

**MINUTES OF THE 5<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF STATE BOARD FOR WILDLIFE UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF HON'BLE FOREST MINISTER, MIAN ALTAF AHMAD HELD ON 19<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2012 AT 10:00 A.M. AT CIVIL SECRETARIAT, SRINAGAR**

The 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee of State Board for Wildlife was held under the Chairmanship of Jenab Mian Altaf Ahmad, Hon'ble Minister for Forests, Wildlife, Environment and Ecology on 19.07.2012 in his office chambers at Civil Secretariat, Srinagar. A list of participants who attended the meeting is at Annexure.

The meeting started with the brief background of the agenda items by the Member Secretary and it was followed by discussion on these items.

**Agenda No. 1: Permission for laying of 2 No. 4" dia G.I. pipelines in Dachigam National Park by Rural Water Supply, Sub Division, Srinagar.**

The Member Secretary apprised the members with the background of the proposal. As it dealt with the supply of drinking water to the local people and the recommendations for execution of the proposal. The members were informed that though the area falls in the National park there is no apprehension of severe ecological affect of proposal. Dr. M. K. Ranjitsinh, however, suggested an alternate site just above the fish farm near the entrance, so as to minimize the involvement of the protected area. He also pointed out that certain civil works like a water tank had been made near Draphaharna in anticipation of approval, which is a violation.

After thread bare discussion, the proposal was approved with the condition that an inspection to check the feasibility of the alternate site be conducted under the supervision of the Regional wildlife warden and a representative from user agency. The proposal will be forwarded for consideration of the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife.

**Agenda No. 2: Construction of road from Sira to Garhi in Udhampur District under PMGSY.**

Approved by the committee with the conditions as suggested by the Chief Wildlife Warden.

**Agenda No. 3: Setting up of aerial passenger ropeway project at Patnitop near Sudhmahadev Conservation Reserve in Udhampur District.**

Approved by the committee subject to the clearance from Hon'ble Supreme Court along with the conditions as suggested by the Chief Wildlife Warden.

**Agenda No. 4: Establishment of Industrial Estate at Ghatti near Jasrota Wildlife Sanctuary.**

The proposal was deliberated at length because of the site being close to Jasrota Wildlife Sanctuary. Dr. M. K. Ranjitsinh suggested that only green category units to be established at the site. On this the Managing Director SIDCO informed the members that there is very little scope for green industry in the state keeping in view the shortage of trained man power and also the geographical location of state and other disincentives it does not attract the investors in this category. The representative from SIDCO further informed that no alternate land is available for setting up the proposed industry because of the hilly terrain. Further, the certificate issued in this concern from Deputy Commissioner was discussed by the members.

The Chief wildlife Warden informed the members that only orange and green category units have been suggested and red category have been excluded from the proposal. He also suggested that the user agency may carry out rezonation of the units so that only green category units are established opposite the peripheral areas of the Wildlife Sanctuary. It was also suggested that amongst the orange category, the less pollutive industries be selected and got approved and that the prevalent wind directions should also be verified. The proposal was approved on the above conditions and recommended for National Board for Wildlife for consideration.

**Agenda No. 5: Establishment of Cement Manufacturing Unit in Eco Sensitive Zone of Dachigam National Park, Khrew and Khanmoh Conservation Reserves by M/s HK Cements**

The committee was of the opinion that the project need not to be considered until a report is furnished by the committee constituted for monitoring of illegal mining

around Dachigam and Kazinag National Parks. The members were informed that the units are proposed within 10 km distance of the Dachigam National Park. The demarcation for eco sensitive zone is also under process and must be completed urgently. It was also informed that 16 such cement units already exist in the area plus those extracting stones and metals, whose daily consumption of raw material is not known and there is an apprehension of ecological imbalance with an increasing number of such units. Dr. M. K. Ranjitsinh also suggested a study to analyze the current impact of mining in the area and its ecological viability in future. It was also suggested that the EIA to be carried out by an impartial agency of national repute.

**Agenda No. 6: Establishment of Cement Manufacturing Unit in Eco Sensitive Zone of Dachigam National Park, Khrew and Khanmoh Conservation Reserves by M/s Jhelum Cements**

The committee was of the opinion that the project need not to be considered until a report is furnished by the committee constituted for monitoring of illegal mining around Dachigam and Kazinag National Parks. Dr. M. K. Ranjitsinh pointed out that the user agency has not informed that the proposed unit is only about 80 m from the excellent forests of Khrew Conservation Reserve and recommended an on spot inspection by the officers of the Dept. about this and the EIA suggested above would also apply to this unit and to the entire area. Dr. Kaleem suggested that such units should not be set up within the eco-sensitive zone. Dr. Ranjitsinh suggested that future spot inspections in such cases must be carried out by a gazetted officer of the Wildlife Department and there be accountability if the report is wrong or incomplete.

**Agenda No. 7: Mining activities in and around Dachigam National Park and Kazinag National Park**

The members were apprised that the committee constituted in the 4<sup>th</sup> Standing Committee for illegal mining is working on the report and will be submitting it soon. Hon'ble Minister for Forests advised the Committee on illegal mining to furnish the report soon so that the pending issues are resolved as early as possible.

Mr. Yawar Ali, member circulated a paper cutting about encroachment in wildlife area by cement industries. He also pointed out that a notice was issued by Wildlife Warden central sometime ago, stating that all the mining in the area is illegal, however, no action seems to have been taken on these mining operations. The members suggested the said committee should visit the mining areas and see for any violations on encroachment and furnish a report in this regard. Dr. Kaleem, member suggested that the amount paid by the user agencies to the Dept. should be planned to be utilized for the conservation of the affected protected areas.

**Supplementary Agenda:      Rehabilitation and Resettlement of Dwellers of Dal & Nigeen Lakes, Srinagar at Rak-i-Arth near Hokersar Wetland**

The representative from LAWDA informed that the recommendations and suggestions as proposed by the Chief Wildlife Warden are accepted. Dr. M. K. Ranjitsinh recommended proper wastage disposal technique to ensure that no sewage/effluent whatsoever entered the Hokra water system and suggested erection of a cement wall around the proposed establishment to avoid further expansion or encroachment of the colony towards the wetland. The representative from LAWDA informed the members that the world's second best waste disposal technology would be used for the proposed colony and 47% of the area within the colony premises is to be developed as green area apart from the establishment of the green belt as suggested by Chief Wildlife Warden insulating the wetland from the proposed colony. The Hon'ble Chairman assured that the pucca wall would be built as suggested.

The proposed was approved with above conditions alongwith the recommendations of Chief Wildlife Warden for consideration of National Board for Wildlife.

**Issues raised with the permission of the chair:**

In addition to the above discussions, Dr. M. K. Ranjitsinh raised

1. The issue of the shifting of sheep breeding farm was raised by Dr. M. K. Ranjitsinh, member. He expressed anguish that despite the cabinet decision and decision of the State Board of Wildlife in the last meeting fixing the deadline of the shifting as the first week of May, 2012, by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, the sheep breeding farm still exists there and has not been shifted. He also suggested to speed up the exercise of shifting the sheep to other existing sheep farms immediately without further delay as decided in the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of State Board of Wildlife, and that the sheep farm premises be handed over to the Dachigam National Park by the 15<sup>th</sup> of August and the sheep of the farm which have gone to summer pastures should not be allowed to return to the farm in Dachigam
2. Issue of declining female fawn ratio of Hangul also came up for discussion Shri M.K. Ranjitsinh informed the members about the possible causes of the low fawn ratio in Hangul population. It was informed to the members that various diseases such as, viz. Brucellosis – that leads to the abortion of the foetus in Hangul hinds, should be checked. He recommended and suggested a study to be initiated by the Dept for veterinary diseases. He also suggested a research committee to be established so as to prioritize the research studies by the Dept, species wise and protected area wise.

The meeting concluded with the vote of thanks to the chair.

**-Sd/-**  
**Member Secretary**  
**Standing Committee**  
**State Board for Wildlife**

No: WLP/Tech/5/St.Com/2012

Date:14.08.2012

Copy for information and necessary action to the:

1. Shri Sheikh Ejaz Iqbal , IAS, Commissioner / Secretary, Forest Department J&K
2. Shri B. A. Runyal, Commissioner / Secretary, Revenue Department J&K
3. Dr. M. K. Ranjitsinh, Chairman, Wildlife Trust of India, New Delhi
4. Shri S. D. Swatantra, IFS, Retired PCCF
5. Shri Vinod Ranjan, IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests J&K

6. Shri A. K. Singh, IFS, Chief Wildlife Warden J&K
7. Shri M. Shafiq Khan, IFS, Director, Forest Protection Force J&K
8. Dr. Kamal Saini, IPS, IGP, Police Headquarters
9. Shri Anil Gupta, Special Secretary, Tourism Department
10. Shri Yawar Ali, Advocate, J&K High Court
11. Shri Kaleem Ahmad, Deputy Secretary, WECS
12. Shri M. Muazzam, Managing Director, SIDCO
13. Shri Irfan Yasin, Vice Chairman, LAWDA
14. Shri D. L. Sharma, Chief Engineer, PMGSY Jammu
15. Shri M. A. Tak, Regional Wildlife Warden, Kashmir
16. Shri Niyaz Ahmad Laway, Executive Engineer, PHE
17. Special Assistant to Hon'ble Forest Minister for information of the Hon'ble Minister.
18. Shri Ab. Rauf Zargar, Wildlife Warden, Wetlands Kashmir
19. Mr. Basharat Kawoosa, AEE, PHE, RWS, Srinagar
20. Ms. Nazia Nazir, AEE, LAWDA
21. Ms. Samina Amin Charoo, Research Officer, JKWLDP.
22. Record file.

Wildlife Warden  
Technical

**LIST OF MEMBERS AND OTHER OFFICERS PRESENT IN THE MEETING**

1. Shri Sheikh Ejaz Iqbal , IAS, Commissioner / Secretary, Forest Department J&K
2. Shri B. A. Runyal, Commissioner / Secretary, Revenue Department J&K
3. Dr. M. K. Ranjitsinh, Chairman, Wildlife Trust of India, New Delhi
4. Shri S. D. Swatantra, IFS, Retired PCCF
5. Shri Vinod Ranjan, IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests J&K
6. Shri A. K. Singh, IFS, Chief Wildlife Warden J&K
7. Shri M. Shafiq Khan, IFS, Director, Forest Protection Force J&K
8. Dr. Kamal Saini, IPS, IGP, Police Headquarters
9. Shri Anil Gupta, Special Secretary, Tourism Department
10. Shri Yawar Ali, Advocate, J&K High Court
11. Shri Kaleem Ahmad, Deputy Secretary, WECS
12. Shri M. Muazzam, Managing Director, SIDCO
13. Shri Irfan Yasin, Vice Chairman, LAWDA
14. Shri D. L. Sharma, Chief Engineer, PMGSY Jammu
15. Shri M. A. Tak, Regional Wildlife Warden, Kashmir
16. Shri Niyaz Ahmad Laway, Executive Engineer, PHE
17. Shri Ab. Rauf Zargar, Wildlife Warden, Wetlands Kashmir
18. Mr. Basharat Kawoosa, AEE, PHE, RWS, Srinagar
19. Ms. Nazia Nazir, AEE, LAWDA
20. Ms. Samina Amin Charoo, Research Officer, JKWLDPD.