

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

**Proceedings of the Forest Advisory Committee Meeting
Convened on 11.02.2011**

[A] Proposals Dealt By Shri H.C. Chaudhary, AIGF

Agenda No.1: Diversion of 80.00 ha. forest land in Chaural Range of Indore Division in Indore district in favour of Tensildar Dr. Ambedkar Nagar Mahu, District Indore for construction of buildings and other infrastructure of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Indore (8-109/2010-FC)

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

- (i) Legal status of the forest land proposed for diversion is Reserved Forest;
- (ii) The forest land proposed for diversion contains 7,164 trees. Average stem density in the forest land proposed for diversion is 89.55 trees/ha. ;
- (iii) Detailed land-use plan indicating location of various buildings/infrastructure proposed to be created for setting up of the IIT has not been enclosed with the proposal;
- (iv) Para 4.5 of the guidelines issued under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 provides that diversion of forest land for construction of buildings, except for construction of schools, hospitals/dispensary, community halls, cooperatives, panchayats, tiny rural industrial sheds of Government etc. which are to be put up for the benefit of people of that area, subject to a maximum of one hectare in each case, shall normally be not considered;
- (v) The 30.177 ha. non-forest land in Hasalpur village identified to raise compensatory afforestation has not been found suitable to raise plantation. No alternate site in-lieu thereof has been provided by the User Agency, so far; and
- (vi) Convincing justification to setup the IIT in forest land, along with the details of alternate non-forest lands examined for the same has not been indicated in the proposal.

The FAC after detailed deliberations recommended that for maintenance of ecological balance in and around the city of Indore, proposal of the State Government of Madhya Pradesh to divert forest land **located in vicinity of an important city** for setting up of a **non-site specific project**, such as IIT, **without undertaking a detailed exercise to examine all feasible alternates**, may be rejected.

Agenda No. 2: Diversion of 48.839 ha. forest land in Chhindwara East Forest Division in Chhindwara district of Madhya Pradesh in favour of the Project Director, National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), Chhindwara Unit for upgradation of National Highways No. -26 (B) from Amarwada to Narsinghpur. (File No. 8-01/2011-FC)

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

- (i) Out of the 48.839 ha. forest land proposed for diversion, 30.6938 ha. is Reserved Forest. The remaining 18.146 ha. is Revenue Forest;
- (ii) Forest land proposed for diversion is Class IV A and IV B forest having crown density from 0.10 to 0.60;
- (iii) The forest land proposed for diversion contains 5,590 trees out of which 4,283 trees are available in the Reserved Forest and the remaining 1,307 trees are available in the revenue forest land. The 1987 trees available in the existing right of way will also be required to be felled;
- (iv) The forest land proposed for diversion is required to eliminate the sharp curves (by straightening the road) and to increase the width of the right of way from intermediate lane (5.50 meters wide black topped surface plus one meter wide shoulder on both side) to double land (7 meter wide block topped surface plus one meter wide shoulder on both sides).

The FAC after detailed deliberations recommended diversion of the forest land subject to general conditions, standard conditions applicable to road proposals and following additional conditions:

- (i) To prevent injury/mortality of wild animals, the user agency shall install sign boards and construct speed breakers etc. at appropriate locations to ensure that maximum speed of vehicles in the portion of highways located in the forest land is not more than 60 kmph;
- (ii) The user agency in consultation with the State Forest Department shall identify the location of the migratory corridors and other areas frequently used by wild animals to cross the highways and install sign boards on both side of such corridors/areas to warn the driver to be cautious and lower the speed to prevent injury/mortality of wild animals.

Agenda No. 3: Collection of stone, boulders and other minor minerals from 1497 ha. area in river bed of Gola river for a period of ten years by the Uttarakhand Forest Development Corporation (8-61/1999-FC)

The FAC examined the proposal in details. The FAC also discussed the matter with the Chief Wildlife Warden, Government of Uttarakhand; the Nodal Officer (FC Act), Government of Uttarakhand; the Managing Director, Uttarakhand Forest Development Corporation; representatives of the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Central Soil and Water Conservation Research & Training Institute (CSWCRTI), Dehradun, Wildlife Trust of India, World Wildlife Fund (WWF)-India, present during the meeting.

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

- (i) The Ministry vide its letter dated 09.02.2010 accorded stage-II approval for collection of minor minerals from 1497 ha. area in river bed of Gola river in Nainital district of Uttarakhand by the Uttarakhand Forest Development Corporation, subject to the conditions that it will be valid for a period of one year during which the State Government and the user agency will comply with the five specific conditions indicated in the Stage-II approval so as to facilitate the Ministry to consider extension of the permission for the further period (of nine years);
- (ii) The Ministry also advised the State Government of Uttarakhand to assign a study to the Wildlife Institute of India to assess/identify and suggest appropriate ameliorative measures to eliminate/minimize the adverse impacts, if any, of the collection of minor minerals from river beds on the wildlife in general, and migratory corridors in particular;
- (iii) To prevent over-extraction of minor minerals, Ministry has also advised the State Government of Uttarakhand to assign a study to the Central Soil and Water Conservation Research Institute (CSWCRI), Dehradun to assess the quantity of the sand, boulder and other minor mineral that may be sustainably collected from permissible (middle half) portion of the river;
- (iv) Though the studies indicated in para (ii) and (iii) above have been initiated, the same have not been completed so far. The Ministry so far have received only the interim reports of these studies;
- (v) Though the State Government of Uttarakhand was clearly informed that terms of reference of the said studies shall necessarily include the assessment and identification of the adverse impacts, if any, of the non-collection of sand, boulder and other minor minerals from the 2.5 km wide stretch of river bed identified as corridor, on river geometry and soil erosion pattern along the adjoining river banks, the interim reports submitted by the State Government of Uttarakhand do not contain anything on the said matter;
- (vi) Similarly, though the State Government of Uttarakhand was also clearly informed that terms of reference of the said studies shall also include development of an appropriate plan for management of the identified migratory corridor which *inter-alia* may include restriction on collection of minor minerals for major part of the year, with

a provision of periodic accelerated collection (preferably during the period having least frequency of wildlife movement) to maintain river geometry, the interim reports submitted by the State Government of Uttarakhand do not contain anything on the said matter; and

- (vii) The representatives of the State Government of Uttarakhand and the User Agency present in the meeting could not clearly indicate on the google map and survey of India toposheet, the location of 2.5 kilometre wide migratory corridor located in the portion of the river bed having forests on its both sides, from where collection of minor minerals have been prohibited to facilitate unhindered movement of wild animals and the findings of the studies by the CSWCRTI and the WII, Dehradun on the maintenance of these corridors.

The FAC after detailed examination recommended as below:

- (i) Grant of permission for collection of minor mineral from the said forest land may be deferred till receipt and examination by the FAC and the Ministry, of the final reports of the studies assigned to the WII and CSWCRTI and a copy of the Google/Bhuwan map and survey of India toposheet clearly indicating the location of 2.5 kilometre wide migratory corridor located in the portion of the river bed having forests on its both sides, from where collection of minor minerals have been prohibited to facilitate unhindered movement of the wild animals;
- (ii) The final reports of the studies assigned to the WII, and CSWCRTI shall necessarily contain:
 - (a) findings (based on credible scientific studies) on the adverse impacts, if any, of the non-collection of sand, boulder and other minor minerals from the 2.5 km wide stretch of river bed identified as migratory corridor, on river geometry, soil erosion and intrusion of river banks into adjoining habitations; and
 - (b) a detailed plan to prevent/minimise the identified adverse impacts to ensure maintenance of river geometry and to prevent loss of property from soil erosion and intrusion of river banks into adjoining habitations, which *inter-alia* may include restriction on collection of minor minerals for major part of the year, and other measures to maintain connectivity through the wildlife corridor across the river while maintaining safety of the river flows and river geometry.

Agenda No. 4: Prospecting Exploration License (PRL) for Block KG-ONN-2004/1, over an extent of 55 Sq. Kms. forests land in Kakinada Division out of total 511 Sq. Km. Of land in East Godavari District for a period of 7 years, in favour of M/s. Oil India Limited (File No. 8-08/2011-FC)

The FAC after careful examination of the proposal noted as below:

- (i) The prospecting exploration license, involves (i) gravity & magnetic survey, (ii) 2D/3D seismic survey, and (iii) geo-chemical survey;
- (ii) The gravity and magnetic survey involves use of sophisticated man portable equipment to measure natural gravity and magnetic field;
- (iii) The 2D/3D seismic survey involves drilling of 15 meter deep 1000 shallow shot holes of 4 inch diameter and minor blasting in these shot holes to generate seismic waves for providing information for sub-surface oil and gas reservoirs. All the shot holes are proposed to be filled back after completion of survey. No fresh pathways, tracks and roads are proposed to be formed exclusively for the proposed survey. No trees are also proposed to be felled for the survey;
- (iv) The proposed geo-chemical survey involves collection of soil samples from the survey area;
- (v) A Survey of India toposheet indicating location of the forest land identified for proposed survey and the location and boundary of the Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary located in its vicinity has not been enclosed with the proposal;
- (vi) The forest land identified to undertake prospecting exploration survey is home to three important rare species of mangrove namely, the (i) *Scyphiphora hydrophyllacea* (*Narathanduga*), (ii) *Xylocarpus granatum* (*Senuga*) and (iii) *Scnneratia alba* (*Pedda Kaliga*).
- (vii) Though the forest land identified for survey is located in vicinity of Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary, an important wildlife habitat, comment of the Chief Wildlife Warden on effect of the proposed activity on the wildlife, including the avifauna have not been furnished in the proposal.

The FAC after detailed examination recommended as below:

- (i) The State Government of Andhra Pradesh shall submit a survey of India topo-sheet, in original, in 1: 50,000 or any other appropriate scale, indicating location of area identified to undertake the proposed survey and the location and boundary of the Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary;
- (ii) The State Government of Andhra Pradesh shall submit a report on adverse impact, if any, of the proposed activity on wildlife in general and avifauna in particular, to be prepared by the Chief Wildlife Warden prepared by him in consultation with the Salim Ali Center for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON), Coimbatore ;
- (iii) The project proponent shall ensure that provisions of the Coastal Zone Regulation (CRZ) Notification, if applicable, shall be complied with; and

- (iv) On receipt of the document/report indicated in para (i) and (ii) above, the proposal may again be placed before the FAC for its examination and appropriate recommendations.

Agenda No. 5: Diversion of 64.133 ha. for additional forest land (including 4.929 ha. for safety zone) for Iron Ore Mining and allied activities in Oraghat Iron Mines of M/s Rungta Sons Pvt. Ltd. under Bonai Forest Division, Sundergarh district of Orissa. (File No. 8-18/2011-FC)

The FAC after careful examination of the proposal noted as below:

- (i) The Oraghat Iron Ore Mine located in Oraghat & Sanindpur villages of of Bonai Sub-Division of Sundergarh district is in operation since 1982;
- (ii) Initially the mining lease area of 82.961 ha. comprised of 12.08 ha. of Khesra forest and 70.881 ha. of non forest land;
- (iii) The Ministry vide its letter dated 04.05.2006 accorded approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of forest 10.80 ha. Khesra forest, excluding the 1.28 ha Khesra forest located in the safety zone.
- (iv) Later on in compliance to the hon'ble Supreme Court of India's interim order dated 12.12.1996 in the Writ Petition (Civil) No. 202/95 in the matter of T.N. Godavarman Thirumulpad versus Union of India and others, the additional 62.853 ha. land was declared as deemed forest. The area of non-forest land in the said mine has now therefore been reduced to 8.028 ha;
- (v) The Central Empowered Committee (CEC) in IA No. 2746-48 dt. 7.5.2010, has *inter-alia*, recommended that approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 shall be obtained for diversion of the entire forest land (including the safety zone) located in a mining lease;
- (vi) The instant proposal has therefore, been submitted to obtain prior approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, for diversion of 62.853 ha. DLC forest land (which prior to submission of the DLC report was having the legal status of non-forest) and 1.28 ha. Khesra forest included in the safety zone;
- (vii) Out of the 62.853 ha. DLC forest, 31.564 ha. to be utilized for mining has been broken prior to 12.12.1996 (the date on which the hon'ble Supreme Court vide its interim order in the said W.P. (civil) No. 202/1995 brought the deemed forest within purview of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980) , and hence, no compensatory forestation, in lieu of its diversion has been proposed;

- (viii) The crown density of forest land proposed for diversion is less than 0.1 in broken up portion and 0.1 in non-broken-up portion;
- (ix) The 59.204 ha. forest land proposed for diversion for mining (excluding the 4.929 ha. forest land included in the safety zone) contains 731 trees. Average stem of density of 12.34 trees per hectare in the forest land proposed for diversion for mining is fairly low.

The FAC after detailed deliberations recommended diversion of the said forest land subject to the **General Conditions** and the Standard conditions applicable to the mining projects.

[B] Proposals Dealt By Shri Umakant, AIGF

1. Diversion of 782.478 ha of forest land for construction of Upper Ganga Canal 8 lane Express-Way Project in districts Muzaffarnagar, Meerut, Ghaziabad, Gautam Budh Nagar and Bulandshahar, Uttar Pradesh. (F. No. 8 – 88/ 2010-FC)

The FAC considered the diversion proposal of 782.478 ha of Protected Forest land for construction of Upper Ganga Canal 8 lane Express-Way in Uttar Pradesh. The said road runs through 5 Social Forest Divisions, namely, Muzaffarnagar, Meerut, Ghaziabad, Gautam Budh Nagar and Bulandshahar. The difference in forest area involved in Meerut Social Forest Division was also brought to the notice of the Committee. The break-up of the required forest land shown in the proposal in district Meerut is 239.441 ha, whereas, CEO UPEIDA in his certificate for payment of NPV has indicated requirement of the forest area as 231.441 ha. It was also noted that there is a need to fell about 42,100 trees; of which 58% are below 60 cm of girth. CA land required for taking up compensatory afforestation in lieu of the Protected Forest proposed for diversion is required to be identified by the User Agency. The Committee noted that the proposal involves 149.925 ha of Protected Forest land for the purpose of land parcel at 7 locations. These are meant for the development of residential areas / colonies / shopping complexes / amusement parts and other eco tourism work, etc. It was also noted that a portion of the proposed road in Meerut district (from km. 113 near village Dhakeri to Km. 144 near village Faluda) is located within 10 kilometer distance of Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary. At some places boundary of Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary is as close as about 500-600 metre away only from the project site. The state Government has already approached Standing Committee on National Board for Wildlife for getting required clearance. There are two other roads - NH-58 and the Kanwar road already existing which are also being currently widened further. Environmental clearance and public hearing, etc. are also required for the project.

After having detailed discussions on the proposed diversion of 782.478 ha of Protected Forest land for Upper Ganga Canal Express-Way, the FAC recommended the proposal for approval subject to standard conditions and the additional conditions specified below -

1. Land parcel at 7 locations involving 149.925 ha of Protected Forest land proposed for diversion and meant for developing residential areas / colonies / shopping complexes / amusement parts and other eco tourism work, etc. cannot be agreed to.
2. Provision of CA land should adequately be addressed before the final approval.
3. The avenue plantation on both side of the road will be undertaken by the project proponent as per the guidelines IRC SP21-1979 of the Indian Road Congress and Policy Guidelines of NHAI on road-side plantations.
4. As per the certificate of CEO, UPEIDA for paying NPV for 774.478 ha including 231.441 ha of Protected Forest in Meerut instead of 239.441 ha as proposed in the calculation shall be treated as 231.441 ha only.
5. The requisite clearance from Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife shall be obtained by the State Government.

2. Modification of para 4 of the guidelines under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for utilization of Wind Energy - request for extension of operating period of Wind Metmast installed on the forest land beyond 2 years of time (F. No. 8-84/2002-FC).

The proposed modification in para 4 of the guidelines under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for utilization of Wind Energy requesting extension of operating period of Wind Metmast installed in forest land beyond 2 years of time was discussed by the Forest Advisory Committee in detail. It was also deliberated that the provisions enshrined in para 4 of the guidelines for utilization of Wind Energy is meant for reconnaissance survey, etc. and, therefore, existence of Wind Metmast beyond the defined period of 2 years does not appear to be relevant.

Finally, the FAC recommended not extending the operating period of Wind Metmast in the forest land beyond 2 years of time.

3. Diversion of 180.7215 ha of forest land (92.450 ha of road sides of Protected Forest land and 88.2715 ha of Reserved Forest) for widening & strengthening of NH-59 Ahmedabad-Gujarat / M.P. Border Km. 4/200 to Km. 215/900 for four lane in favour of National Highway Authority of India in Panchmahal and Dahod Districts of Gujarat. (F. No. 8-15/2011-FC)

The FAC considered the diversion proposal of (92.450 ha of road sides of Protected Forest land and 88.2715 ha of Reserved Forest) for the purpose of widening and strengthening of NH-59 in Gujarat. The Committee also heard the project proponent and noted that the existing carriage way of 2 lane of the National Highway is about 10 mts. and existing ROW is 30 mts. The proposed ROW under consideration is 60 mtrs. The Committee noted that the NHAI has also tried to explore the possibility of alternate alignment of the National Highway -59 to reduce diversion of forest land. However, the present proposal involves minimum forest land for the purpose of diversion. The Committee also discussed in detail any possibility of reduction of ROW in the proposed widening of National Highway involving Reserved Forest area. It was noted that the Reserved Forests involved in this proposal is not a continuous patch of forest rather it involves number of a small patches of Reserved

Forests. Therefore, reduction of proposed width of the National Highway involving Reserved Forests may not be workable. The Committee also noted that altogether about 19,066 trees and 453 bamboos are required to be felled for the purpose of widening and strengthening of NH-59.

After detailed discussions, the Committee recommended the proposal for approval subject to standard conditions of road widening proposals including construction of rumbles at a regular interval to keep the speed limit of the vehicles on the prescribed limit, say 40 km. / hour.

[C] Proposals Dealt By Shri C.D. Singh, DIGF

- 1. Diversion of 65.519 ha of forest land for widening of 91.281 km long Patna-Gaya-Dobhi section of NH-83 in favour of M/s NHAI in Gaya Forest Division in Gaya & Jehanabad districts of Bihar. (File no. 8-11/2011-FC)**

The Committee considered the proposal and noted that proposed 91 km long Patna-Gaya-Dobhi is an existing road with 5-7 m carriageway within the existing RoW of 20-28 m, which has been selected for improvement & up-gradation from existing 2 lane to 4 lane with RoW of 60 m. The existing NH-83 passes through Patna (0-36.00 km), Jehanabad (36-71.00 km) and Gaya (71-127.281km). The road does not pass through any natural forest patch but only through the road side plantations. There will be 9 bypasses to avoid 9 densely populated areas. The Committee also noted that the proposed area does not form part of any National Park, Sanctuary or Biosphere Reserve, etc. The proposal involves felling of over 14,033 trees and the CA has been proposed over double the degraded forest land, i.e., 135 ha in Gaya Forest Division with financial outlay of Rs.87,21,365/- with 3 years maintenance. No violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Taking into account the necessity for improvement & up-gradation of existing 2 lane NH-83, the FAC recommended the following:

- Standard conditions of CA And NPV;
 - The avenue plantation on both side of the road will be undertaken by the project proponent as per the guidelines of the Indian Road Congress.
 - Suitable crossings to allow wildlife, if any, to cross the road.
- 2. Diversion of additional 117.0059 (total lease area 155.078 ha) of forest land for Vijay -II Iron Ore mining project in favour of M/s. Usha Martin Private Limited in Saranda Forest Division in West Singhbhum district of Jharkhand. (File no. 8-88/2007-FC(pt))**

The Committee considered the proposal of iron ore mining from Vijay-II project in the Ghatkuri RF in Saranda Forest Division and noted that this is an ongoing mine for which 29.4648 ha of forestland was diverted by RO, Bhubaneswar on 12.07.2005

and the instant proposal is for additional area for expansion of mine for its captive use. The mining has been proposed in phased manner about 66 ha forests area will be used in first phase of 5 years, followed by 37 ha in next 5 years and remaining 11 ha in last 5 years. The mineable reserve of 41 MT will be mined at an enhanced rate of 4 MTPA. It was noted that the proposed mine is surrounded by other working mines of M/s. SAIL's Gua Iron Ore mines towards north-East; M/s. Devki Bhai Belji mines towards south, and M/s. M.L. Jain mines towards south. The Committee further noted that the Environmental clearance dated 22.12.2008 has already been given. The Committee also noted that the entire forest area of Saranda Forest division including the proposed mining lease area has been notified as core area of Singhbhum Elephant Reserve and is considered to be one of the finest habitats for elephants and is ecologically very sensitive, rich in flora and fauna, and is the only un-fragmented forest having dense mixed forests. It was further noted that as a compliance to the conditions of FC clearance of 29.4648 ha, the project proponent had already deposited Rs.81.03 lakhs as their contribution to Regional Habitat Management Plan (to be prepared by the CWLW) to mitigate the adverse impact of mining on the flora and fauna of the area. About 50,545 numbers of trees are required to be felled of which about 16,349 no. of trees have more than 60 cm girth. The CA has been proposed over equivalent non-forest land for which 139.83 ha non-forest has already been identified and found suitable by the concerned DFO. The Committee listened to the presentation made by the user agency and noted that the coal evacuation have been proposed through aerial ropeway and closed conveyor belt and the mine trenches are so designed to avoid any flow of debris into the Koyna and Karo rivers.

The Committee, after discussing the proposal and taking into account the continuity of mining activities in the surrounding areas, recommended the proposals for diversion of additional forestland for mining of iron ore from Vijay-II mine on the following conditions:

- i. Standard conditions of CA and NPV;
- ii. Report on movement of wildlife in the area by a reputed person well conversant with the area such as Mr. RK Singh of WWF;
- iii. Proportionate contribution towards comprehensive wildlife conservation plan to be prepared in consultation with CWLW and WII;
- iv. Reclaim and rehabilitate the mined out area with gentle negotiable slope of sufficient width so that connectivity is maintained beyond the ridge to allow animals to cross easily;
- v. Mine trenches to be designed to bring zero pollution to Karo & Koena rivers.
- vi. State Government to ensure that various mines are worked in such a way that the required elephant corridor /intermittent vegetation zones are always maintained without any long gap /disturbances.

3. Diversion of 17.6857 ha of forest land for construction of 130 MW Integrated Kashang -Stage II & III Hydro Electric Project in favour of M/s Himachal Pradesh Power Corporation Limited in Kinnaur district of Himachal Pradesh. (File no. 9-HPC366/2009-CHA)

The Committee considered the above proposal of the State Government, which was submitted to the Regional Office, Chandigarh and noted that the proposal for construction of stage II & III (130 MW) of Integrated Kashang Hydro Electric Project by Himachal Pradesh Power Corporation Limited is a run-of the river scheme utilizing the waters of Kashang and Kerang streams, tributaries of Satluj river in Kinnaur district of Himachal Pradesh. The Committee also noted that Kashang hydro-electric project had been contemplated as a project consisting of four stages, viz., stage-I, II III & IV and the Stage-I of this project (65 MW) was approved by MoEF on 23.06.2004. It was also noted that the stage-IV proposal has not yet been formalised.

The Committee noted that the proposal was placed before the FAC on 25th October, 2010 wherein the Committee desired a study by a reputed institute like GB Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment & Development in collaboration with reputed naturalists / ecologists / wildlife specialists on seasonal river flow analysis of the Kashang and Kerang streams; ecological impact of diversion of water on aquatic fauna and flora and the surrounding natural vegetation and wildlife habitat values; and detailed muck disposal plan. It was submitted by the State Government that above studies have already been carried out by the ICFRE. The Committee also listened to the presentation made by the project proponents highlighting that both the rivers are snow fed rivers and pass through narrow valleys with rapids and slips and sometimes have very steep falls, which do not allow development of any aqua fauna. The study could not find presence of any fish or water fauna in the course of the rivers. The silt load was also found to be absent in Khasang khad as no rains take place in its catchment area.

After discussing the proposal and taking into account the findings of the study undertaken by ICFRE, the FAC recommended the proposal for approval with following conditions:

- i. Standard conditions of CA And NPV;
- ii. As Lipa and Asrang wildlife Sanctuary is within 8.5 km from the project area, the EIA/EMP shall be placed before the NBWL;
- iii. Minimum flow of 15% will be maintained at all time;
- iv. To set up Ecological Monitoring Unit to monitor the impact of the project on flora and fauna of the area;
- v. Muck disposal at pre-designated sites in such a manner so as to avoid its rolling down.
- vi. Effect of camping labourers on the flora and fauna during the construction phase of 48 months be kept at minimum by providing alternate fuel for cooking and heating.

4. Diversion of 63.5015 ha of forest land for the construction of 402 MW Shongtong-Karcham Hydro Electric Project in favour of Himachal Pradesh Power Corporation Limited (HPSEB) within the jurisdiction of Kinnaur Forest Division in District Kinnaur of Himachal Pradesh. (File no. 8-78/2010-FC)

The Committee considered the proposal for construction of 402 MW Shongtong-Karcham HEP, envisaged as run of the river project on Satluj River, between Karchham and Powari villages in Kinnaur district, requires diversion of river water through 8.019 km long tunnel on left bank of river satluj and a small storage reservoir. The total land required for the project is 77.3326 ha including 63.5015 ha forest land & 13.8311 ha private land. Out of 63.5015 ha forest land, about 17.2255 ha is required for underground work and 46.2760 ha for surface rights. The proposed area does not form part of any National Park, Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger reserve, Elephant Corridor, etc., and the CA has been proposed over 128 ha, i.e., double the degraded forest area, in Kalpa and Kilba ranges in Kinnaur division at the total financial outlay of Rs.1.62 crores with 7 years maintenance. It was also noted that about 1,006 trees have been enumerated.

The Committee considered the proposal and noted that the proposal was placed before the FAC on 18th November, 2010 and the Committee desired that the State Government in consultation with Power Producers Forum to conduct a study by involving experts from ATREE or BNHS or WPSI or SACON or WII or GBP Institute of Himalayan Environment & Development on the cumulative ecological impact of such projects on aquatic fauna & flora, biodiversity of the riverine ecosystem of the river & surrounding areas, and ecological integrity of river system. It was noted that the State Government has applied for approval of Terms of Reference (ToR) for the above basin (i.e. Sutlej Basin) study. The Committee also listened to the presentation made by the project proponents highlighting the various TORs for basin level study including minimum flow of water during the lean season, anthropogenic impact of HEP on surrounding flora and aquatic fauna, conservation of high altitude flora and fauna, etc. It was also submitted that there are 36 major projects envisaged / planned in Sutlej basin with 9880 MW capacity, which was in consonance with the State Government's policy of harvesting green energy by maintaining minimum 60 % area under forest cover. It was noted that the project envisages diversion of river water through a 8.00 km long tunnel at 1936.50 m on left bank of river satluj.

Taking these factors into account, the FAC recommended the proposal for approval with the following conditions:

- i. Standard conditions of CA and NPV.
- ii. Minimum flow of 15% will be maintained at all time;
- iii. To set up Ecological Monitoring Unit to monitor the impact of the project on flora and fauna of the area;
- iv. Muck disposal at pre-designated sites in such a manner so as to avoid its rolling down.

- v. Effect of camping labourers on the flora and fauna during the construction phase be kept at minimum by providing alternate fuel for cooking and heating.
5. **Diversion of 359.178 ha of forest land for construction of 400 KV D/C Mahan-Sipat transmission line in favour of M/s Essar Power Transmission Company Limited in North Surguja, South Surguja, Korea, Kathgohra & Bilaspur Forest Divisions of Chhattisgarh. (F. No. 8-96/2010-FC)**

Deferred due to paucity of time.

6. **Diversion of 139.00 ha of forest land for Jitpur Open Cast Coal Mining project in favour of M/s. Jindal Steel & Power Limited in Godda Forest Division in Godda district of Jharkhand. (8-24/2010 - FC)**

Deferred due to paucity of time.
