being complied to strictly, then the recommendation to the proposal would stand cancelled:

- i. *The conditions shown in environment clearance must be strictly followed.*

- ii. *The study/report of environment or according to situation if any additional conditions are added by the Chief Wildlife Warden will be binding on the party and they would follow the terms and condition stipulated by the authority.*
- iii. *Party should implement plantation and wildlife related conditions in co-ordination with, and supervision of concerned Deputy Conservator of Forest.*
- iv. *The copies of the afforestation plan; Green Belt plan; Wildlife Conservation Plan etc. must be submitted to the local Deputy Conservator of Forests, Conservator of Forests, Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden by the party.*
- v. *The funds related to the budget for environmental protection and conservation must be kept in separate accounts. Every six months the expenditure incurred under these accounts should be submitted to Deputy Conservator of Forests, Conservator of Forests and Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden.*
- vi. *The local deputy Conservator of Forests will monitor the progress related to wildlife conservation activities and party will submit the report to the Conservator of Forests, and the Chief Wildlife Warden every six months (September and March).*

**4.1 (14) Umarsar lignite mine of GMDC, on 2186.76 ha at a distance of 4.4 km from Narayan Sarovar Sanctuary, Gujarat.**

The Member Secretary presented the proposal for Umarsar lignite mine by the Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation at a distance of 4.4 km from Narayan Sarovar Sanctuary, Gujarat.

Ms. Prerna Bindra mentioned that as per the fact sheet of the proposal, the sanctuary is the home for caracal, wolf, bustard etc. and mining in the near vicinity of the sanctuary would definitely have a negative impact on these animals which are critically endangered.

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (WL) Gujarat informed that the Kutch region is very important for wolf and the State Government is taking all measures for its protection. He also mentioned that the proposed mine was beyond the proposed eco-sensitive zone for Narayan Sarovar Sanctuary.

Dr M.D. Madhusudan opined that demarcation of boundaries of eco-sensitive zones should be done after a thoughtful planning since the wild animals do not see any boundaries made by humans. He also added that the movement of wild animals both within and outside the sanctuary should be paid due credence while planning any developmental activity.

The ADGFC in charge of DGF & SS was of the opinion that implementation of the mitigatory measures and the compliance of the conditions should be made strict and the cost of the management of wildlife habitat in the vicinity of the mining areas should be the responsibility of the user agencies.

The Committee, after discussions, decided that the compliance of conditions stipulated in the Environmental Clearance would be verified by the Regional office of MoEF and in case it is found that any of the conditions have not been complied with the proposal would stand rejected. In case the compliance of the conditions have been fully met, the proposal would stand recommended by the Standing Committee with the following conditions:

- i. *The conditions shown in environment clearance must be strictly followed.*
- ii. *The study/report of environment or according to situation if any additional conditions are added by the Chief Wildlife Warden will be binding on the party and they would follow the terms and condition stipulated by the authority.*
- iii. *In future, if any act or rule is declared for environment/forests and for conservation of wildlife, the same will be followed by the party.*
- iv. *Party should implement plantation and wildlife related conditions in co-ordination with, and supervision of concerned Deputy Conservator of Forest.*
- v. *The copies of the afforestation plan; Green Belt plan; Wildlife Conservation Plan etc. must be submitted to the local Deputy Conservator of Forests, Conservator of Forests, Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden by the party.*
- vi. *The funds for the budget for environmental protection and conservation must be kept in separate accounts. Every six months the expenditure incurred under these accounts should be submitted to Deputy Conservator of Forests, Conservator of Forests and Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden.*
- vii. *The local deputy Conservator of Forests will monitor the progress related to wildlife conservation activities and party will submit the report to the Conservator of Forests, and the Chief Wildlife Warden every six months (September and March).*

**4.1 (15) Proposal for Kotri-Chechat Limestone (Building Stone) Mine (M.L.No.19/93) of M/s Abdul Sattar S/o Shri Abdul Kareem Village Kotri Chechat District Kota, Rajasthan. (within 10 kms of Mukandra NP/Dara Sanctuary).**

The Member Secretary gave a brief description of the project proposal. He also mentioned that as per the project proposal, the mine was located at a distance of about 6 KM from the boundary of Darrah Wildlife Sanctuary and Mukandara Hills National Park and that the area was a revenue land and was already broken up He indicated that the proposal was for renewal and capacity expansion of mineral production.

Since it was a potential tiger habitat, the committee, after discussion, decided that a team comprising of Dr Divyabhanusinh Chavda and an official from NTCA would conduct site inspection and submit a report to the Standing Committee of NBWL for taking a view on the proposal.

**4.1 (16) Proposal for construction of 765 KV transmission line from GSS Anta (Baran) to 765 KV GSS Phagi CKT-I to improve the power system, Rajasthan**

The Member Secretary gave a brief description of the project proposal. He also added that the proposed 765 KV Anta-Phagi (CKT-I) transmission line is to transit the power from 765 kv. GSS Anta (Baran)-765 KV GSS Phagi to improve the power system of Rajasthan & North grid of India. He mentioned that a similar case was already discussed earlier during the meeting.

Dr M.K. Ranjitsinh reiterated that conditions should be stipulated so as to fix the responsibility on the user agency who violate the compliance of conditions and also in case there is a causality to wildlife due to electrocution. He also added that the vegetation below the transmission line should remain unchanged.

The committee after discussion, decided to recommend the proposal subject to the condition that the State Government would fix the responsibility of the project proponent in

case the conditions are not complied to and in case there is death/injury to the wild animals due to electrocution and that the nature of the vegetation below the transmission lines would remain unchanged and also subject to the condition that status of land will remain unchanged. It was also indicated that the following conditions as stipulated by the Chief Wildlife warden, Rajasthan would also be strictly complied with:

- i. *Only minimum movement of the staff and vehicles of the user agency should be allowed to move in the sanctuary area.*
- ii. *No damage should be caused to flora and fauna of the said area by user agency and its establishment.*
- iii. *The agency and or contractor will not use the area of the sanctuary which is not included in this proposal for the movement, transportation and any other purpose of the construction and maintenance of the transmission line.*
- iv. *The land will not be liable to sale or to transfer the right and privileges to any other agency.*
- v. *The agency and /or its contractors will strictly follow the provision under the Wildlife (Protection) Act.*
- vi. *5% of the cost of the cable line which is passing through the sanctuary should be spent for wildlife conservation in the Wildlife Sanctuary area.*
- vii. *The user agency should take full care and precaution for the construction of cable line so that no damage is caused to wildlife in the area.*
- viii. *The user agency will get a proper study conducted on the impact of the implementation of the project on the local avifauna by Wild Life Institute of India, Dehradun or other competent agency. The cost of the study will be borne by the user agency and the Forest Department will coordinate the same.*
- ix. *The establishment/construction of towers in & adjoining sanctuary area will be done in the presence of local wildlife/forest staff.*
- x. *Tree felling/cutting will not be allowed.*
- xi. *No night camping should be allowed during erection of electric line in the sanctuary area.*
- xii. *The agency will put a mechanism in place whereby the power will trip in case there is breakage in transmission so that animals do not get electrocuted.*

**4.1 (17) Proposal for construction of 765 KV transmission line (Partly S/C and Partly D/C) between MP (Gwalior) and Rajasthan (Jaipur) passing through Chambal (Crocodile) Sanctuary near villages Ranchauli in Karoli district, Rajasthan**

The Member Secretary gave a brief description regarding the project proposal. He added that the proposal was for construction of 765 KV transmission line (Partly S/C and Partly D/C) between MP (Gwalior) and Rajasthan (Jaipur) passing through Chambal (Crocodile) Sanctuary village Ranchauli in Karoli district, Rajasthan.

Since this proposal was also of similar nature pertaining to transmission lines, the committee after discussions, decided to recommend the proposal subject to the condition that the State Government would fix the responsibility of the project proponent in case the conditions are not complied to and in case there is death/injury to the wild animals due to electrocution and that the nature of the vegetation below the transmission lines would remain unchanged and also subject to the condition that status of land will remain unchanged. It was

also indicated that the following conditions as stipulated by the Chief Wildlife warden, Rajasthan would also be strictly complied with:

- i. *Only minimum movement of the staff and vehicles of the user agency will be allowed to move in the sanctuary area.*
- ii. *No damage should be caused to flora and fauna of the said area by user agency and its establishment.*
- iii. *The agency and/ or its contractors will not use the area of the sanctuary which is not included in this proposal for the movement, transportation and any other purpose of the construction and maintenance of the transmission line.*
- iv. *The land will not be liable to sale or transfer of the right and privileges to any other agency.*
- v. *The agency and /or its contractors will strictly follow the provision under the Wildlife (Protection) Act.*
- vi. *5% of the cost of the cable line which is passing through WLS should be sent for wildlife conservation in the Wildlife Sanctuary area.*
- vii. *The user agency should take full care and precaution for the construction of cable line so that no damage is caused to wildlife in the area.*
- viii. *The user agency will get a proper study conducted on the impact of the implementation of the project on the local avifauna by Wild Life Institute of India, Dehradun or other competent agency. The cost of the study will be borne by the user agency and the Forest Department will coordinate the same.*
- ix. *The establishment/construction of towers in & adjoining sanctuary area will be done in the presence of local wildlife/forest staff.*
- x. *The agency will put a mechanism in place whereby the power will trip in case there is breakage in transmission so that animals do not get electrocuted.*

#### **4.2 Proposals involving Protected Areas**

##### **4.2 (1): Permission for survey and investigation of existing 2 lane road to 4 lane road from Gwalior to Dewas Section of NH-3 package-I passing through Madhav National Park, Madhya Pradesh.**

The Member Secretary gave a brief description regarding the project proposal. He added that the proposal pertained to permission for survey and investigation of existing 2 lane road to 4 lane road from Gwalior to Dewas Section of NH-3 package-I passing through Madhav National Park, Madhya Pradesh as the existing 2 lane highway from Gwalior to Dewas has crossed the specific capacity of 2-lane.

Dr M.K. Ranjitsinh mentioned that the committee had already discussed few cases of road upgradation during the meeting and that he would like to reiterate the point regarding adding equivalent or more area as Protected Area in the State.

Dr Divyabhanusinh Chavda mentioned that under-passes for the movement of wild animals should be provided in consultation with the State Forest Department. He added that the user agency must obtain the inputs of the Forest Department and incorporate their views before a proposal is put up for approval.

After discussions, the Committee recommended the proposal for survey and investigation of the proposed road with the condition that the user agency should have under passes and fencing in appropriate places have prior consultations with the State Forest

Department before and that equivalent or more area need to be identified for notification as a Protected Area, if the proposal for diversion/use of land of Protected Area is contemplated.

**4.2 (2): Diversion of 38.370 ha of forest land from Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary for rehabilitation and upgradation to 4 lane configuration of Bhopal-Bareli Section of NH-12 involving Madhya Pradesh.**

The Member Secretary explained that the proposal was for diversion of 38.370 ha of forest land from Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary for rehabilitation and upgradation to 4 lane configuration of Bhopal-Bareli Section of NH-12 involving Madhya Pradesh.

Ms. Prerna Bindra mentioned she had carried out site inspection for another case relating to road upgradation involving Ratapani Sanctuary, and had found that the condition of the road was in a dilapidated state and therefore, the State Government should take immediate action for at least restoring the status of the road as a poorly managed road is equally bad for the wildlife conservation. She also added that the State Government should take pro-active steps to declare Ratapani Sanctuary as a Tiger Reserve at the earliest. She also added that fencing should be done with utmost caution.

Shri Kishor Rithe was of the opinion that the guidelines being framed for linear intrusions should have all the safeguard conditions for better management of roads as well as for the safety of wildlife.

The Principal Secretary (Forests), Madhya Pradesh mentioned that the conditions of the road passing through Ratapani Sanctuary was in poor condition and that the State Government has taken measures to fill the pot-holes and bring it back to motorable status.

After discussion, the committee decided to recommend the proposal subject to the condition that equivalent or more area would be notified as Protected Area in the state and that the user agency would consult the Forest Department while planning the under-passes and fences. The user agency would also strictly comply to all such conditions as stipulated by the Chief Wildlife Warden.

**4.2 (3) Widening and Improvement of existing carriageway to 4/6 Lane specification of Ranchi-Rargaon-Jamshedpur section from km-114.000 to km 277.500 of NH-33 (Existing Alignment) and Ranchi Bypass of NH-33 in the State of Jharkhand. (The core portion of sanctuary is about 15 to 20 km away from the proposed project).**

The Member Secretary gave a brief description regarding the proposal. He added that the proposal is for widening and improvement of the existing carriageway to 4/6 Lane specification of Ranchi-Rargaon-Jamshedpur section from km-114.000 to km 277.500 of NH-33 (Existing Alignment) and Ranchi Bypass of NH-33.

The Chief Wildlife Warden, Jharkhand mentioned that in 1966, the PWD had constructed a road and the Sanctuary encompassing the road was notified in 1976. The State Government should have denotified the stretch of road portion having an area of 2.64 ha within the sanctuary long before, but some how this could not be done. Presently, the area of Dalma Sanctuary was 193. 22 sq. kms. The land involving the stretch of the road passing through the sanctuary is in possession of the PWD and is not with the forest department.

Dr. M.K. Ranjitsinh mentioned that except for National Highways and State Highways, all roads passing through Protected Areas should be maintained as a forest road only and that presently, the country requires more land for conservation of wildlife and not money alone. He added that today, our Parks are bisected by roads and transmission lines under different project names like NHAI projects, SH projects, *Pradhan Mantri Grameen Sadak Yojana*, etc. The user agency should usually have consultation with the forest department in the formative stage of the road project. He also added that the State of Himachal Pradesh had set an example by adding more areas in lieu of denotification of land from a Sanctuary or National Park and this should be followed by other states as well.

After discussion, the committee decided to recommend the proposal for denotifying an area of 2.64 ha of land from the Dalma Sanctuary and also for widening and improvement of the said road (from km 114.000 to km 277.500 of NH-33) with the following conditions, as stipulated by the Chief Wildlife Warden, and that equivalent or more area would be notified by the State Government as Protected Area, prior to the denotification:

- i. *No labour camps should be established in any part of the sanctuary area, while executing the work of the project.*
- ii. *A committee comprising of wildlife officials of the sanctuary and user agency i.e. NHAI should be formed for continuous monitoring in the sanctuary area during construction period.*
- iii. *Fire hazards and the consequential threat is evitable and therefore it is very important that at least 6 fire watch towers be constructed along the project road to monitor forest fire. It is also essential that the user agency is asked to provide two vehicles (one Mahendra Bolero and one Tata-407) for effective patrolling of the area.*
- iv. *No construction material will be stored inside the boundary of the sanctuary area.*
- v. *No construction material viz. sand, soil, stone etc. will be allowed to be taken from sanctuary area.*
- vi. *Safety of wildlife is very essential hence safety signage showing the caution and warning shall be put up at regular intervals.*
- vii. *An amount of Rs.25 crores should be placed by the NHAI at the disposal of the wildlife wing of forest department to act as a corpus, interest from which will be utilized by the wildlife wing for eco-development activities within and the periphery of the sanctuary.*
- viii. *Since the NH-33 cuts through the established migratory corridors of elephants at three places near ASAN BANI, CHANDIL & RUGAI, with the widening of the existing road and creation of the central gorge, elephant movement is likely to be affected. To take care of this, three under passes of 75 to 100 mts. at these places should be constructed in consultation with the wildlife warden of Dalma WLS.*

**4.2(4) Diversion of 0.377 ha of forest land from Bhimbandh Wildlife Sanctuary for doubling of existing single railway line between Ratanpur & Jamalpur Station passing through Bihar.**

The Member Secretary, gave a brief description of the proposal. He added that the proposal was for diversion of 0.377 ha of forest land from Bhimbandh Wildlife Sanctuary for doubling of existing single railway line between Ratanpur & Jamalpur Station passing through Bihar. He further mentioned that as per the project proposal, the existing tunnel was constructed by erstwhile East India Railway to cross the Jamalpur hill during year 1856-1861. Due to increase in traffic, double line is proposed to be constructed between

Ratanpur & Jamalpur. Since existing tunnel is meant for only single line, construction of new tunnel is necessary for the double laning work in the area.

After discussion, the committee decided to recommend the proposal as the area proposed was very small and would have little impact on wildlife therein. The committee also decided that the conditions to be stipulated by the Chief Wildlife Warden would be strictly complied with by the user agency.

#### **4.2 (5) Proposal for development of Skywalk for promotion of Wildlife Tourism at Bhalleydhunga, Maenam Wildlife Sanctuary, South Sikkim**

The Member Secretary gave a brief description regarding the project proposal. He further mentioned that proposal was discussed by the Standing Committee of NBWL in its meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2011. The proposal involved construction of an environment friendly glass bottom cantilever skywalk beyond the edge of Bhalleydhunga steep face with rain shelter and public conveniences. An area of 0.90 ha of land in the sanctuary would be required for this purpose. Further, an eco-friendly ropeway had also been proposed for access to Bhalleydhunga peak from the base area called Mahadeo Than, requiring an area of 1.20 ha of sanctuary land for its construction. After detailed discussions, the Committee decided that Shri Kishore Rithe would conduct a site inspection and submit a report. The site inspection report was considered in the 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2012 and after discussions, the Committee unanimously decided to recommend for conducting survey and investigation for construction of the skywalk and the ropeway, and directed the CWLW/State Government to place the survey and investigation report before the Standing Committee as and when the same was ready. The State Government has now placed the survey and investigation report for consideration of the Standing Committee of NBWL.

Ms. Purna Bindra mentioned that she had given her dissent note with respect to the permission of the Standing Committee for survey and investigation for the sky walk project. She added that it is not the sky walk itself that would cause an impact to the project but the fact that these are other ancillary activities would have more deleterious effect on the wildlife. She stressed that she was not at all in favour of approving the project. She further emphasized that once such a proposal was recommended by the Standing Committee, it would become a clear precedence for other states to follow the suit.

Shri Kisho Rithe mentioned that after the site inspection, he had only accorded his agreement for the rope way and not for the sky walk. He also added that he had recommended for repair of the trail paths and that sky walk being an entertainment project cannot be agreed to. He added that the Chief Wildlife Warden should give adequate funds for improvement of trail paths. He said that with adequate safeguards for the wildlife rope way could be agreed to but not the sky walk as this would increase the traffic load and destruction of the entire habitat.

Dr M.K. Ranjitsinh mentioned that now a days people have forgotten to go for a walk in the wilderness to appreciate the nature. There was a proposal to establish a Zoo right in the middle of the Gangtok city, which could prove disastrous. He said people should be encouraged to have trips to the wilderness and take a walk along the trekking paths. The State Government should give ample opportunity to the people to take a walk in the wilderness area and should take steps not to allow encroachments within the National parks and Sanctuaries.

The ADGFC in charge of DGF&SS mentioned that project was earlier discussed with the Government of Sikkim and the area sought for the project is very small and all possible mitigatory measures for the safeguard of wildlife should be strictly followed by the state Government.

The Principal Secretary and Resident Commissioner, Sikkim explained that Sikkim is the only state in India having more than 30% of the land mass covered under Protected Area network and the State Government has also proposed more area to be covered under its PA network. He explained that while an area of 0.90 ha of the Maenam Sanctuary would be required for the purpose of sky walk for base of cantilever, the total length of the ropeway was 22 kms and the land requirement for the Ropeway within the Sanctuary is 1.20 ha. Therefore, the total land required to be diverted from the Maenam Sanctuary was only 2.10 ha. He indicated that the state with most of its area under natural environs is entitled to showcase its biodiversity and ecology, for which ecotourism is the only effective way. He also added that the project would not disrupt the regional ecology and natural habitat of the area and has been strategically planned to blend with the regional environs that would eventually earn revenue for the state not only to sustain the project but also to support the wildlife zone and forest cover in the region. He said the Ropeway cabins would have the capacity of 20 cabins with a capacity of 8 person per cabin and it would take ten and half minutes for one cabin to reach the skywalk cantilever from the starting point.

After discussions, the Committee decided to recommend the proposal in view of the fact that the State Government has done a remarkable job in bringing more than 30 % of the geographical area of the State under the protected area coverage. The Committee also advised the State Government to strictly ensure that no plastics are brought into the Sanctuary area. The Committee also decided that the following conditions, as stipulated by the Chief Wildlife Warden, Sikkim would be complied with by the user agency:

- i. Labour camps will not be permitted to be set up inside the sanctuary.*
- ii. All workers need to obtain permits for working in the project site inside the sanctuary.*
- iii. Construction materials should be stored in the identified area.*
- iv. No additional felling of tree or destruction of wildlife habitat, exploitation or removal of any wildlife including forest produce from the sanctuary should take place.*
- v. Authorized sanctuary personnel will check the construction sites as and when required.*
- vi. The project implementing authorities and workers will obey Dos and Don'ts of the sanctuary.*

**Agenda item No.5: Any other item with the permission of the chair**

The Inspector General of Forests and Director, Project Elephant, MoEF, mentioned that the draft affidavit incorporating the comments received from the members, with respect to the PIL 14029/2008 filed before Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka, was circulated amongst the members during the meeting. He requested the members to peruse the draft affidavit and to offer their comments, if any, by 20<sup>th</sup> December 2012, so that it could be approved and filed before the Hon'ble Court.

Dr Asad Rahmani thanked the Hon'ble Chairperson for her letter to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Nagaland, for protection of the Amur falcons in the State. He added that such proactive measures by the chairperson had always motivated the wildlife conservationists in the county.

Thereafter, the meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the chair.

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**ANNEXURE-1**

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS OF THE 27<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF STANDING COMMITTEE OF NBWL HELD ON 12<sup>th</sup> December 2012.**

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1	Ms. Jayanti Natrajan Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment & Forests	Chairperson
2	Dr V. Rajagopalan Secretary, E & F	Invitee
3	Dr S.S. Garbiyal Addl. Director General of Forests & Director, Wildlife Preservation	Member-Secretary
4	Shri A.K. Srivastava Addl. Director General of Forests (FC) & Additional Charge of DGF&SS	Member
5	Shri P.R. Sinha Director, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun	Member
6	Dr. M.K. Ranjitsinh	Member
7	Dr. Divyabhanusinh Chavda	Member
8	Dr Asad Rehmani, Bombay Natural History Society, Mumbai.	Member
9	Ms. Prerna Bindra	Member
10	Dr M.D. Madhusudan Nature Conservation Foundation, Mysore	Member
11	Shri Kishore Rithe, Satpuda Foundation, Amravati.	Member
12	Shri Rajesh Gopal, Member Secretary (NTCA)	Invitee
13	Dr S.K. Khanduri, Inspector General of Forests (WL)	Invitee
14	Shri S.S. Chahar, DIG, BSF	Invitee
15	Shri A.S. Brar, Addl.PCCF & Chief Wildlife Warden, Rajasthan	Invitee
16	Shri Suresh Chand, PCCF(WL) & Chief Wildlife Warden, Assam	Invitee
17	Shri S.W.H. Naqvi, Pr.CCF(WL) & Chief Wildlife Warden, Maharashtra	Invitee
18	Dr P.K. Shukla, PCCF (WL) & Chief Wildlife Warden, Madhya Pradesh	Invitee
19	Shri B.P. Singh, Principal Secretary (Forests), Madhya Pradesh	Invitee
20	Shri S.S. Sharma, PCCF (WL) & Chief Wildlife Warden, Uttarakhand	Invitee
21	Dr A.K. Malhotra, PCCF(WL) cum Chief Wildlife Warden, Jharkhand	Invitee
22	Dr C.N. Pandey, Pr.Chief Conservator of Forests (WL), Gujarat	Invitee

23	Shri Arvind Kumar, Principal Secretary & PCCF, Sikkim	Invitee
24	Shri K.G. Prajapati, Chief Engineer (R&B) & Addl. Secretary, Gujarat	Invitee
25	Shri A.M. Singh, IGF (PE), MoEF	Invitee
26	Mr. Vivek Saxena Deputy Inspector General of Forests (WL)	Invitee
27	Shri Prabhat Tyagi, Joint Director (WL)	Invitee

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