

**Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change
(Wildlife Division)**

**6th Floor, Vayu Wing
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Jor Bag Road, Aliganj
New Delhi-110003**

**F.No.6-209.2014 WL-I (32nd Meeting)
Dated: 20th February 2015**

**To
All Members,
Standing Committee of NBWL.**

Sub: Minutes of 32nd Meeting of Standing Committee of NBWL.

Sir/Madam,

Kindly find enclosed copy of the minutes of the 32nd Meeting of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife held on 21st January 2015 at 3.00 P.M. in "Narmada & Satluj", Ground Floor, Jal Block, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh, New Delhi-110003 under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment, Forests and Climate Change.

Yours faithfully,

R. Rajasekhar
20/02/2015
(Rajasekhar Ratti)

Scientist 'C'/Deputy Director (WL)

Encl: As above

Distribution:

1. Secretary, MoEF & CC
2. Director General of Forests & Special Secretary, MoEF & CC.
3. Member Secretary, NTCA, New Delhi.
4. Addl. Director General of Forests (WL), MoEF&CC.
5. Director, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun.
6. Director, GEER Foundation, Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
7. Prof. R.Sukumar, Central for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.
8. Dr. H.S. Singh, Gandhi Nagar, Gujarat.
9. Pr. Secretary (Forests), Government of Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad.

Copy to:

1. PPS to Hon'ble MOS (I/C) E&F.
2. PPS to DGF&SS.
3. PPS to Addl.DGF(WL) and Member Secretary, Standing Committee (NBWL).
4. PPS to IGF(WL)/PS to DIG(WL)/PS to JD(WL).

Ministry of Environment and Forests (Wildlife Division)

Minutes of the 32nd Meeting of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife held on 21st January 2015 at Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bag Road, New Delhi.

The 32nd Meeting of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) was held on 21st January 2015 in the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment, Forests and Climate Change. Representative of Andhra Pradesh could not participate in the meeting.

At the outset, Hon'ble Chairman while welcoming all participants to the 32nd Meeting of Standing Committee of NBWL mentioned that ideally the meetings of the Standing Committee of NBWL should have been convened once in at least two to three months interval. However, as the Writ Petition pending before the Hon'ble Supreme Court was dismissed only in late November 2014, this meeting is being convened after four months. He desired that the next meeting be convened within next two months. He also clarified that an appropriate balance between conservation and development would be ensured in such a way that the development supports conservation. He emphasized that he intends to facilitate conservation without compromise on the development front and all that is needed to ensure biodiversity conservation, will be done. He then requested the Member Secretary to initiate the discussions on the agenda items.

The agenda items were then opened for discussion.

Agenda No. 1:

Confirmation of the minutes of the 31st Meeting of Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife held on 12-13 August 2014.

The Member Secretary informed the Committee that the minutes of the 31st Meeting of the Standing Committee of NBWL held on 12-13 August 2014 were circulated to all members of the Standing Committee on 1st December 2014. No comments have since been received on the final minutes.

Dr. Bharat Pathak, GEER Foundation mentioned that he wished to point out one minor correction in the minutes pertaining to agenda item no. 4.1 (3) to 4.1 (7) pertaining to proposal of limestone mining by M/s Saurashtra Chemicals near Barda Sanctuary, Gujarat. He mentioned that the last sentence of the first paragraph of the decision under this agenda item may be amended as follows:

*“...The five proposals of limestone mining around Barda Sanctuary were taken up together for discussion. The Member Secretary briefed the Committee regarding the site inspection report. The Chief Wildlife Warden, Gujarat informed that the State Government was in agreement with all the conditions of the site inspection report, except condition No.5., i.e declaration of Mokur wetland as a Sanctuary or Conservation Reserve. **He said that the Mokur wetlands were proposed to be brought under the protection regime as a wetland.**”*

The above suggestion was agreed to by the Standing Committee.

The Standing Committee accordingly confirmed the minutes of the 31st Meeting held on 12-13 August 2014.

Agenda No. 2: Action Taken Report

Action Taken on the decisions of the Standing Committee of NBWL in its 31st Meeting held on 12-13 August 2014.

4.1(13) Proposal for establishment of 2x500 MW Coal based Thermal Power Plant at Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu by M/s Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited (NLC) along with Tamil Nadu Power limited, Tuticorin (PMG Case).

The Member Secretary informed the Committee that the proposal was considered by the Standing Committee of NBWL in its 31st meeting held on 12th -13th August 2014, wherein, it was decided to defer the matter and in the meantime, a copy of the Environment Impact Assessment Report for the proposal be circulated amongst the members of the Standing Committee for taking a view in the next meeting. The EIA Report was circulated to the Members.

Dr. Sukumar mentioned that the EIA report did not deal with the monitoring of biological parameters, especially with respect to the impact on corals. He suggested that there should be a mechanism for independent monitoring and this should be put as one of the conditions. Dr. H.S. Singh desired to know if any mechanism was available for reducing the temperature of water being released in to the sea. Chief Wildlife Warden, Tamil Nadu informed that the project proponents had assured that a cooling system has been installed in the power plant and the water released into the sea would be maintained at 30 degrees Celsius.

After discussion, the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal in view of the distance of more than 6 km the project from Gulf of Mannar National Park, national need of power production and environmental mitigation measures provided in Environmental clearance. The Committee also agreed that a strict monitoring regime should be put in place by the forest department for the parameters related to impact on corals and marine ecosystem. Cost for this will be borne by M/s Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited (NLC). An amount of Rs 1 cr will be placed with Chief Wildlife Warden for this purpose by the project proponent. The monitoring set up must be in place within one year from the date of remittance. The measures suggested by Forest Department for addressing the issues identified as impact on biodiversity as a result of the monitoring, shall be adopted by the project scrupulously.

4.2 (22) Diversion of 1.11 ha of forest land from Pulicat Bird Sanctuary for construction of high level bridge at Km 0/4, Chennai Pulicat Road to Pasiyavaram Road, Tamil Nadu.

The Member Secretary informed the committee that this proposal was considered during the 31st meeting held on 12-13 August 2014 and was deferred as the recommendation of the State Board for Wildlife was awaited. He added that the requisite statutory consultations with State Board for Wildlife have been completed and State Government had conveyed the recommendation of the State Board for Wildlife.

The Chief Wildlife Warden, Tamil Nadu mentioned that a Writ petition was also filed before the Hon'ble High Court of Madras on this matter, seeking early decision for construction of the bridge.

After discussions, the Standing Committee of NBWL considered the need of the bridge for the local population residing within the area, which is primarily wetland, and hence decided to recommend the proposal subject to compliance of the conditions stipulated by the Chief Wildlife Warden.

4.2 (23) Diversion of 0.65 ha of forest land from Pulicat Bird Sanctuary for construction of fish landing centre at Periyamongagodu in Thiruvallur district, Tamil Nadu.

The Member Secretary informed the committee that this proposal was considered during the 31st meeting held on 12-13 August 2014 and was deferred as the recommendation of the State Board for Wildlife was awaited. He added that the requisite statutory consultations with State Board for Wildlife have been completed and State Government had conveyed the recommendation of the State Board for Wildlife

The Chief Wildlife Warden mentioned that this proposal was related to subsistence fishing based livelihood enhancement of the local communities.

The Committee felt that diversion of the land within the Sanctuary is not likely to cause any destruction of wetland habitat and the sustenance of the livelihood can further strengthen the conservation efforts by working with the communities. After discussions, the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal subject to compliance of such conditions stipulated by the Chief Wildlife Warden.

3.1(14). Diversion of 27.47 ha (20.77 ha forest land & 6.70 ha of Private Land) from Son Chiriya Wildlife Sanctuary, Madhya Pradesh for construction of 765 KV electric transmission line (Partly S/C and Partly D/C) between Madhya Pradesh (Gwalior) and Rajasthan (Jaipur).

The Member Secretary briefed the Committee regarding the proposal. He mentioned that the proposal was considered by the Standing Committee of NBWL in its 31st meeting held on 12-13 August 2014 and after discussion, the Standing Committee had decided that the Wildlife Institute of India carry out a site inspection and submit a report. It was informed that the site inspection report was circulated to the members of the Standing Committee.

The Director, Wildlife Institute of India explained that after site appraisal, the site inspection team had recommended certain measures to reduce the potential negative impacts of the project. These include:

- i. *The proposed Route 1 of transmission line between angle points 35-38 be realigned away from the Vulture nest/roost sites by 225-275 m, in order to reduce disturbance to nesting birds and provide them lead flight distance for taking off or landing on the cliff.*
- ii. *Earth wires of transmission line be marked at 20 m distance within and 40 m distance around (2 km radius) Sanctuary with Bird flight diverters while spacers binding quad-conductors should be colour marked at 50 m distance within and around Sanctuary to make them more visible to flying birds, thereby reducing the chances of aerial collision.*
- iii. *Five percent of the project cost in Sanctuary area should be utilized to restore the Bustard core Conservation area for (a) creating a core area enclosure in 100 sq. kms as potential Great Indian Bustard habitat within Sanctuary by chain-link fencing; (b) reducing human pressure in this area by employing watchers with vehicles; and (c) restoring grassland habitat herein through scientifically informed management.*

After discussion, the Standing Committee, taking note of the fact that the project proponents had agreed to the conditions, decided to recommend the proposal subject to the above mentioned mitigation measures, as suggested by the Wildlife Institute of India. Chief Wildlife Warden will ensure that the project is implemented and integrated with the national GIB conservation programme.

3.2 (15). Proposal for aerial passenger ropeway between Ghangaria and Hemkund Sahib, Distt.Chamoli, Uttarakhand.

The Member Secretary briefed the Committee regarding the proposal. He informed that the proposal was considered by the Standing Committee in its 31st meeting and the Standing Committee had proposed a site inspection by representative of Wildlife Institute of India. He added that a team from Wildlife Institute of India had carried out the site inspection and had submitted the report. The report was circulated to the members.

The Director, Wildlife Institute of India informed that after site inspection, they were of the opinion that the proposal could be considered for recommendation subject to certain measures to reduce the possible impacts on the ecology of the area.

After discussions, the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal subject to the mitigation measures suggested by the Wildlife Institute of India in table 2 of the report. The report will be communicated to the state government along with the minutes of this meeting.

4.2 (6). Proposal for permission to use private agricultural land for non-agricultural/educational purpose in village Kashti in GIB Sanctuary in Maharashtra State.

The Member Secretary briefed the Committee regarding the proposal. He informed that the site inspection was to be conducted by Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (WL), Maharashtra. He added that the site inspection was undertaken and the report was submitted, which was circulated to the members during the meeting.

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (WL), Maharashtra explained that after the rationalization of boundary of the Great Indian Bustard Sanctuary, the village Kashti has been excluded outside the boundary of the Sanctuary. In view of this, the State Government has decided to withdraw the proposal.

After discussion, the Standing Committee decided to agree to the request of the State Government of Maharashtra for withdrawal of the proposal as the proposed land was falling outside the boundary of the Great Indian Bustard Sanctuary.

3.1(4). Proposal for exclusion of 281.97 ha from Ramgarh Wildlife Sanctuary for rationalization of the boundary of the Sanctuary, Rajasthan.

The Member Secretary briefed the Committee regarding the proposal. He said the proposal was discussed during the 31st meeting of the Standing Committee of NBWL it was decided that Dr. R. Sukumar and Dr. H.S. Singh carry out a site inspection and submit a report to the Standing Committee. He informed that the site inspection was carried out and the report submitted by the team was circulated to the members.

Dr. Sukumar informed the Committee that as indicated in the site inspection report, large part of the Bundi city and human habitations are covered within the notified Ramgarh Wildlife Sanctuary limits and people face considerable problems due to this. He also mentioned that some densely populated areas falling within the *Nagar* Parishad, Bundi were inadvertently left out in the proposal and therefore, approval of the proposal without addressing the issues pertaining to the areas missed out in the previous proposal would not resolve the issue. In view of this, the site inspection team had discussed with the District administration and forest officials and had advised submission of a fresh proposal after approval of the State Board for Wildlife. He further added that small patches of land in the middle of the Sanctuary, which were not a contiguous part of the proposed area for diversion, have been included. These patches may not be deleted but instead, the rights of the local people of upkeep of the religious and cultural structures and of visiting these sites on foot may be recognized. It was also suggested that land proposed for inclusion in the Sanctuary against exclusion of the proposed area may be notified as Reserved Forest and Wildlife Sanctuary.

The Chief Wildlife Warden, Rajasthan informed that the State Government was in agreement to the recommendations of the site inspection team and a revised proposal was prepared for exclusion of 357.23 ha. area from Ramgarh Sanctuary where about 50,000 people are residing, out of which 83.81 ha is forest land and rest is non forest land with about 6076 houses. He added that the revised proposal for exclusion of 357.23 ha (Revenue land 273.42 ha and Forest land of 83.81 ha) from Ramgarh Sanctuary was approved by the Standing Committee of the State Board for Wildlife in its meeting held on 08.01.2015. The revised proposal was circulated to the members of the Committee during the meeting.

After discussion, the Standing Committee of NBWL decided to recommend the proposal for exclusion of an area of 357.23 ha (Revenue land 273.42 ha and Forest land of 83.81 ha) from Ramgarh Sanctuary, based on the recommendations made by the site

inspection team. The Standing Committee also mentioned that the following conditions, as indicated in the site inspection report shall be complied by the State Government:

- i. *Process of rationalizing the boundaries of the Sanctuary should be completed, without further delay, in the interest of the Sanctuary as well as local people.*
- ii. *Small patches of land that stand along in the middle of the Sanctuary and which were not a contiguous part of the proposed area for diversion should not be deleted. Instead the rights of the local people for upkeep/repair of the religious and cultural structures and visit on foot should be recognized.*
- iii. *There have been some encroachments in the forest lands which may result in violation of rules of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 and Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Appropriate action be taken as per the provisions of relevant law, rules and guidelines.*
- iv. *The land proposed for inclusion in the Sanctuary against diversion of the sanctuary area should be notified as Reserved Forest and Wildlife Sanctuary, following the due procedures.*
- v. *There is no scope of constituting Ecological Sensitive Zone for the Sanctuary boundary adjoining the Bundi City but the Fort area and hilly part of the natural forest around the fort should be included in the ESZ.*
- vi. *To avoid fresh encroachment in the Sanctuary, a strong stone wall with appropriate thickness (at least double thickness of wall normally constructed by Rajasthan Forest Department) and height may be erected after demarcating new boundary. The management should not leave any scope of further encroachment in future from the expanding city.*
- vii. *New proposed area for inclusion in Sanctuary may be demarcated and boundary wall may be erected for proper conservation and management.*
- viii. *Forest Department should prepare proposal for ESZ without further delay. The ESZ should be notified and demarcated on the ground.*

3.1(37).Alteration of boundary of Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary for exclusion of part of limestone bearing mineral zone from the limits of sanctuary, Bihar.

The Member Secretary briefed the Committee regarding the proposal. He mentioned that the proposal was considered during the 31st meeting held on 12-13 August 2014 and after discussion, the Committee had decided that Dr. H.S. Singh and a representative of Wildlife Institute of India carry out site inspection. The report of the site inspection team was circulated to the members.

Dr. H.S. Singh informed the Committee that the mineralized deposits of limestone is in a narrow belt of undulating hills of moderate altitude (200-450 MSL) which runs between the Sone river in south and cliff-strewn escarpments of Kaimur Plateau, forming the part of Kiamur Wildlife Sanctuary on north. The condition of forest in the sanctuary and adjoining areas in the proposed site of mining in Pipradh, Khukhuma, Sohag and Bandh was very good, as the tract was thickly covered with low height dense mixed dry deciduous forests.

Dr. Singh added that in order to expand limestone mining in the sanctuary areas to meet the requirement of cement industries, the Department of Forests and Environment, Government of Bihar had constituted a committee in October 2000 under the Chairmanship of Chief Wildlife Warden to examine the proposal of the Department of Industries and Mining. The Committee had submitted report in May 2004 with their recommendations. Thereafter, in view of the direction of the Supreme Court, the State Board for Wildlife constituted another committee in 2005 under the Chairmanship of Chief Wildlife Warden, Bihar to re-examine the issues. This committee recommended for diversion 4,227 ha area of the sanctuary in six Mouzas (villages), as in the previous report and also recommended for addition of 9,191.61 ha area of forests which have high wildlife values. He added that the site inspection team largely agrees with the recommendations of the committees of the state government. Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary with its adjoining forests and non-forest areas in and around the sanctuary form one conservation unit in the landscape. The site inspection team has recommended that the revised proposal should provide information about the extent of mined area in each village and also availability of quantity of limestone for mining in the proposed areas to facilitate an appropriate decision.

The Chief Wildlife Warden, Bihar mentioned that the State Government was in agreement with the recommendations of the site inspection team and that a revised proposal would be prepared and submitted to Standing Committee of NBWL through the State Board for Wildlife.

After discussion, the Standing Committee accepted the site inspection report and requested the Chief Wildlife Warden, Bihar for submission of revised proposal for rationalizing the boundary of Kaimur Sanctuary after due consultation of the State Board for Wildlife.

4.1. Proposal for use of 2.3 ha of Dirok Tea Estate land falling within 10 kms from the boundary of Dehing-Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary for drilling of appraisal well, Assam by M/s Hindustan Oil Corporation Ltd.

The Member Secretary briefed the Committee regarding the proposal. He mentioned during the 31st meeting held on 12-13 August 2014, the committee had decided that Dr. Sukumar and a representative of Assam State Forest Department would conduct site inspection and submit their report. However, the site inspection was yet to be conducted.

Dr. Sukumar informed the committee that he was unable to undertake the site inspection to certain disturbances in the region and that he would carry out the site visit soon and submit the report to the committee.

The Standing Committee noted this matter and requested Dr. Sukumar for an early action on this matter.

4.2 (7) Proposal for diversion of 0.3514 ha of forestland falling in Majathal Wildlife Sanctuary for drawing water from PazeenaKhad in favour of Executive Engineer, I&PH Division Arki, District Solan, H.P.

The Member Secretary briefed the Committee regarding the proposal. The Chief Wildlife Warden, Himachal Pradesh informed the Committee that the water drawn from the Sanctuary was meant for the local communities residing near the Sanctuary.

Hon'ble chairman desired to know the quantity of water that was being used for the wildlife in the Sanctuary and the alternate source of water for the communities. He also desired to know the specific wildlife management plan for water utilization of wildlife in the sanctuary. Hon'ble Chairman desired that the Chief Wildlife Warden may first inspect the site and prepare a detailed report on the quantum of water usage by wildlife and local communities, the population in the villages and the specific wildlife management plan.

After discussions, the Standing Committee decided to defer the decision and await the complete workable plan of the Chief Wildlife Warden for taking a view.

4.2 (8) Permission for carrying out Survey & Investigation works/Forest clearance in the Itanagar Wildlife Sanctuary division, Arunachal Pradesh for improvement/upgradation of Papu-Yupia-Hoj-Potin Road from 0.00 km to 7.00 km under Prime Minister's package-reg

The Member Secretary briefed the Committee regarding the proposal. He informed the Committee that this proposal was discussed during the 31st meeting held on 12-13 August 2014 and as there was no representative from the State of Arunachal Pradesh, the Committee had decided to defer the matter.

The Chief Wildlife Warden, Arunachal Pradesh explained about the proposal and said that this was only for survey and investigation at this stage.

After discussions, the Committee decided to recommend the survey and investigation works for the said road, with the condition that this permission for survey and investigation may not be construed as final recommendation for construction of road.

4.3.(3). Diversion of 24.1268 ha of forest land from Borail Wildlife Sanctuary for upgradation of Harangajao-Udarband-Silchar Section from 244 km to 275.00 km of NH-54 (E), Assam under East West Corridor Project of NHAI.

The Member Secretary briefed the Committee on the proposal. He mentioned that during the last meeting held on 12-13 August 2014, the Standing Committee had decided to defer the decision on the proposal and in the meantime, the Committee had also requested the Chief Wildlife Warden, Assam to advise NHAI to hold consultations with Wildlife Institute of India regarding possible design of the proposed road for adopting appropriate mitigation measures.

The Chief Wildlife Warden, Assam informed that the nominee of Wildlife Institute of India was still to visit the site and suggest mitigation measures.

Dr. H.S. Singh mentioned that there should be a policy decision that all National Highways passing through National Parks and Sanctuaries should have adequate number of under-passes, over-bridges and measures for directing the movement of not the large animals alone, but even the smaller animals like snakes etc also for crossing the road.

The Secretary (EF&CC) mentioned that the NHAI officials should have direct consultations with the Scientists of Wildlife Institute of India on this matter. Wildlife Institute of India should make a standard template with 4-5 variations that can be adopted by the NHAI.

Dr. R. Sukumar desired to know the kind of animal movement in the Highway in Borail Sanctuary. He also mentioned that care for provision for areas of movement for smaller animals should be made in roads passing through Protected Areas.

Hon'ble Chairman mentioned that road connectivity in the North East was crucial for development of the region. But at the same time, this should in no way compromise the environmental sanctity of the Sanctuary and its wildlife. Wildlife Institute of India and NHAI should work closely to find appropriate mitigation solutions for safety of wild animals.

After discussion, the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal subject to such mitigation measures, to be suggested by the Chief Wildlife Warden in consultation with the Wildlife Institute of India.

3.2(25). Proposal for mining project (area 10.25 ha) with production capacity of 54,400 TPA (Khasra No.283/3/1) on river Yamuna, distt. Sirmour, Himachal Pradesh by M/s Mahender Singh & Co. (The proposed site is located at 8.5 kms distance from the Simbalwara National Park).

The Member Secretary briefed the Committee regarding the proposal. He said that during the last meeting held on 12-13 August 2014, the Standing Committee had decided to defer the proposal as the Environment Clearance for the project was still awaited.

It was informed that the Environmental Clearance for the project has been accorded. After discussion, the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal subject to compliance of such conditions as stipulated by the Chief Wildlife Warden as well as those stipulated in the Environmental Clearance. Wild Life officials shall keep a watch that no water in the stream is contaminated due to mining activity in the area.

Policy matters:

- i. Framing of Rules for the functioning of the Standing Committee of NBWL and Mechanism to ensure implementation of conditions stipulated by the Standing Committee while approving proposals.**
- ii. Implementation Protocol on Critical Wildlife Habitats to be approved by the Standing Committee.**
- iii. Status of endangered species.**
- iv. Rationalization of boundaries of Desert National Park.**
- v. Protection of Great Indian Bustard.**
- vi. Key wildlife Corridors to be brought under the purview of the Standing committee, National Board for Wildlife.**
- vii. Amendment to Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.**

Agenda No.3: Agenda proposed by members of Standing Committee of NBWL- Agenda items proposed by Dr. H.S. Singh, member, Standing Committee of NBWL.

- i. Critical wildlife habitats.**
- ii. Eco-sensitive zones.**
- iii. Landscape planning for protected area networks.**
- iv. Construction, upgradation and repairing of roads.**
- v. Change in approach of Zoo management**

Both the agenda items were taken up together.

The Member Secretary informed that there were certain important policy matters that require consideration of the Standing Committee of NBWL. He also said that Dr. H.S. Singh had also suggested certain matters for discussion.

Dr. H. S. Singh mentioned that conservation issues are not being considered during the meeting of Standing Committee and the Committee should also take up discussions on conservation related matters.

It was decided that as these matters required detailed deliberations, it would be appropriate to have a meeting of the Committee exclusively to discuss the matter. It was also decided that an exclusive meeting may be convened in two months which could be for two days.

Agenda item No. 4.

Agenda item No. 4.1 proposals for diversion of forest land of PAs.

32.4.1.1. Maintenance/ improvement of Mio-Vijonagar Road of 100.5 km falling within the Namdapha Tiger Reserve, Arunachal Pradesh.

The Member Secretary briefed the Committee regarding the proposal. He added that the proposal for maintenance/ improvement of 100.50 Km road within the Namdapha Tiger Reserve was part of Tiger Conservation Plan. Since last many years even 50% area is not accessible for quick movement of staff.

The Member Secretary, National Tiger Conservation Authority mentioned that he had recently visited this area and that this road was part of the Namdapha Tiger Conservation Plan and was required for the movement of patrolling staff. He said that NTCA was in agreement with the proposal.

After discussion, considering that this road was required for management of the Tiger Reserve and that it was already part of the Tiger Conservation Plan for Namdapha Tiger Reserve, the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal. Relevant laws and rules linked to the status of land in forest, including Forest Conservation Act etc. must be looked into and followed.

32.4.1.2. Proposal for establishment of petrol pump, a retail outlet of IOCL, in an area of 0.2521 ha of land bearing Khasra No 569/25/1 between MDR KM No 2-3 R/side along Chautala -Rattanpura road at Village Chautala, Tehsil MandiDabwali, Distt. Haryana within the Abubshehar Wildlife Sanctuary received from Ms. Saveta, W/o Sh. Vijay kumar.

32.4.1.3. Proposal for establishment of petrol pump, a retail outlet of IOCL in 0.1251 ha of land within Abubshehar Wildlife Sanctuary at “Chautala on Sangaria Bypass Road”, District Sirsa, Haryana received from Sh. Deepak Jain, S/o Sh. Prem Chand, Main Bazar, VPO Chautala, Tehsil MandiDabwali, Distt. Sirsa, Haryana.

32.4.1.4. Proposal for establishment of petrol pump, a retail outlet of HPCL, in an area of 0.1698 ha of land within Abubshehar Wildlife Sanctuary along Dabwali-Sangaria Road MDR No.105 km. 12-13 R/side at village Abubshehar received from Sh. Pawan Kumar S/o Sh. Budh Ram VPO Chautala, Tehsil MandiDabwali, Distt. Sirsa, Haryana.

32.4.1.5. Proposal for establishment of petrol pump, a retail outlet of IOCL, in an 0.08103 ha of land from Abubshehar Wildlife Sanctuary for access to IOCL Retail Outlet along Goriwala-Chautala road km 6-7 L/side at village Ganga received from Sh. Baldev Singh S/o Sh. Dhanna Singh, VPO-Ganga, Tehsil-Dabwali, Distt. Sirsa, Haryana.

32.4.1.6. Proposal for establishment of IOCL retail outlet in an area of 0.1308 ha land within the Abubshehar Wildlife Sanctuary along Chautala-Rattanpura road km 3-5 at village Chautala received from Smt.Rachna W/o Sh. Anjani Kumar, Ward No.10, Ellenabad, Distt. Sirsa, Haryana.

32.4.1.7. Proposal for establishment of IOCL retail outlet in an area of 0.1482 ha land from Abubshehar Wildlife Sanctuary along Dabwali-Chautala Road (MDR-105) Tehsil Dabwali, Distt. Sirsa, received from Sh. KishanLal S/o Sh. Goma Ram, village SukheraKhera, Distt. Sirsa, Haryana.

32.4.1.8. Proposal for New Retail Outlet at Village-Ganga, in an area of 0.171 ha land in Khasra No.293/7/2, 293/8 Khewat No.1546, Khatoni No.2451, within the Abubshehar Wildlife Sanctuary, on Ganga Munnawali Road, Tehsil Dabwali, received from Smt. Kaushalya Devi, W/o Shri Angat Kumar, R/o Village-Ganga, Tehsil Dabwali, District-Sirsa, Haryana.

32.4.1.9. Proposal for establishment of proposed BPCL retail outlet in an area of 0.131644 ha land along Dabwali-Hanumangarh Road at village Chautala km. 3.50 L/side from village Chautala by Sh. Sunil Kumar S/o Sh. Jai Chand R/o Raheja House, 151, Friend Colony, MandiDabwali, Distt. Sirsa, Haryana.

The above eight proposals pertaining to Abubshehar Sanctuary were taken up together for discussion.

The Member Secretary briefed the Committee regarding the eight proposals. The Chief Wildlife Warden, Haryana, informed that Abubshehar Sanctuary is spread over the private area owned and cultivated by private land owners with old road network, irrigation channels, residential areas etc inside the notified area. There was no compact forest area/reserve forest area within the sanctuary. On account of the hardship faced by villagers in managing their agricultural land and initiating development works, based on the request of the village Panchayats, the State Government proposed denotification of the entire Sanctuary, which was

recommended by the Standing Committee in its 31st meeting with a condition that it be notified as a Community Reserve. The Chief Wildlife Warden, Haryana, also mentioned that necessary action for seeking final approval of Hon'ble Supreme Court has been initiated by the State Government. She added that these proposals for establishment of petrol pumps were in the private areas owned by the people and were adjacent to the road.

Dr. Bharat Pathak, GEER Foundation desired to know how the State was planning to protect the wildlife, especially the Black Bucks, inside the Sanctuary. To this, the Chief Wildlife Warden, Haryana mentioned that a large part of the community is conscious of wildlife conservation and they religiously protect the Black Bucks. She added that the community participation is being solicited for the protection of wildlife therein.

Considering that the Standing Committee had already recommended for denotification of the Sanctuary and that these proposals involved private lands, the Standing Committee decided to recommend the eight proposals.

32.4.1.10. Diversion of 3.609 ha of forest land from Khol-Hi-Raitan Wildlife Sanctuary and 28.873 ha outside Khol-Hi-Raitan Wildlife Sanctuary for 4-lanning of Panchkula-Yamunagar Section of NH-73 (New NH-355) from K.M. 71.640 to K.M. 179.249 on (Toll) basis under NHDP Phase-III in the State of Haryana

The Member Secretary briefed the Committee regarding the proposal. The Chief Wildlife Warden, Haryana informed the Committee that the proposal was for diversion of 3.609 ha of forest land from Khol-Hi-Raitan Wildlife Sanctuary and 28.873 ha outside Khol-Hi-Raitan Wildlife Sanctuary for 4-lanning of Panchkula-Yamunagar Section of NH-73 (New NH-355) from K.M. 71.640 to K.M. 179.249 under NHDP Phase-III in the State of Haryana. She added that the road would help in reducing congestion of traffic on the existing national highway.

The Committee was of the opinion that National Highway Authority should have consultations with the State Chief Wildlife Warden for undertaking appropriate mitigatory measures including construction of movement passages for wildlife.

After discussion, the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal for use of 3.609 ha of forest land from Khol-Hi-Raitan Wildlife Sanctuary and work over 28.873 ha non forest land within 10 km, with the condition that NHAI shall take up mitigatory steps in consultation with the Chief Wildlife Warden.

32.4.1.11. Diversion of 0.495 ha of forestland from Kalesar National Park for laying of Optical Fibre Cable from Telephone exchange Yamuna Nagar to Paonta (Kaleshwar/LalDhang) on NH-73A, Haryana.

The Member Secretary briefed the Committee regarding the proposal. The Chief Wildlife Warden, Haryana mentioned that the proposal involved use of 0.495 ha of forestland from Kalesar National Park for laying of Optical Fibre Cable.

As the proposal involved laying of optical cable for tele-communication purposes and was being laid along the existing National Highway within the Right of Way, the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal with conditions to be stipulated by the Chief Wildlife Warden.

32.4.1.12. De-notification of boundary of Koderma Wildlife Sanctuary, Jharkhand for exclusion of 8 ha part of illegal mining from the limits of sanctuary, Jharkhand

The Member Secretary briefed the Committee regarding the proposal. The Inspector general of Forests (WL) informed that he had received a telephonic communication from the Chief Wildlife Warden, Jharkhand informing that the State Government intends to reconsider the proposal. A letter for seeking deferral of the project was placed on record.

Considering the request of the State Government, the Standing Committee deferred the proposal by the State Government of Jharkhand till further communication was received.

32.4.1.13. Construction of Third Railway Track including electrification, signaling and telecommunication between Habibganj km 830.850-Barkheda km 789.430 passing through Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary, Madhya Pradesh & within 10 kms from Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary.

The Member Secretary briefed the Committee regarding the proposal. The Chief Wildlife Warden, Madhya Pradesh mentioned that the proposal involved augmenting the existing two line railway track to three line on Bhopal-Itarsi route within the limits of Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary. He added that the third track is proposed in 3.41 ha in non-forest area within Railway land between boundary of Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary and upto 10 km line from Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary involving 6.58 Ha. non forest area. A total 182 number of trees would be felled for the purpose of this third line. He said that the State Board for Wildlife

had recommended the proposal subject to the condition that the railways should construct underpasses in the portion passing through the sanctuary for safe movement of wildlife and chain linked fence on the sanctuary side to prevent their accidental death. Suitable warning signs for train drivers should be placed informing them that they are passing through a wildlife area and speed limits should be followed.

After discussion, considering that the proposal is for the use of railways and was of national importance in public interest, the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal subject to the conditions stipulated by the State Board for Wildlife and the Chief Wildlife Warden. The Committee also decided that railways shall take up adequate mitigatory measures to minimize the impacts of the project on the wildlife in the area, in consultation with the Chief Wildlife Warden and the Railways shall bear the cost for the mitigatory measures.

32.4.1.14. Renovation and maintenance of existing canal of Barna project passing through Singhori Wildlife Sanctuary, Madhya Pradesh.

The Member Secretary briefed the committee regarding the proposal. The Chief Wildlife Warden, Madhya Pradesh mentioned that the proposal involved renovation and maintenance of existing canal of Barna project passing through Singhori Wildlife Sanctuary. He added that the State Board for Wildlife had recommended the proposal.

The Committee was of the opinion that this was an existing canal and proposal was for renovation and maintenance of the canal, the proposal could be recommended with adequate safeguards. In view of this, the Committee decided to recommend the proposal subject to the conditions as stipulated by the State Board for Wildlife and the Chief Wildlife Warden.

32.4.1.15. Diversion of 0.336 ha of forest land from Sonchiriya Wildlife Sanctuary for construction of a 0.56 km road from A.B. Road to Kanser village along Gwalior-Shipuri Railway Line, Madhya Pradesh.

The Member Secretary briefed the Committee regarding the proposal. The Chief Wildlife Warden, Madhya Pradesh mentioned that the proposal was for diversion 0.336 ha of forest land from Sonchiriya Wildlife Sanctuary for construction of a 0.56 km road from A.B. Road to Kanser village along Gwalior-Shipuri Railway Line, Madhya Pradesh and the State Board for Wildlife had recommended the proposal subject to the condition that the road shall be 4.5 meter wide with adequate safeguards and that all the construction material will be brought from outside the sanctuary.

After discussion, the Standing Committee taking note of the fact that the proposal is for a work along the existing track, decided to recommend the proposal subject to the conditions stipulated by the State Board for Wildlife and the Chief Wildlife Warden, Madhya Pradesh. The mitigatory measures shall be undertaken by the project proponents in consultation with the Chief Wildlife Warden and funds required for this purpose shall be borne by the project proponent - Western Central Railways, Bhopal.

32.4.1.16. Permission for felling of 604 trees for laying of underground water pipeline across Madhav National Park in ROW Agra-Mumbai NH-3, Madhya Pradesh.

The Member Secretary briefed the Committee regarding the proposal. The Chief Wildlife Warden, Madhya Pradesh informed that earlier, a proposal of survey for laying underground water pipeline across Madhav National Park, without felling of any tree, was placed before the Standing Committee of NBWL during its 20th Meeting held on 13th October 2010. After recommendation, the project proponents had approached the Hon'ble Supreme Court. He added that Hon'ble Supreme Court while considering the proposal gave the permission on 27th July 2011 on the condition that no tree felling will be done. During actual work, the Director of the National Park had found 134 trees felled. Case booked for illegal cutting of trees was later compounded under the provisions of Indian Forest Act.

Now, more than 470 trees are required to be cut for completion of the work. State Board for Wildlife had considered and recommended the present proposal seeking permission for felling 604 trees with the condition that the project proponents will plant double the number of trees at the project cost with local indigenous species and will ensure their protection for 10 years.

The Committee was of the view that there has been a violation of the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 and also direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. This would make the user agency answerable. The Committee, however, also felt that the local communities for whom the water pipelines was being laid should not be punished for the violation committed by the user agency.

After discussion, the Committee decided to recommend the proposal for laying of the said water pipeline, subject to the condition that Forest Department shall institute enquiry fixing responsibility of the lapse in the matter of not invoking the provisions of Wild Life (Protection) Act in this clear case of violation, take necessary action against the agencies

involved in committing the violations and Chief Wildlife Warden shall submit a report to the Standing Committee within one month.

32.4.1.17. Proposal for construction of following 10 roads under MukhyaMantri Gram SadakYojana passing through Sonchiriya Wildlife Sanctuary, Madhya Pradesh:

- i. PaniharPagara Road to Bhondeswar.**
- ii. A.B. Road to chakGirawai.**
- iii. ThigharaBasota Marg to Raikasba**
- iv. Charaidang to Basaikala.**
- v. Basai Road to Khitera**
- vi. TigharaBasota Road to para**
- vii. Thighara Road to Sujwya**
- viii. ThigharaBasota road to Chhikari**
- ix. TigharaBasota road to Ghatwasini**
- x. PaniharPagara Road to Nagda.**

The Member Secretary briefed the Committee regarding the proposal. The Chief Wildlife Warden, Madhya Pradesh mentioned that the proposal includes 16.148 ha forest land and 29.192 ha revenue land inside the Sonchiriya Wildlife Sanctuary, Ghatigaon and that a total 45.35 ha of sanctuary land is required for all the 10 roads. He added that the State Board for Wildlife had recommended the proposal with the condition that underpasses/culverts/speed breakers shall be constructed as per requirements and warning signs will be placed at regular intervals mentioning that they are passing through a wildlife area and that speed limits be followed strictly. The State Board for Wildlife had also stipulated that all the construction materials should be brought from outside and no labour camps be permitted within the sanctuary limits.

Dr. H.S. Singh mentioned that such large number of road network would have a negative impact on the habitat of Great Indian Bustards, that is on the verge of extinction.

The Chief Wildlife Warden, Madhya Pradesh informed that these were *Kachhar* roads which were already in existence and permission for improving these existing roads under the *MukhyaMantri Gram SadakYojana*, was being sought.

After discussion, the Standing Committee took note of the fact that the roads would provide convenience to the poor living in the area and their participation can be sought for conservation action in the area, agreed to recommend the proposal for improvement of ten roads with conditions stipulated by the State Board for Wildlife and the Chief Wildlife Warden.

32.4.1.18. Proposal for upgradation and widening of Balakot-Chirai-Manka road in Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary, Madhya Pradesh.

The Member Secretary briefed the Committee regarding the proposal. The Chief Wildlife Warden informed the Committee that the Balakot Charai Manka road is an important road which joins Sagar and Damoh districts with Jabalpur by shortest route. The existing width of the gravel road is 3 mts. and is proposed to be made 3.75 meters bituminous top with 1.875 m shoulder on either side of the road. He added that two other alternative options were also considered and the option wherein the road is partly inside has been recommended as this will result in least fragmentation of forest. He said that the State Board for Wildlife had recommended the proposal subject to the condition that underpasses/culverts/speed breakers shall be constructed as per requirements and warning signs will be placed at regular intervals about wildlife area and that speed limits be followed strictly. It was also stipulated by the State Board for Wildlife that all the construction materials should be brought from outside and no labour camps will be permitted within sanctuary limits.

The Standing Committee, after discussion, decided to recommend the proposal as proposed by the Chief Wildlife Warden and recommended by the State Board for Wildlife, with conditions as stipulated by the SBWL and Chief Wildlife Warden. It was also decided that mitigatory measures shall be undertaken by the project proponents in consultation with the Chief Wildlife Warden and the cost for the mitigation measures shall be borne by the user agency.

32.4.1.19. Construction of Danda Khirak to Tighara Road in Sonchiriya Wildlife Sanctuary, Ghatigaon, Madhya Pradesh.

The Member Secretary briefed the Committee regarding the proposal. The Chief Wildlife Warden, Madhya Pradesh, mentioned that proposed road was necessary to provide connectivity to 13 villages, viz., Antri, Tilawali, Dudakapura (Jhala), Lakhanpura, Payakapura, Gurja, Kala kha (sidna), Chikari, Nalkeshwar, Kaitha, Mangalkapura, Tal kapura and Tighra. He said that the road is 34.6 kms long out of which 21 km passes through the forest area. For

a width of 7.5 m of the proposed road, 25.95 ha of sanctuary land (15.75 ha forest land and 10.20 ha revenue land) was involved. He added that the State Board for Wildlife had recommended the proposal subject to the condition that underpasses/culverts/speed breakers shall be constructed as per requirements and warning signs will be placed at regular intervals about wildlife area and speed limits to be followed strictly. It was also stipulated by the all the construction materials should be brought from outside and no labour camps will be permitted within the sanctuary limits.

After discussion, the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal as it was for providing necessary connectivity to the villages. It was also decided that conditions as stipulated by the SBWL and Chief Wildlife Warden shall be complied by the project proponents. It was also decided that mitigatory measures shall be undertaken by the project proponents in consultation with the Chief Wildlife Warden and the cost for the mitigation measures shall be borne by the user agency.

32.4.1.20. Construction of a minor Irrigation Water Tank in Bagdara Wildlife Sanctuary, Madhya Pradesh.

The Member Secretary briefed the Committee regarding the proposal. The Chief Wildlife Warden, Madhya Pradesh mentioned that the proposed water tank was necessary to provide water for irrigation to the villagers of Rehi, Bagdara and Kamrauha villages and that no forest land was required for construction of this water tank in the Bagdara Wildlife Sanctuary. The tank is to be constructed on 78.46 ha revenue and private land. It will result in rising of ground water table in the area, grasses and herbs along with water will be available to wildlife in the pinch period. He added that the State Board for Wildlife has recommended the proposal.

After discussion, considering that the water shall be beneficial for both wildlife and the public, the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal subject to the conditions stipulated by the State Board for Wildlife and the Chief Wildlife Warden. It was also decided that mitigatory measures shall be taken up by the project proponents in consultation with the Chief Wildlife Warden and the cost for such mitigation measures shall be borne by the user agency.

32.4.1.21. Approval to excavation of strip of land measuring 360 Mt.X 1.25 Mt. for laying 450 mm/300 mm dia. watermain along existing approach road to Appapada on portion of forest land Sy.No.239/1, Kurar (Malad) village, Mumbai (area 0.045 ha) of Sanjay Gandhi National Park, Borivali, Mumbai. (Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai).

The Member Secretary briefed the committee regarding the proposal. The Chief Wildlife Warden, Maharashtra mentioned that this was for laying underground pipeline for water supply to Slum Rehabilitation Authority (SRA) buildings constructed for shifting Project Affected Persons from slums of Bandongri, Tanajinagar, Shivajinagar etc. in the vicinity of Appapada. He also added that the pipeline shall be laid along the existing approach road to Appapada along the road. As such there will not be felling of any trees and disturbance to the forest. He added that the State Board for Wildlife had recommended the proposal. He further said that he had recommended the proposal subject to the condition that the project authority should provide 2% of the project cost to construct waterholes and vegetation restoration over the restored ditch surface and surrounding

After discussion, considering the public interest involved for providing water, and the fact that the pipeline was being laid along the existing road, the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal subject to conditions stipulated by the State Board for Wildlife. It was also decided that the adequate mitigatory measures shall be undertaken in consultation with the Chief Wildlife Warden, and the user agency shall bear the cost for such mitigation measures.

32.4.1.22. Proposal for exclusion of 228.87 sq km from Satkosia Gorge Wildlife Sanctuary for rationalization of the boundary of the sanctuary, Odisha

The Member Secretary briefed the Committee regarding the proposal. The Committee was of the view that as large area was being proposed for exclusion from the Sanctuary, which was also part of Tiger Reserve, a team comprising of Dr. R. Sukumar and one representative of NTCA shall carry out site inspection and submit a report to the Standing Committee within one month. State government was requested to reconsider the proposal of drastic reduction of the proposed area of the sanctuary in view of the fact the facilities and rights of the people in the villages in the area can be accommodated appropriately keeping a balance between the nature and people's needs.

32.4.1.23. Diversion of 0.1575 ha of forestland from Chambal Wildlife Sanctuary for laying of Optical Fiber Cable for mobile phone connectivity between Udimore to Chambal river on NH-92 Etawah Gwalior River, Uttar Pradesh by Bharti Airtel Ltd.

The Member Secretary briefed the Committee regarding the proposal. The Chief Wildlife Warden, Uttar Pradesh mentioned that the proposal involved use of 0.1575 ha. of forest land from Chambal River Sanctuary, for laying optical fibre cable for mobile connectivity along the existing NH-92. He said that the proposal was also recommended by the State Board for Wildlife.

After discussion and considering the fact that the optical fibre was being laid along the existing National Highway, the Standing Committee decided to recommend the proposal subject to the following mitigatory measures, as stipulated by the Chief Wildlife Warden:

- i. User Agency will ensure that none of their employee/worker shall indulge into any kind of illegal activities. If this happens then user agency shall be held responsible.*
- ii. Necessary measures will be taken to negate the impact relating any environmental pollution/radioactive pollution as suggested by the Chief Wildlife Warden.*
- iii. The legal status of the land shall remain unchanged.*
- iv. In reference of U.P. Govt. order no.4862/14-2/2008 dated 12.11.2008, the use agency shall take up plantation on 20 km in three lines and maintain the green cover with the project cost. Planting site and species/ planting plan for this purpose will be indicated by Chief Wildlife Warden.*
- v. The forest land shall not be used for any other purpose other than that specified in the proposal.*
- vi. No labour camp shall be established in the sanctuary area.*
- vii. No work shall be allowed after sunset till sunrise.*
- viii. No tower shall be erected without legal permission.*

32.4.1.24. Proposal for diversion of 86.6255 ha (18.604 ha. under Darjeeling Forest Division+12.3436 ha. under Kurseong Forest Division + 8.8489 ha under Wildlife-I Division+46.829 ha under Kalimpong Forest Division) of forest land in favour of the North-Frontier Railway, Jalpaiguri for construction of SevokRongpo New Broad Gauge Railway line, West Bengal.

The Member Secretary briefed the Committee regarding the proposal. The Chief Wildlife Warden, West Bengal was not present during the meeting. It was informed that the Standing Committee had considered the proposal for survey and investigation on 20th March 2013 had recommended the work. The proposal for undertaking the work has been submitted for consideration of Standing Committee, with the earlier recommendation of the State Board for Wildlife for survey work. The Member Secretary added that as per Section 29 of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, consultation of the State Board for Wildlife for the activity is a statutory requirement, which has been sought from West Bengal. The DGF&SS mentioned that the Forest Advisory Committee had agreed for forest land outside the Sanctuary limits.

After discussion, it was decided that the State Government of West Bengal may submit the recommendation of the State Board for Wildlife for this proposal for consideration of the Standing Committee of NBWL. It was also decided that in the meantime, a team comprising of Dr. R. Sukumar and a Scientist from Wildlife Institute of India shall conduct the site inspection and submit a report to the Standing Committee.

32.4.1.25. Diversion of 6.423 ha of forestland from Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary for improvement of NH-4A from km 0.000 to km 84.120 in Belgaum-Khanapur-Gunji&Ramnagar bypass in the State of Karnataka.

The Member Secretary briefed the Committee regarding the proposal. The Chief Wildlife warden, Karnataka mentioned that for improvement of NH-4A from km 0.000 to km 84.120 in Belgaum-Khanapur-Gunji&Ramnagar bypass in the State of Karnataka. He said that the proposal has been recommended by the State Board for Wildlife. He said that a total of 1127 trees would be required to be felled.

The Member Secretary, NTCA mentioned that this is a Tiger Reserve and all safeguards need to be considered. He also said that there was a PIL pending seeking that there should not be widening.

Dr.Sukumar desired to know whether the area was also being proposed as an Elephant Reserve and what was the movement of elephants on the area. The DGF&SS

mentioned that the Standing Committee had earlier decided that widening of roads inside the National parks and Sanctuaries will be considered on case to case basis.

Chair clarified that the consolidation of the existing highways is a national priority. However, all measures for mitigating the fragmentation can be resolved if careful designing of measures is adopted. It was agreed to recommend the proposal keeping in view that a new alignment is not feasible and least damage due to upgradation of the existing NH can be addressed by appropriate mitigatory measures. It was decided that officers of the Regional Office of NTCA will conduct a site inspection along with the Field Director and NHA I representatives, and NHA I will incorporate the mitigation measures suggested by NTCA, in the improvement work. Work will start only after finalization of the plan in consultation with FD Dandeli Anshi Tiger Reserve.

Minutes of 32nd Meeting of SC NBWL dated 21.01.2015

Agenda item No. 4.2.

Proposals within 10 kms from boundary of National Parks and Sanctuaries.

32.4.2 (1).Proposal for the provision of jetty extension phase-II (190x17 mtrs) and wet basin and refit jetty (145x12 mtrs) at Ship Repair Yard, Port Blair Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

The Member Secretary briefed the committee regarding the proposal. He mentioned that the proposal is for extension of jetty (190x17) mts; wet basin and refit jetty (145x12 mtrs), at Naval Ship Repair Yard (NSRY), Port Blair.

He mentioned that rapid environmental Impact Assessment study for the project was undertaken by Zoological Survey of India (Port Blair) as the Mount Harriet National Park, Lohabarrack Crocodile Sanctuary and Snake Island Sanctuary are located at distance of 3.8 km, 6.2 km and 9.5 km respectively from the project site. According to the study, impact of project on Protected Area is insignificant. No turtle nesting sites, coral bearing areas, and mangrove patches exist in vicinity. The project is of paramount importance for Naval Ship Repair Yard for their enhanced berthing commitments.

After discussions, the Standing Committee recommended in view of coastal security of Island as well as National Security, with Safeguards, if any, to be provided by the Chief Wild Life Warden.

32.4.2 (2).Proposal of the PWD[ARIASP (Assam Rural Infrastructure and Agricultural Services Project (India)) &RIDF (Rural Infrastructure Development Fund)], Assam for using additional 5 ha of non-forest land falling within 10 kms from the boundary of Laokhowa WLS for widening & improvement of the existing PWD State Highway-3, Assam.

The Member Secretary briefed the committee regarding proposal of widening and improvement of existing PWD State Highway-3 outside the Laokhowa Wildlife Sanctuary. Chief Wild Life Warden informed that the work was being proposed under the World Bank Aided project for ensuring safety of traffic and better communication for fringe villagers and tourists.

After discussions the Standing Committee of NBWL recommended the proposal with mitigation measures adopted in the construction as well as usage stages, with the conditions proposed by the State Forest Department/Chief Wildlife Warden.

32.4.2 (3).Permission for use of 3.213 ha forestland for Double Track Railway line project in BalaramAmbaji WLS, Gujarat.

The Member Secretary briefed the committee regarding proposal. He mentioned that Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) proposed double line in the existing right of way (ROW) of the Broad Gauge railway line of Ajmer –Palanpur section in Ajmer Division of North Western Railway, which was laid in the British era 1890-1910. Project involves construction of track along the existing BG line. Out of proposed complete section of 356.88 kms, about 888 m of the track falls within the Balaram-Ambaji Wildlife Sanctuary (BAWS) and about 19 km (from 2km to 21km) length adjacent to Balaram-Ambaji Wildlife Sanctuary and Jassore Wildlife Sanctuary.

About 409 trees will be cut from the existing RoW. Environmental and Social Mitigation Study conducted by RVNL reveals that for the existing migration route of wild animals between these two sanctuaries, some activities like construction of culverts, provision of sign boards, environmental monitoring will be required and setting of labour camps within and in the vicinity of km from sanctuary must be avoided.

The entire section of this northern railway for the proposed project was recommended by the State Board for Wildlife in the 8th meeting on 25.04.2013 with the following conditions stipulated by Chief Wildlife Warden (CWLW):

- I. *The agency will ensure that minimum vehicles should move in the sanctuary area during the construction phase. There will be a maximum limit for the number of vehicles (of different types) allowed to move per day, to be determined by the Deputy Conservator of Forests in consultation with user agency and approved by the concerned Chief Conservator of Forests.*
- II. *The agency and or contractor will strictly follow Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and its amendments from time to time and rules therein. No damage should be caused to flora and fauna of the said area by user agency and its establishment.*
- III. *In the river area, the flow of water should not be obstructed.*

After discussions, in view of the existing RoW, national interest and major public utility concerns for transportation the standing committee recommended the project subject to compliance of the conditions of CWLW.

32.4.2 (4).Proposal for setting up of Solid Waste Management Project at village Jhuriwala in Panchkula district, Haryana. The proposed site is 140 mtr from the Kholhi-Raitan Wildlife Sanctuary.

The Member Secretary briefed the committee regarding the proposal. Chief Wild Life Warden elaborated on the site. Project proponents informed that engineering design and technology for the project is yet to be finalized. It was agreed that the proposal can be considered by the Standing Committee if the technical and the capacity details of the project are made available. State was advised to locate the project away from the sanctuary limits and resubmit the proposal with the details, once worked out.

32.4.2 (5).Proposal for Wildlife clearance to development of residential township (198.801 acres) at Sector-3, 4 & 4A, village Islamnagar Pinjore-Kalka Urban complex, Panchkula, Haryana.

The Member Secretary briefed the committee regarding the proposal. He mentioned that the site for residential township is between two wildlife sanctuaries, 2.72 km away from BirShikargarh WLS and 1.8 km from Kol-hi Ratan WLS. The State Board for Wild Life, Haryana had recommended the proposal.

Dr.Sukumar added that the location of site may be ecologically sensitive in nature since it falls between two sanctuaries within /outside the proposed ESZ and presence of Schedule –I fauna and its migration between these two sanctuaries. A township of about 30000 dwelling units can be a complete barrier between the two sanctuaries.

After discussions, the Standing Committee recommended for site visit by Shri Bharat Pathak and a scientist from Wild Life Institute of India.

32.4.2 (6).Expansion of the integrated Steel Plant from 10.0 MTPA to 16.0 MTPA along with the captive power plant of 600 MW in JSW steel Complex at Toranagallu, Sandur Taluk, Bellary district-reg.

The Member Secretary briefed the committee regarding the proposal. Chief Wild Life Warden informed that the proposal was located more than 6 km away from Daroji Bear Sanctuary and is located within the existing steel complex. On the ESZ proposals of the state, CWLW informed that the proposals are under consideration of a Cabinet Sub Committee with the State Govt. of Karnataka.

After discussions, the Standing Committee deferred the proposal. The CWLW was advised to finalise and forward the proposals for ESZ for the Protected Areas.

32.4.2 (7).Expansion of the JSW Energy from 860 MW to 1520 MW Power Plant at Toranagallu, Sandur Taluk, Bellary District, Karnataka.

The Member Secretary briefed the committee regarding proposal. Chief Wild Life Warden informed that the proposal was located more than 6 km away from Daroji Bear Sanctuary and is located within the existing steel complex. On the ESZ proposals of the state, CWLW informed that that the proposals are under consideration of a Cabinet Sub Committee with the State Govt. of Karnataka.

After discussions, the Standing Committee deferred the proposal. The CWLW was advised to finalise and forward the proposals for ESZ for the Protected Areas.

32.4.2(8). Proposed DRI plant of capacity 1.2MTPA, within JSW Steel Complex at Toranagallu, Sandur Taluk, Bellary District, Karnataka

The Member Secretary briefed the committee regarding proposal. Chief Wild Life Warden informed that the proposal was located more than 6 km away from Daroji Bear Sanctuary and is located within the existing steel complex. On the ESZ proposals of the state, CWLW informed that that the proposals are under consideration of a Cabinet Sub Committee with the State Govt. of Karnataka.

After discussions, the Standing Committee deferred the proposal. The CWLW was advised to finalise and forward the proposals for ESZ for the Protected Areas.

32.4.2 (9). Proposal for NBWL recommendations for existing projects within JSW Steel Complex of M/s JSW Steel Ltd., Toranagallu, Sandur Taluk, Bellary District, Karnataka.

The Member Secretary briefed the committee regarding proposal. Chief Wild Life Warden informed that the proposal was located more than 6 km away from Daroji Bear Sanctuary and is located within the existing steel complex. On the ESZ proposals of the state, CWLW informed that that the proposals are under consideration of a Cabinet Sub Committee with the State Govt. of Karnataka.

After discussions, the Standing Committee deferred the proposal. The CWLW was advised to finalise and forward the proposals for ESZ for the Protected Areas.

32.4.2 (10). Proposed project “Integrated Cable Car and Lakeside Tourism Development project” at Loktak Lake in Bishnupur District, Manipur.

The Member Secretary briefed the committee regarding proposal. He mentioned that the proposal is for use of 0.2145 Ha of forest land inside the eco-sensitive zone (ESZ) of the KeibulLamjao National Park for ‘Integrated Cable Car and Lakeside Tourism Development project’ at Loktak Lake in Bishnupur District, Manipur.

The Loktak Lake is an important water bird habitat and declared as Ramsar site on 23.03.1990. The project is located 4.2 km away from the KeibulLamjao National Park. The project will facilitate visit of tourists to Loktak catchment landscape. SBWL of Manipur recommended the proposal on 28.07.2014.

After discussions, considering the awareness potential of tourism, positive impact on socio-economy of villages in the immediate vicinity, direct and indirect employment of local people, the proposal was recommended by the Standing Committee with the conditions of mitigation measures to be undertaken by user agency in consultation with CWLW. Mitigation measures should include among others, installation of bird diverters at towers and cable wires to reduce bird hits, provision of appropriate public utilities, garbage disposal facility etc. for management of tourism in the area.

32.4.2 (11). Construction of 2x30 MW Coal based Captive Thermal Power Plant by Trident Corporation Ltd., Budhni Distt. Sehore, Madhya Pradesh.

The Member Secretary briefed the committee regarding the proposal. He mentioned that the coal based Captive Power Plant (CPP) is proposed for use of textile complex in notified industrial area at Budhni Madhya Pradesh. Chief Wildlife Warden explained that this co-generation based plant will meet the requirement of steam for processing in the textile units and help in providing improved power reliability with better quality. The SBWL of Madhya Pradesh recommended the proposal in its meeting held on 8th July 2014 with specific conditions for protection of forest and wildlife from ash and water pollution.

After discussions, keeping in view the energy efficiency potential of the project, the Standing Committee recommended the proposal with the conditions stipulated by SBWL and CWLW.

32.4.2 (12). Diversion of 3.240 ha of forest land for construction of modern bulk storage facility by constructing 50000 MTC steel silo within 10 km periphery of Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary, Village Padoniya Distt. Raisen, Madhya Pradesh.

The Member Secretary briefed the committee regarding the proposal. He mentioned that the proposal is to construct a modern bulk storage facility, a steel silo of 50,000 (MTC) under PPP for storage of wheat collected from farmers. The proposed forest land is 1.7 km away from the proposed Ratapani Tiger Reserve. SBWL, Madhya Pradesh recommended the proposal in its meeting held on 8th July 2014.

After discussions, in the interest of farmers and to strengthen the agriculture sector in this district, the proposal was recommended by Standing Committee with conditions that

- *Solid waste generated in maintenance/ other operations shall be properly disposed of away from the boundary of Tiger Reserve.*
- *Vehicular traffic should be controlled in consultation with the Field Director Tiger Reserve, in order to avoid disturbance or damage to wildlife.*

32.4.2 (13). Proposal for Alewadi Larger Minor Irrigation project (L.M.I.P) over 273.02 ha private land in Ta. Sangrampur Distt. Buldhana, Maharashtra. The project area is located within the proposed ESZ of Melghat Tiger Reserve.

The Member Secretary briefed the committee regarding the proposal. He mentioned that the command area of the project is spread over an area of 273.02 ha within the proposed ESZ of

Melghat Tiger Reserve and is 1.5 to 1.75 km away from Ambabarwa WLS and within 5 km from Wan WLS. Chief Wildlife Warden explained that Alwadi Larger Minor Irrigation Project (ALIMP) will provide perennial water source to surrounding area as well as for wildlife. Environment Impact Assessment /Wildlife Management Plan was prepared by user agency and submitted to SBWL, Maharashtra. The SBWL recommended the proposal in its 7th meeting held on 20th February 2014 with the condition that 2% of the project cost would be deposited with Melghat Tiger Conservation Foundation for habitat development, protection and other conditions laid down by CWLW. Member Secretary NTCA agreed on the conditions.

After discussions, in view of need of water availability for life support systems in the surrounding area, additional drinking water availability, income generation by development of fishery, coexistence of human and wildlife, the Standing Committee recommended the proposal subject to the compliance of the conditions laid by SBWL and CWLW including strict implementation of Wildlife Management Plan in consultation with CWLW.

32.4.2 (14). Proposal for Ar-kacheri Larger Minor Project (L.M.I.P) area 321.93 ha private land in Ta. Sangrampur Distt. Buldhana, Maharashtra. The proposed site is within 10 km of distance from Ambabarwa Wildlife Sanctuary and also falls in proposed ESZ of Melghat Tiger Reserve.

The Member Secretary briefed the committee regarding proposal. He mentioned that the proposal of Al-kacheri LMIP is sub-judice and litigation pending in Hon'ble High Court at Bombay, Nagpur Bench. Chief Wildlife Warden explained that a biodiversity impact assessment study was conducted by the user agency and submitted in the SBWL. The proposal was recommended by SBWL in its 8th meeting held on 20th February 2014 with the conditions implementation of mitigation measures against habitat fragmentation, ensure post project environmental monitoring, funds for command area development including waterholes, a mobile security guard, chain link fencing and plantation on both sides of diversion canal. In addition, 2 % of the project cost shall be deposited with Melghat Tiger Conservation Foundation for habitat development.

After discussions, the proposal was recommended with conditions as stipulated by SBWL and CWLW and subject to the orders of Hon'ble High Court.

32.4.2 (15). Diversion of 16.40 ha forest land for Khindsi feeder canal Nagpur, Pench irrigation project Tah. Parshioni Distt. Nagpur, Maharashtra. (within 10 kms from Mansingdeo Wildlife Sanctuary)

The Member Secretary briefed the committee regarding proposal. He mentioned that construction of link canal between two existing reservoirs is proposed to meet growing demand for water supply of Nagpur, Ramtek city and surrounding area and for availability of additional water without any submergence and resettlement issues.

Chief Wildlife Warden explained that the proposal falls in ESZ of Mansingdeo WLS. SBWL of Maharashtra recommended the proposal in 8th meeting with specific mitigation measure for corridors of wild animals. In addition 2 % of the project cost shall be deposited with Pench Tiger Conservation Foundation.

After discussions, the Standing Committee recommended the proposal with conditions laid by SBWL and CWLW including funding the village committees for conservation plan for 10 years in consultation with CWLW. This would be at the rate of Rs 1 lakh annually for 5 villages, totalling Rs 50 lakh.

32.4.2 (16). Approval to the Patiya Minor Irrigation Project having forest area of 9.33 ha belonging to West Melghat Division, Paratwada near Patiya village of Ta. Dharni Distt. Amravati, Maharashtra. (Outside Melghat Tiger Reserve)

The Member Secretary briefed the committee regarding the proposal. He mentioned that the proposal of Patiya irrigation tank is 6.9 km away from the core area and from 1.5 km away from buffer of Melghat Tiger Reserve. SBWL recommended the proposal in its meeting held on 20th February 2014 with the conditions:

- *Soil moisture conservation works for the catchment area treatment within and adjoining forest areas.*
- *2 % of the project cost shall be deposited with Melghat Tiger Conservation Foundation for conservation activities.*
- *Water will be provided to Forest Department free of cost.*

In view to meet the water requirement of the tribal and other people, the Standing Committee recommended the proposal with stipulated conditions of SBWL, CWLW and compliance to the said conditions.

32.4.2 (17).Diversion of 34.135 ha forest land for proposed Nardave Medium Irrigation Project Ta.Kankwali Dist. Sindhudurg, Maharashtra. The area is about 0.75 to 2.00 kms away from Radhanagari Wildlife Sanctuary.

The Member Secretary briefed the committee regarding proposal. He mentioned that the proposal is for diversion of 34.135 ha forest land and the site is about 0.75 to 2.0 km away from Radhanagari WLS. Chief Wildlife Warden explained total of 1193 trees will be needed to be felled. The proposal was recommended by SBWL in its meeting held on 20th February 2014 with the conditions that

- *2% of the project cost shall be paid to the concerned wildlife division for habitat development & protection of wildlife.*
- *Compliance of the other conditions specified by CWLW.*

After discussions, the Standing Committee recommended the proposal in view of development of public utility, availability of water in the lean season subject to compliance of conditions of CWLW.

32.4.2(18).Proposal for improvement, Rehabilitation, resurfacing & routine maintenance works of roads under Sangrur-Mansa-Bathinda contract area of Punjab State (S2:Bhawanigarh-Sunam-Bhikhi-SH13 Intersection-Kot Shamir (SH 12A).

The Member Secretary briefed the committee regarding proposal. He mentioned that no acquisition of land is sought as the proposed activity is to be taken up within the available Right of Way (ROW). Chief Wildlife Warden explained that part of project, section S-2 is located within 10 km aerial distance from the BirAishwan WLS.

A Wildlife Management Plan was prepared by and submitted to SBWL in consultation with Wildlife Institute India. SBWL recommended the proposal in its 8th meeting held on 29th May 2014.

After discussions, in view of improvement of connectivity between Sangur, Bathinda and Mansa districts and all round development activities in the region, the proposal was recommended by Standing Committee with the conditions, compliance to Wildlife Management Plan and mitigation measures in consultation with CWLW.

32.4.2 (19). Proposal for Lakheri-Chamovali mining lease of M/s ACC limited, Lakheri Cement Works, Lakheri, Distt. Bundi (Rajasthan) for mining purpose of limestone, Rajasthan.

The Member Secretary briefed the committee that the proposal for mining lease area included 1107 ha non forest and 409.88 ha forest land including newly proposed diversion of 201.88 ha forest, falling within the buffer zone of Ranthambhor Tiger Reserve. In the 1107 ha non forest area, only 556 ha is mineralized area and balanced is non-mineralized. Out of 556 ha mineralized area, 405 ha has already been mined out. The balance reserves are available in forest area of 409.88 ha only, out of which 208 ha is broken forest area already diverted and further renewed on 18.12.2013. The 1107 ha of revenue land lies at a distance of 2.65 km minimum distance of Ramgarh Vishdhari Sanctuary and 2.50 km from National Chambal Sanctuary.

The Chief Wildlife Warden has recommended the proposal with the following conditions:

- 1. Manpower engaged in project works will not use wood for any purpose. User agency will provide LPG connection for domestic use to resident staff & labour.*
- 2. Transportation of mineral should be carried out during the day hours only.*
- 3. Precautionary measures to be adopted by user agency to avoid disturbance to existing flora & fauna.*

IGF WL informed that during the 31st meeting of the Standing Committee held on 12th -13th August 2014, the proposal for 1107 ha of revenue land alone was considered and recommended. The information about this area being a part of the buffer zone of Ranthambore Tiger Reserve (RTR) could not be taken note of in that meeting. He added that the part of 408.88 ha of forest land falling within buffer area of RTR was inadvertently missed out. The proposal was later forwarded to National Tiger Conservation Authority for their comments. Member Secretary, NTCA informed that the area is a narrow strip of land along southern boundary of the Tiger Reserve and as of now, as the area is within the buffer zone of RTR, mining there would be in violation of sub-section (b) of section 38-O (1) of Wild Life (Protection) Act. Therefore the proposal has been placed for consideration of the Committee afresh.

The CWLW informed that SBWL, while recommending the proposal, had taken a decision that the area under the existing mining lease shall be excluded from buffer zone of RTR. After

discussions, as the SBWL had already recommended that the lease area located in the buffer zone of RTR be excluded from it, and the follow up action is yet to be pursued by State Government, Standing Committee of NBWL recommended to the state government for an early follow up action on the recommendation of the State Board. Permission will be deemed granted once the recommendation of State Board on excluding the lease area from buffer zone of RTR is implemented.

32.4.2 (20).Setting up of 800 MW expansion unit in Kothagudem Thermal Power Station (KTPS), Khamman District nearer to Kinnersani Wildlife Sanctuary by Telangana Power Generation Corporation Limited (TSGENCO), Telangana.

The Member Secretary briefed the committee regarding the proposal. He mentioned that the proposal for setting up of 800 MW expansion unit in Kothagudem Thermal Power Station (KTPS) is 1.2 km away from Kinnnerasani WLS and outside the proposed ESZ of said WLS. SBWL recommended the proposal in its meeting held on 29th June 2013. Chief Wildlife Warden explained that Environment Impact Assessment study was conducted and public hearing was conducted on 25th July 2014. The mitigation measures for protection and conservation of wildlife as part of EMP are as follows:

- *Improvement of degraded forest area in an extent of 600 Ha.*
- *Improvement of degraded Bamboo forest in an extent of 400 Ha.*
- *Identification of small pockets of tree canopy and gap planting of fruit yielding species for improvement of fodder and fruits to wildlife.*
- *Identification of areas and undertaking shelter belt plantations to reduce the impact of pollution on wildlife.*
- *Creation / improving the natural fodder areas.*

After discussions, in view of huge power shortage to the newly formed state and dependency of 1.5 lakh small and micro industrial units, needs of agriculture sector and the mitigation measures provided in the EMP, the Standing Committee recommended the proposal with conditions stipulated by SBWL and CWLW and implementation of Environmental Management Plan which was submitted by user agency as a part of Environmental Clearance in consultation with CWLW for which an amount of 2% of the project cost shall be placed with the Chief Wild Life Warden Telangana, by the user agency.

32.4.2 (21). Diversion of 3.189 ha of reserved forestland falling near Gumti Wildlife Sanctuary, Tripura for Hydrocarbon Exploration Project at Khushirampara in Gumti Forest Division, Tripura.

32.4.2 (22). Diversion of 2.86 ha of reserved forestland falling near Gumti Wildlife Sanctuary, Tripura for Hydrocarbon Exploration Project at Babusaipara in Gumti Forest Division, Tripura.

The Member Secretary briefed the committee regarding two proposals for diversion of forest land for hydrocarbon exploration. He mentioned that the proposals are for exploratory drilling in two forest patches of 3.189 ha located 3.25 Km away from Gumti WLS boundary, and of 2.86 ha located 6.0 Km away from the proposed ESZ of Gumti WLS for taking up exploration work in the area.

The proposals are for Block AA-ONN/2002/1 (Tripura), awarded to consortium of GAIL (India) Ltd. and Jubliant Oil & Gas Pvt. Ltd., under National Exploration License Policy (NELP) IV recommended by MoPNG, on the basis of seismic and geophysical surveys. SBWL recommended the proposals on 14th August 2014 with wildlife management plan approved by CWLW. Environmental Clearance has been granted for both the proposals in the year 2009.

In view of demand for gas supply, socio-economic benefits to local people, the proposal was recommended by the Standing Committee with the condition to implementation of Wildlife Management Plan in consultation with CWLW.

32.4.2 (23). Proposal for collection of River Bed Material (RBM) from the river bed of river Rawasan River Part-2 (100.59 ha), district Haridwar, Uttarakhand.

32.4.2 (24). Proposal for collection of River Bed Material (RBM) from the river bed of river Bishanpur (237.918 ha), district Haridwar, Uttarakhand.

32.4.2 (25). Collection of River Bed Material (RBM) from the river bed of Ganga river Rawasan Part-2 (99.79 ha) distt. Haridwar, Uttarakhand.

32.4.2 (26). Collection of River Bed Material (RBM) from the river bed of Ganga river at Shyampur (219.442 ha) distt. Haridwar, Uttarakhand.

32.4.2 (27). Collection of River Bed Material (RBM) from the river bed of Ganga river at Pilli (131.31 ha) distt. Haridwar, Uttarakhand.

Member Secretary briefed the committee regarding the proposals. He mentioned that the five proposals are for collection /mining of RBM may be helpful to channelize the natural course of the river and to protect river banks and adjoining forest area and habitat from floods along the Rawasal River (Part –I & Part –II), Bishanpur and river bed of Ganga at Shyampur and Pilli. Chief Wildlife Warden explained that the SBWL recommended the all five proposals in its meeting held on 16th March 2013.

In view of vulnerability of the river course where illegal sand mining and collection has an environmental concern, after discussion the Standing Committee decided to defer the proposals and also decided that a team comprising, Prof.R.Sukumar, Inspector General, NTCA and PCCF(WL) Uttarakhand will undertake a site visit to evaluate the Environment Impact Assessment, Environment Clearance related conditions and possible implications of the proposal and submit the report to the Standing Committee of NBWL.

32.4.2 (28).Clearance to expansion of existing coal based power project by adding one unit 500 MW under stage IV of NTPC Ltd Feroz Gandhi Unchahar, Uttar Pradesh. (within 10 kms from Samaspur bird Sanctuary)

The Member Secretary briefed the committee regarding proposal. He mentioned that the proposal is adding one unit of 500MW under stage –IV of NTPC Ltd and the existing plant, stages I,II & III of capacity 1050 MW (2 ×210MW +2 ×210 MW + 210 MW), located 7.9 km away from the Samaspur Bird Sanctuary.

Chief Wildlife Warden explained that application for Terms of Reference for EIA study for stage IV has been submitted to MoEF. SBWL recommended the proposal in its meeting held on 21st October 2013 with stipulated conditions:

- *Ash water effluent must be treated to avoid pollution.*
- *The effluent shall not be released in Pratapgarh Branch of Sahayak canal which is connected to Samaspur Bird Sanctuary.*
- *A greenbelt should be developed around the plant and outside Samaspur Bird Sanctuary at the project cost to abate air pollution. Planting site for this purpose shall be identified by concerned DFO/protected area manager .*

- *The user agency shall be responsible for any loss of flora/fauna in the surroundings.*
- *Any other condition prescribed by Chief Wildlife Warden from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection /development of forest /wildlife habitat.*

After discussions, the Standing Committee recommended the proposal subject to implementation of mitigation measures and the conditions stipulated by the CWLW and Environment Clearance obtained under E(P)A,1986 and EIA Notification 2006, for which an amount of 2% of the project cost shall be placed with the Chief Wild Life Warden by the user agency.

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

- i. Mr. Singh, Chief Engineer Northern Railways after permission of the chair presented the case of a pending proposal of electrification of the existing railway line between Haridwar and Dehradun, part of which runs through the Rajaji National Park, the State Board for Wildlife is not function in the Uttarakhand state and therefore the proposal has not been forwarded to MoEF for wildlife clearance. Chief Wildlife Warden, Govt. of Uttarakhand assured that the matter will be placed before the Chief Minister at the earliest for convening State Board for Wildlife Meeting.
- ii. Chief Wildlife Warden, Bihar intimated that a proposal was submitted for consideration of Committee for establishment of Zoo Safari at Rajgir in Pant Wildlife Sanctuary in Nalanda District. The case could not come for consideration as it was received recently. CWLW requested that site inspection may be carried out so that the report is available to the Committee Members in next meeting. This was agreed to. Member Dr. H.S. Singh was requested to take up site inspection and submit the report.
- iii. The Members were of the opinion that there should a separate meeting exclusively to deliberate upon the wildlife conservation related matters. This was agreed to.

The meeting thereafter ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.
