

MINUTES OF THE 10TH MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF STATE BOARD FOR WILDLIFE UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF HON'BLE FOREST, ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT MINISTER, SHRI CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH HELD ON 18.05.2016 AT 11:00 AM AT CIVIL SECRETARIAT, SRINAGAR

The 10th meeting of the Standing Committee of State Board for Wildlife was held under the Chairmanship of Shri Chaudhary Lal Singh, Hon'ble Minister for Forests, Ecology and Environment on 18.05.2016 in his office chambers at Civil Secretariat, Srinagar. List of participants who attended the meeting is annexed.

The meeting started with the brief background of the agenda items followed by discussion on these items. In the beginning Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) & Chief Wildlife Warden J&K formally welcomed the Chairman and members and presented the agenda.

Agenda No. 1: Review of the action taken on 9th meeting of Standing Committee of State Board for Wildlife

The meeting started with the review of the agenda of 9th meeting in order to apprise Hon'ble Chairman and other members of the Standing Committee of the State Board for Wildlife about the progress since 9th meeting of Standing Committee held on 29th September 2015. The 9th meeting of State Board for Wildlife was held on 29th September, 2015 under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Forest Minister.

The proposal of wildlife clearance for construction of 400 kV D/C Samba-Amargarh transmission line of NRSS XXIX Transmission Limited stands recommended by Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife with conditions.

The Hon'ble Chairman enquired about the details on NPV, compensatory afforestation project was informed of the amount that shall be payable on account of NPV and compensatory afforestation. It was also intimated that the case has been discussed in the recent Forest Advisory Committee meeting on 17.05.2016.

Agenda No. 2: Proposal for construction of road from Chusule-Dungti-Fukche-Demchok by BRO - use of 161.76 hectare land in Changthang Cold Desert Wildlife Sanctuary

The Chief Wildlife Warden briefed about the project which was further elaborated by the Principal Secretary, Forest, Ecology & Environment and by Lt. Col. Sandeep Sharma, representative of user agency through power point

presentation. It was decided by the Standing Committee that a suitable 2 room hut shall be constructed by the user agency at suitable place on proposed road which shall be handed over to Wildlife Protection Department. Besides tented accommodation for the labourers shall be constructed by the user agency duly fenced and kerosene shall be provided for cooking purposes to the engaged labourers. This was in addition to other conditions stipulated by the Chief Wildlife Warden J&K. The Standing Committee of State Board for Wildlife recommended the proposal to be placed before National Board for Wildlife with recommendations of the Chief Wildlife Warden J&K.

Agenda No. 3: Proposal for acquiring 222 kanals (11.10 hectare) of Forest land for J&K Police Firing Range under Khasra No. 1469 situated Sunjwan Jammu by IRP 14 BN, Jammu

Though no representative of the user agency viz. Police Department was present yet the proposal was discussed and rejected by the Standing Committee of State Board of Wildlife with the observation that it will disturb Wildlife and local public. The user agency may select some other site (State Land) or may collaborate with army for use of their already existing firing range.

Agenda No. 4: Underground laying of OFC by the Network for Spectrum (NFS) cell, Directorate General of Signals, Ministry of Defence

The agenda item was placed before the Standing Committee of State Board for Wildlife. It was informed by the user agency that out of total 9440 km OFC required to be laid in Jammu and Kashmir State, only 10.2 km length to the tune of 0.459 hectare is required in Ramnagar Wildlife Sanctuary to link Nagrota Access node. It was also informed that the requirement of laying OFC is for improving communication infrastructure for security reasons. There is no involvement of cutting / felling of trees. The Chief Wildlife Warden was of the opinion that the trenches to be dug shall be properly refilled and compacted in order to arrest the dug earth from soil erosion. The Standing Committee of State Board of Wildlife recommended the proposal to be placed before National Board for Wildlife with recommendations of the Chief Wildlife Warden.

Agenda No. 5: Guidelines for engaging research / project fellowship in the internal research projects of Department

The agenda item was placed before the Standing Committee of Wildlife for consideration. The Chief Wildlife Warden informed the Committee that there is a need to engage expert research/ project fellows in the various research projects on

project mode to be taken up by the Department to meet short / medium term needs of the Department. The members were also informed that a Technical Committee for Research has been constituted to recommend various project proposals envisaged by the Department.

The Chairman of the Committee observed that research being one of the important aspects of wildlife management, detailed studies need to be carried out in all the protected areas in all the regions of the State. A proposal be developed and submitted to strengthen the research wing of the Department as only one Research Officer post exist in the Department and also a vision statement for research in the Wildlife Department be submitted.

Supplementary Agenda No. A-1:

Underground laying of OFC under project Network for Spectrum (NFS) cell, Directorate General of Signals, Ministry of Defence

While discussing the agenda, it was observed by the Committee that the contract by the selected bidder usually is sublet to the locals for underground laying of OFC who have no knowledge about soil erosion, with the result the area dug out is not adequately refilled and compacted which results in occurrence of landslides / soil erosion damaging existing roads. The Chairman also observed that proposals involving a large area should be inspected by senior officers. The agenda item was deferred with the direction that a Committee of senior officers of the Department including some members of the Standing Committee shall be constituted by Administrative (Forest) Department which shall carry out the site inspection and submit its report within one month.

Supplementary Agenda No. A-2:

Proposal for establishment of National Large Solar Telescope in Changthang Cold Desert Wildlife Sanctuary, Ladakh

The Chief Wildlife Warden informed that the case has been considered in two meetings of the State Board for Wildlife in 2009 and 2012. In the 2nd meeting the State Board for Wildlife observed that alternative site like Hanle may be selected.

The Principal Secretary, Forest, Ecology & Environment Department briefed on the technical issues and the site specificity involved in the project. Dr. Dipankar Banerjee, Scientist, Indian Institute of Astrophysics apprised the Standing

Committee of State Board for Wildlife about the significance of National Large Solar Telescope to be established in Pangong Lake, Changthang Cold Desert Wildlife Sanctuary, Ladakh through power point presentation. It was informed that as per the recommendations of High Level Committee constituted by the Government vide Government Order No. 248-FST of 2010 dated 11.06.2010, under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary J&K, three alternate sites viz. Devasthal (Uttarakhand), Hanle and Merak in Ladakh region were considered and it was found that Merak in Pangong Tso lake was the most promising site due to diverse land protrusion, steady wind flowing over the water body and clear access to the southern sky which is essential to stabilize the atmosphere required for detailed study of the Sun. These conditions are not existing at Hanle. Besides Tsomorari lake was not considered due to breeding sites of migratory birds. The Standing Committee of State Board for Wildlife recommended the proposal to be placed before the National Board for Wildlife, with additional recommendation of the Chief Wildlife Warden J&K including the condition that the facility shall be opened for interested tourists visiting Pangong Lake through Wildlife Department as revenue point.

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

sd/
(Kuldeep Singh)
Wildlife Warden
Technical

No. WLP/Tech/2016/10th/Standing Committee//41-59

Date: 31-05.2016

Copy to the:

1. Shri Vibodh Gupta, Hon'ble MLC.
2. Principal Secretary to Government, Forest, Ecology & Environment Department, Civil Secretariat, Srinagar.
3. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, J&K Forest Department
4. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (WL) & Chief Wildlife Warden
5. Director, Forest Protection Force J&K, Srinagar
6. Commissioner/ Secretary to Government, Revenue Department
7. Secretary, Tourism Department.
8. Director General of Police, J&K Police Department.
9. Shri M. K. Ranjitsinh, Chairman, Wildlife Trust of India.
10. Shri S. D. Swantantra, IFS, Retired Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
11. Shri Junaid Nazir Shah, Chairman, Wildlife Conservation Society.
12. Shri Sheikh Manzoor Ahmad, Advocate J&K High Court.
13. Chief Conservator of Forests/ Regional Wildlife Warden, Ladakh.
14. Chief Conservator of Forests, Ecotourism.
15. Secretary Technical, Forest Department, Civil Secretariat, Srinagar

16. Director, Information Department
17. Officer on Special Duty with Hon'ble Forest, Ecology & Environment for information of Hon'ble Minister.
18. Record file.

Kuldeep Singh
30.5.16.

(Kuldeep Singh)
Wildlife Warden
Technical



LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

1. Shri Rakesh K. Gupta, IAS, Principal Secretary to Government, Forest, Ecology & Environment Department, Civil Secretariat.
2. Shri Muhamad Afzal, IAS, Commissioner / Secretary to Government, Revenue Department
3. Shri S. D. Swatantra, IFS, Retired PCCF
4. Shri A. K. Singh, IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, J&K Forest Department
5. Shri Deepak Khanna, IFS, PCCF (WL) & Chief Wildlife Warden J&K
6. Shri Suresh Kr. Gupta, IFS, Director, Forest Protection Force J&K, Srinagar.
7. Shri Jigmet Takpa, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests / Regional Wildlife Warden, Ladakh.
8. Shri Ashwani Kumar Gupta, Chief Conservator of Forests, Ecotourism & Regional Wildlife Warden, Jammu.
9. Ms. Shally K. Ranjan, IFS, Special Secretary Technical, Forest Department, Civil Secretariat,
10. Shri Gulzar Ahmad, Additional Secretary, Tourism Department
11. Shri Kuldeep Singh, Wildlife Warden Technical
12. Shri Sheikh Manzoor, Advocate J&K High Court
13. Shri Dipankar Banerjee, IIA P
14. Shri Dorje Angchuk, IIA P
15. Lt. Col. Sandeep Sharma, BRO
16. Shri Nazir Ganie, Information Officer, Information Department
17. Lt. Col. Om Hazeera, Signals
18. Col. Amrik Singh,
19. Shri Nazir Kathwari
20. Dr. Samina Amin Charoo, Research Officer, Wildlife protection Department J&K.