

STATE EXPERT APPRAISAL COMMITTEE (SEAC): ASSAM:

3RD FLOOR, STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD, ASSAM,
BAMUNIMAIDAM, GUWAHATI- 781021

Minutes of the 2nd meeting (2nd sitting) of the State Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC), Assam was held on 10th November, 2023 from 2.00PM to 5.00 PM in the Conference Hall of the Pollution Control Board, Assam, Bamunimaidam, Guwahati-781021.

List of the Hon'ble Members / officials present in the meeting:

<i>Sl no.</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Designation</i>	<i>Signature</i>
1	<i>Sri Jatindra Sarma, IFS (Retd.)</i>	<i>Chairman, SEAC</i>	<i>Sd/-</i>
2	<i>Dr. Apurba kr Das</i>	<i>Member, SEAC</i>	<i>Sd/-</i>
3	<i>Dr. Bijoy Sankar Goswami</i>	<i>Member, SEAC</i>	<i>Sd/-</i>
4	<i>Dr. Rahul Mahanta</i>	<i>Member, SEAC</i>	<i>Sd/-</i>
5	<i>Sri. Arup Barpujary</i>	<i>Member, SEAC</i>	<i>Sd/-</i>
6	<i>Dr. Raza Rofiqul Hoque</i>	<i>Member, SEAC</i>	<i>Sd/-</i>
7	<i>Shri Shantanoo Bhattacharyya</i>	<i>Member, SEAC</i>	<i>Sd/-</i>
8	<i>Dr. S.K.Dutta</i>	<i>Member Secretary, SEAC</i>	<i>Sd/-</i>

The 2nd meeting (2nd sitting) of the State Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC), Assam was held on 10th November, 2023 from 2-00 PM onwards in the Conference Hall of the State Pollution Control Board, Assam for detailed discussions and deliberations on the project proposals as per the agenda circulated to all concerned on 6th of November, 2023.

At the very outset, the Chairman of the SEAC welcomed all the Hon'ble Members of the Committee and the Member Secretary, SEAC briefed the Hon'ble Members about the agenda for the meeting. He further requested the esteemed members for their thorough participation and deliberation to expedite the process of disposal of the cases for onward processing at the level of SEAC and also the SEIAA, as the case may deserve, for timely consideration and disposal.



As per the agenda, the august committee duly deliberated, discussed and made appraisal and furnished their opinion which were unanimously accepted as pointed out against each of the agenda items quoted hereunder:

Sitting II

Agenda 1.

It is a proposal seeking extension of the Environmental Clearance (EC) granted earlier by the MoEF and CC, Gol on 01.06.2011.

The details of the project is as under:

Proposal for seeking extension of the Environmental Clearance (EC) for Mrh Maxim Guwahati Hotel Cum Office Project proposed by Maxim Infrastructure and Real Estate Private Limited: SEIAA. 3546/2023 (SIA/AS/MIS/300610/2023).

The project proponent is represented by **Mr Ashish Jasrasaria**, who has submitted the proposal on 27th June, 2023. The project site is located at Dispur, Guwahati with the plot area measuring 0.8292 Ha and the Built up area of 30,401.67 Sq m. The proponent has duly applied under prescribed Form No- 6 but without submission / uploading of the mandatory **Compliance Report**, which is required to be complied with for further processing.

It is on record that the EC was granted by the Gol in the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF &CC) for a period of 7 (Seven) Years there by meaning that the validity of the EC so granted expired on 31st May, 2018. There are no records to show that the Company had ever applied for extension of the EC, as was eligible, for another 3 (Three) years' time for the purpose based on the then prevailing MoEF & CC Notification. The present Notification under OM No F.No 1A3-22/28/2022-1A.111 [181584] dated 13th Dec, 2022 envisages clearly for grant of the EC for **10 (Ten)** years extendable by another **1 (One)** Year. In the instant case, the situation is peculiarly poised in as much as the proponent Company had failed to apply for extension in the stipulated time frame as mandated under the said notification and, ordinarily, there is no basis based on which Extension of the EC could be granted by the SEIAA.

The reasons explained and furnished in the application before the SEIAA is perused, relied upon the supporting papers as made available and the delay caused in approach for the extension of the EC are



genuinely found to be with merit and there have been no deliberate delay and latches on the part of the present Project Proponent. Reasons elaborated with documentary evidences go to show that necessary applications or for the purpose of submission of mandatory compliance Reports in terms of the EC granted were beyond the control of the present Project Proponent. The primary reasons being the moratorium imposed due to intervention of the Hon'ble Tribunal, NCLT, Guwahati Bench and the Covid-19 Pandemic, change in the entire management of the company due to reasons of insolvency etc etc. The delay part is adequately covered by such litigation, orders including moratorium imposed on the consortium of Banks. This is an exceptional case at hand and, therefore, needs further appraisal and deliberation after an on the spot study / inspection by a team of Hon'ble members of the SEAC with domain experts within a short time to ascertain if there be any violation or change required to be made / imposed or resorted to in terms of the latest guidelines governing grant of the EC or Extension of the EC by the SEIAA. Proposed visit of the august Committee members will be communicated to the present Proponent for presenting and facilitating inspection, study of records.

The matter was placed before the august committee and on deliberations, discussions sought the detail information on the project from the proponent covering the undermentioned points before presentation on an appointed date. The information required to be furnished and explained in the meeting before the Committee for further consideration and disposal of the case for grant of Extension of the EC by the SEIAA are:

- (i) Approved Plan by the GMC & GMDA, Guwahati;
- (ii) Disaster Management Plan;
- (iii) Rain Water Harvesting, Sewage Treatment Plan (STP);
- (iv) Certificate regarding use of ground water from the Central Ground Water Commission;
- (v) Solid Waste Management with segregation mechanism and their disposal plan;
- (vi) Concept of Green Building with its stipulations for use of Solar Energy;
- (vii) Storm Water Drainage Management Plan;
- (viii) Development of Green Belt etc etc the conditions which were primarily stipulated in the EC during 2011 by the MoEF & CC.

The Committee is of the considered opinion that a detailed presentation be made in the next sitting for explaining the above parameters with the compliance sought indicated there in for recommendation of granting Extension of the EC for a period of 1(one) year by the SEIAA condoning the delay part.



Agenda 2.

It is a proposal seeking Terms of Reference (TOR) for grant of the Environmental Clearance (EC), a violation case, applied by the proponent on 07.06.2023.

The details of the project is as under:

Proposal for seeking Terms of Reference (TOR) for Proposed Residential cum Commercial Building "Aashi Marq" at Adabari, Kamrup, Assam (Violation) proposed by Map Buildcon : SEIAA. 3497/2023 (SIA/AS/INFRA2/432464/2023).

The project is a violation project of Residential cum Commercial Building named as "Aashi Marq" at Adabari, Guwahati, Kamrup, Assam. The person making the application is Mr Umesh Kumar Beria (Authorized signatory, MAP Buildcon). The total plot area is measuring **24,196.28** sq.m while the Built up area is **99,676.68** sq.m. Cost of the project is proposed at **Rs 196** Crore.

The matter was placed before the august SEAC body for deliberation and discussion for issue of TOR. Deliberations were made and thorough discussions held on presentation by the project proponent. It was emphasized to have a ground inspection and verification of the project as to its present status by a committee comprising of domain experts. It is noted that an inspection of the project was done on 1st March, 23 by a Team comprising of the members of the SEAC and there after the applicant proponent was asked to stop all kinds of constructional works. There were allegations of having continued their works and, therefore, it was felt expedient to have the exact information by way of ground truth verification by a team comprising of domain experts in the field to ascertain the veracity of such allegations.

Necessary documents / information which ought to be furnished / submitted by the project proponent are:

- a. Approved Plan by the GMDA;
- b. Disaster Management Plan;
- c. Rain Water Harvesting, Sewage Treatment Plan (STP);
- d. Certificate regarding use of ground water from the Central Ground Water Commission;
- e. Solid Waste Management Plan with segregation mechanism and their disposal plan;
- f. Concept of Green Building with its stipulations so far use of Solar Energy Plan;
- g. Drainage Layout Plan along with the connection to the outside main drain;
- h. Procurement of raw material and their storage specially in case of use of Minor Mineral;
- i. Detail lay out of Traffic Management Plan.

Additional TOR points which also need to be furnished / submitted are:

1. The KML file reveal that the plot area in question is **20,866.85** Sq m . However, in Form-I the total plot area is shown to be **24,198.28** Sq m the apparent difference need to be clarified.



2. Item wise Break up of total project cost incurred up to the date of filing of the application along with EIA / EMP Report and also the break up of costs item wise incurred as on date of inspection of the project by the august Committee, separately for the Residential component and Commercial Component.
3. Detail development of the Green Belt / Green Cover and the landscape plan.
4. EMP during construction & operational phases.

On receipt of all the relevant information, documents including the report of the Committee presentation shall have to be made before the august SEAC for discussion and deliberation and further decision in the matter.

Sitting II

Additional Documents Sought (ADS) replied proposal from Agenda No. 3 to 7 is discussed.

Agenda- 3.

This is a proposal where ADS were sought by the committee in its meeting held on 04.03.2023 in respect of the approved Mining Area seeking EC for extraction of Ordinary Earth and Stone from the "Sila P.P.Land Earth & Stone Mining Permit Area"proponent being Hriday Joyti Nath.

The details of the project is as under:

Sila P.P. Land Earth & Stone Mining Permit Area by Sri Hriday Jyoti Nath SEIAA. 3318/2023

SIA/AS/MIN/413867/2023

The Project area is **0.65 Ha** with recommended quantum of **10,000 cu.m stone, 30, 000 cu.m Ordinary Earth** for 2 (Two) years. The Mining Plan was prepared by the Required Qualified Person Dr. Abhijit Bora who visited the proposed area accordingly.

For the sake of brevity the proceedings of the meeting is reproduced below which was again placed for deliberation in the SEAC meeting including the documents as furnished.

"Resolution 56/24:

The project proposal asking EC for mining of stone & ordinary earth from the "Sila P.P. Land Earth & Stone Mining Permit Area" under N.K Forest Division proposed by Sri Hriday Jyoti Nath is placed before the SEAC for appraisal and discussion. Proposed mining area is 0.65 hect. the mining plan approved by the DGM, Assam communicated vide letter dated 10th Nov. 2022 is discussed.

Recommendation of the concerned DFO communicated vide latter dated 8th Aug. 2022 & 16th Nov. 2022 is deliberated. NOC issued by the ADC, Kamrup dated 4th Aug. 2022 is also discussed. On scrutiny of the land records, submitted by the proponent observed that the JVR conducted on 17th June 2022 is without name of pattadar whereas the proposed land falls under two different patta No, 614 & 616 under Dag No. 1378 & 1376. The land records also speaks that the proposed land is under Agriculture class.

The committee need the following documents for further processing of the proposal.

- (a) Non-Agricultural land certificate from the competent Revenue Authority.
- (b) Fresh and proper Joint Verification Report duly signed by both the concerned Forest & Revenue Authority."

From the above, it is clear that the Project Proponent was to submit / upload the fresh JVR and also to upload the documents regarding the classification of land in question, if non-agricultural, from the competent authority. The papers, documents as uploaded were placed for scrutiny by the august committee. It transpires that the fresh JVR was not conducted and the copy of the same JVR as submitted earlier was uploaded containing the endorsement of the Revenue official with his seal thereon which can not be treated as a fresh JVR. It was further noted that even the name of the Pattadar was reflected in the uploaded JVR.

On scrutiny of the relevant papers it also further came to light that the Affidavit sworn in by the Pattadar mentions about extraction and sale of Ordinary Earth only and there is no mention about extraction and sale of stone.

In view of the above deficiencies the Committee has not recommended the EC, to be granted by the SEIAA.

The committee is also of the opinion that the issue should be brought to the notice of all concerned for their perusal and requisite action in future.

Agenda- 4.

This is a proposal in which ADS were sought by the committee in its meeting held on 06.05.2023 in respect of the approved Mining Area seeking EC for extraction of Sand & Stone from "Merabil S.S. Mahal" of Dhansiri Forest Division under BTC. The project proponent is Sri Bimal Daimary.

The details of the project is as under:

Merabil S.S. Mahal by Bimal Daimary SEIAA. 3444/2023 SIA/AS/MIN/425658/2023

The Mining Plan was prepared by the RQP Dr. Abhijit Bora and the quantity of minor mineral recommended for extraction is **66,500 cu.m @ 43,012.55 cu.m sand ; 23, 487.45 cu.m stone** for 5 years.

For the sake of brevity the Resolution adopted by the Committee whereby additional clarifications were sought for in the matter is reproduced below:

"Resolution 60/13:

The project proposal asking EC for excavation of Sand & Stone from the **"Merabil S.S. Mahal"**, of Dhansiri Forest Division under BTC proposed by **Sri Bimal Daimary** is placed before the SEAC for appraisal and detailed discussion. Allotted mining area is 4.02 ha whereas minable area is estimated 3.78 ha and located on the river bed. Requisite documents are examined and appraised. The mining plan approved by the DGM, Assam communicated vide letter dated 12th Dec. 2022 is deliberated. Recommendation of the

concerned DFO dated 4th April 2023 including approval accorded by the BTC authority has also been discussed. On deliberation, it is revealed that the mine out materials i.e Sand and Stone will be used for filling purposes. It is clearly mentioned in point No. 5 of the "General Information" head of the approved mining plan. It is not clear to the Hon'ble Members of the committee how such minable sand & stone will be used for filling purposes. Hence, after due deliberation the committee requires clarification as to how & where the proposed minable sand & stone will be utilized.

Necessary clarification as discussed in the foregoing para is required from the proponent with certification of the concerned DFO."

Necessary clarifications as sought for have been complied by the DFO, Dhansiri Division; the RQP Dr Bora and also the proponent Sri Daimary. In view of above deliberations and fulfillment of requirements the Committee is of the opinion to approve the project for grant of the EC by the SEIAA subject to the conditions that (a) mining shall be confined and limited to the areas falling within GPS coordinates; (b) the active bank of the river is not disturbed / damaged because of mining operation and transportation of mining materials and (c) the proponent is permitted to extract the approved quantity of river bed sand and stone with maximum mining depth of up to 2 (two) meters from the non-mined surface and strictly following all other terms and conditions laid down in the approved mining plan.

The Divisional Forest Officer, Dhansiri Division shall ensure due vigilance in the mining area to avert any kind of irregularities during the mining period. Further, he is to ensure that mining shall be allowed only within the approved mining sites and not beyond the limits of the same. Accordingly, he shall ensure marking the boundary of the mining sites on the ground fixing permanent concrete pillars, painted yellow, with the coordinates depicted therein on the pillars / posts, following the GPS coordinates mentioned in the approved mining plan.

This is subject to the fact that the project proponent / the DFO, Dhansiri Division shall submit NOC from the competent authority in the Water Resources Department for due recommendation to the SEIAA for grant of the EC immediately.

The PP shall obtain CTE/ CTO from PCB, Assam under the provisions of water Act, 1974 and Air Act, 1981. (This specific condition shall be included in the EC to be granted by SEIAA)

Agenda- 5.

This is a proposal in which ADS were sought by the Committee in its meeting held on 18.02.2023 in respect of the approved Mining Area seeking EC for extraction of stone from "Nakkati Hill Stone Quarry No 3 under Aie Valley Forest Division. The project proponent being Merle Construction & Marketing Private Limited.



The details of the project is as under:

Nakkati Hill Stone Quarry No 3 by Mrle Construction & Marketing Private Limited, SEIAA. 3351/2023 (SIA/AS/MIN/414687/2023)

The Mining plan is prepared by the RQP Sri Prabal Kr Goswami and on record he visited the project site. For the sake of brevity the Resolution taken by the committee in its meeting on 18.02.2023 whereby additional documents including information were sought for from the proponent, the DFO, Aie Valley Division.

"Resolution :55

The project proposal requesting EC for mining of stone from the **"Nakkati Hill Stone Quarry No. 3"** under **Aie Valley Forest Division proposed by Merle Construction & Marketing Private Ltd** is placed before the SEAC for appraisal and deliberation. Mining area proposed 5.0 hect. within the Reserved Forest Land under Aie Valley Division. The mining plan approved by the DGM, Assam communicated dated 31st DEC. 2022 is deliberated. Recommendation of the concerned DFO communicated vide letter dated 4th Jan 2023 and LOI issued by him dated 26th Oct. 2022 are discussed in detailed. Due deliberation is held and the committee requires certain additional information being *ADS to the following points for further processing of the proposal.*

- (a) *On scrutiny of the maps furnished by the proponent, it is seen that a Temple is located within the proposed mining site. Report on the existence/ status of the Temple is required from the DFO, Aie Valley Division after his physical ground verification.*
- (b) *The proposed mining area is located within the Reserved Forests which attracts FCC from the competent authority. It is not known whether the proponent has applied for the FCC, if so the acknowledge slip please be furnished.*
- (c) *Authorized signatory need to be submitted."*

On deliberation it came to light that though certain clarification is furnished as to the non-existence of any **Temple** within the proposed project area and also the authentication letter of authorized signatory but the main issue of **1st Stage Forest Clearance under the FC Act, 1980** from the competent authority is still wanting without which no further deliberation could be made on the issue.

The Committee is of the considered view that once all formalities are complied with, which are pre-requisite for the purpose, the proponent shall initiate for submission of the same in due course for further scrutiny / appraisal by the Hon'ble committee and further orders / directions thereof.

Agenda- 6.

This is a proposal where in ADS were sought by the Committee in its meeting held on 01.04.2023 in respect of the approved Mining Area seeking EC for extraction of Sand, Gravel & Stone from "Haldibari Sand, Gravel & Stone Mahal R.F Area", of Kachugaon Forest Division under BTC. The project proponent being Sri Vivek Mushahary.



The details of the project is as under:

Haldibari Sand, Gravel & Stone Mahal R.F Area by Sri Vivek Mushahary
SEIAA3410/2023(SIA/AS/MIN/420588/2023)

The Mining Plan is prepared by Dr Saptarathi Aich Sarkar and, reportedly, the area of the project was visited by him.

For the sake of brevity the Resolution of the committee is reproduced below:

"Resolution 58/9:

The project proposal asking EC for mining of Sand, Gravel & Stone from the **"Haldibari Sand, Gravel & Stone Mahal R.F Area"**, of Kachugaon Forest Division under BTC proposed by **Sri Vivak Mushahary** is placed before the SEAC for appraisal and detail discussion. Proposed project area is 4.5 hect. within Reserved Forests. The mining plan approved by the DGM, Assam communicated vide letter dated 23rd Feb. 2023 is discussed in detailed. Recommendation of the concerned DFO communicated vide letter dated 14th Feb.2023 & 28th Feb.2023 is deliberated. Due deliberation is held and *the committee requires the following additional information from the Divisional Forest Officer, Kachugaon Forest Division, Gossaigaon at the earliest for further processing of the proposal.*

- (a) *Distance of the project site from the Raimona National Park. Whether the proposed mining site falls within ESZ of any PA?*
- (b) *The proposed mining site falls in RF. Whether the proponent has applied for FCC to the competent Authority, if so please furnish the acknowledgement slip for record."*

It transpires that additional information were sought from the proponent and also the DFO, Kachugaon Division relating to the distance of the project site from the boundary of the **Raimona National Park** and if the same is within the ESZ. The said DFO, Kachugaon Division has uploaded the information as sought showing the distance to be **10.5 km** away from the boundary of the Park as also the fact that the same is not falling within the **ESZ**. On closure scrutiny of the report it is seen that the report is **devoid the signature of the DFO** which can not be treated as valid information. The DFO is to do the needful accordingly.

Further, **Stage1 Clearance as required under the FC Act,1980** needs to be uploaded / submitted by the Project Proponent for further appraisal of the Hon'ble committee.

Agenda- 7.

This is a proposal wherein ADS were sought by the Committee in its meeting held on 01.04.2023 in respect of the approved Mining Area seeking EC for extraction of Sand Gravel & Stone from "Govt. Permit Area

of Khagrabari Sand Gravel & Stone Mahal under Baksa Forest Division, Mushalpur under BTC. The project proponent being DFO, Baksa.

The details of the project is as under:

Govt. Permit Area Of Khagrabari Sand Gravel And & Mahal Baksa Forest Division, Mushalpur SEIAA. 3409/2023 (SIA/AS/MIN/422709/2023)

The Mining Plan is prepared by Sri Prabal Kr Goswami and reportedly the area of the project was visited by him. The project area is a Govt Permit area measuring **4.90** Ha as approved for mining.

The quantity recommended is measuring **1,08,740** cum Sand, Gravel & Stone for 5 years by the proponent.

For the sake of brevity the Resolution of the committee is reproduced below:

"Resolution 58/4:

The project proposal asking EC for mining of Sand, Gravel and stone from the **"Govt. Permit Area of Khagrabari Sand Gravel & Stone Mahal"** under Baksa Forest Division proposed by the DFO Baksa is placed before the SEAC for appraisal and detail discussion. Area of the proposed project is 4.9 hect on the river bed. The mining plan approved by the DGM, Assam communicated vide letter date 27th Feb. 2023 is discussed in detailed. Recommendation of the concerned DFO communicated vide letter dated 20th Jan. 2023 & 1st March 2023 is discussed and appraised. Thorough discussion is held and *the committee needs the following additional information/ documents relating to the project for further processing of the proposal.*

- (1) The project area overlaps with the river bank where anti-erosion measures including embankment with deflection spur is noticed. Current status of the anti-erosion measures with relation to the proposed mining site is required.*
- (2) Given photographs of the project site shows as high land area whereas the site is act as river surrounding and are not matched with the photographs. Needs clarification.*
- (3) Clarification and opinion of the competent authority of the Water Resources Department is required regarding structural safety of the embankment of the spur as those are part of the demarcated mining area."*

As will be seen that few of the additional details as sought from the PP and also from the competent authority in the Water Resources Department in the previous meeting are furnished and point wise reply are submitted by the Proponent, EE WR Division, Baksa. The said documents with information as received are discussed and deliberated by the august committee.

- Clarification from the *Water Resources Department regarding existence of anti-erosion structures and precautions in mining for safety of Govt structures wherein it has been suggested for allowing extraction in the mid channel of the river bed keeping a safe distance of 300m from the river bank for safety of the structures and spur.*



- The DFO, Baksa too furnished the required information through his letter 30.05.2023 with **photographs** uploaded.

The Committee is of considered opinion that the proposed mining / permit area needs to be **accordingly reduced for the area** and the RQP is to submit the Geo-coordinates accordingly in consultation with the DFO concerned showing the quantity to be allowed annually for Govt Permit.

The Committee deemed it appropriate to accord approval for the Govt Permit area for grant of the EC by the SEIAA on receipt of the details from the proponent at the earliest.

Agenda 8.

It is a proposal seeking Terms of Reference (TOR) for grant of the Environmental Clearance (EC), applied by the Project Proponent Executive Engineer, Dholai-Sonai Division, (Irrigation), Govt of Assam on 04.07.2023.

The details of the project is as under:

Proposed Sonai Irrigation Project, Taluka- Silchar, District- Cachar, Assam is proposed by the Executive Engineer, Irrigation Department, Assam : SEIAA.3561/2023 (SIA/AS/RIV/432981/2023)

The proposed project envisage construction of Barrage with Canal across river **Sonai** with different parameters / dimensions to cover estimated Culturable Command Area (CCA) of **10,850 Ha**. The main Canal system in the left bank of the river is estimated at 18.85 Km while the right Canal system will be 27.32 Km with branch canals on either side with total length of 70.42 Km. On scrutiny of the proposal it is on record that the land requirement for the project or project activity are depicted as **Non-Forest Land [A] 614.5 Ha & Forest Land [B] 499.5 Ha** with total land area affected (Submergence Area) being **1114 Ha**.

Total Cost of the project is estimated at **Rs740.92 Crore**. Main Civil works entailed in the project is attributed to the construction of Barrage, Head Regulators (Unit-I) and Canal Systems (Unit-II) involving projected expenditures of Rs **468.56 Crore** and **272.36 Crore**.

Briefly, both tangible and intangible benefits shall accrue to the local populace and others in the District. It is narrated in the project that the Sonai Irrigation Project shall cater irrigation needs of CCA of **10,850 Ha** with annual intensity of irrigation of 160% (**17,360 Ha**), provision for drinking water supply to the population of 70,241. Estimated water demands from this project are **94.477 MCM** for irrigation and **8.28 MCM** for domestic purpose. There are number of indirect benefits from the project viz, *Pisciculture, Animal Husbandry, Tourism*, development of *flora and fauna*, generation of rural employment and communication.

Project is placed for detailed deliberation and discussion while the Chief Engineer, Irrigation Department, Govt of Assam assisted by the Consultant of the Project made presentation before the Hon'ble Committee. It was observed that the Project Proponent has **not deposited the requisite processing fee** which ought to have been done for further course of action by the Committee. Further, the name of the Consultant invariably has to be furnished with his details in order to fix the accountability and responsibility for any misinformation or misrepresentation of facts before the Committee.

The committee at the very initial stage wanted the clarification as to the exact requirement of Forest Land involved and, if Stage I Clearance (In Principle Approval) from the competent authority is obtained in terms of the FC Act, 1980 which is a pre-requisite for the grant of the EC. It is noted in the presentation that around **20.56** Ha of Forest Land is required to be diverted for execution of different kind of activities at different locations. The committee also observed that the expenditures to be incurred as compensation and for Rehabilitation of the 9 (Nine) affected villages including the cost required for environmental compensation, acquiring land, Compensatory plantations have not been spelled out clearly as the part of the project cost. This needs to be worked out in detail and reflected in the EIA study.

The Hon'ble Committee further suggested to:

- I) Consult the approved Working Plan of Cachar Forest Division for land use pattern, drainage system, land classification, flora and fauna, involvement of forest land and also to have due discussion with the DFO, Cachar for clarifications;
 - II) List of beneficiaries for the CCA are to be prepared with the **Aadhar Card** linked / **Voter ID** are to be prepared in consultation with the local public representative;
 - III) How Flora and Fauna of the area shall be developed need to be explained;
 - IV) What is the current status of drinking water facilities;
 - V) Whether list of affected families are prepared with their Aadhar Card linked / with Voter ID as projected (799 families) and are ready to shift under Rehabilitation Packages;
 - VI) Complete Rehabilitation Package Plan to be mooted out in consultation with the Revenue authority duly approved by the local public Representative(s) for the purposes;
 - VII) Use of Green Energy as far as practicable specially in case of lodging / Housing facilities for officials, Rehabilitation package plans;
 - VIII) The applicability of the Assam Irrigation Water Users Act, 2004; formation and consultation with the Water Users' Association;
 - IX) Convergence with the line viz. Department of Agriculture, Veterinary and Animal Husbandry, Pisciculture are to be made for feasibility of taking up different and diverse cropping pattern;
 - X) The Compensatory afforestation programme and the alternative land arranged for the purposes.
- The information, documents are to be submitted with due mandatory compliance as required for further presentation on a date fixed accordingly.

The Committee is of the considered view to recommend for issue of TOR to the applicant proponent Chief Engineer, Irrigation Department, Chandamari, Guwahati-3 with the above mentioned points, specially covered, in the Standard TOR for grant of the EC by the SEIAA in due course, as the case may be.

Agenda 9.

It is a proposal seeking Terms of Reference (TOR) for grant of the Environmental Clearance (EC) applied by the proponent Mr Nikhil Mittal on 20.07.2023.

The details of the project is as under:

Installation of Split Cement Grinding Unit of capacity 1.0 MTPA by Taj Cement manufacturing Private Limited: SEIAA.3562/2023 (SIA/AS/IND1/427957/2023)

The Company is represented by its Director who is also the applicant Mr Nikhil Mittal. Total Cost of the Project proposed is **Rs 342 Crore**.

Brief Description of the Project:

M/s Taj Cement Manufacturing Private Limited (TCMPL) is proposing installation of Split Cement Grinding Unit of **1.0 MTPA** capacity at Village **Chamata Pathar**, Mauja- Sonapur, District- Kamrup (M), Assam over a piece of land measuring an area of **8.42 Ha**. The project falls under Schedule 3(b) as per the EIA Notification dated 14th September, 2006. Since the plant is a stand alone grinding unit hence, it is categorized as "Category B1" project. **It is a greenfield project**. The plant will produce 100% Portland Pozzolana Cement (PPC). However, the plant can produce up to 20% Ordinary Portland Cement (OPC) as and when required as per the market demand. In case the OPC is manufactured, then the quantity of clinker may increase from 0.6 MTPA to 0.67 MTPA and fly ash quantity may reduce from 0.35 MTPA to 0.28 MTPA. However, there will be no effect on Gypsum quantity i.e 0.05 MTPA.

The facts were placed before the Hon'ble Committee for detail deliberations and discussions. Letter from the concerned DFOs in respect of distances of project location from the nearest boundary of the Wildlife Sanctuaries and the Eco Sensitive Zone of Amchang Wildlife Sanctuary and Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary were discussed. From the forestry angle no such issue emerged as pointed out during deliberation.

Detailed presentation was made by the consultant **Perfact Enviro Solution Pvt Ltd**. The Committee stressed that name of the consultant be furnished to keep accountability and to vest liability on the part of the Consultant for any misinformation or suppression of material facts before the committee.

Upon hearing the party and due deliberation the committee deemed it appropriate to invoke certain conditions in the TOR apart from the Standard Terms of Reference as under:

- a. Development of green field, the plant species to be planted being tolerant to the air pollution in the area and **Miyawaki** Model of Plantation under the guidance of the Member Secretary, SPBC/SEAC, Assam Dr S K Dutta. List of plant species, so suitable for the area shall be furnished by the Chairman of the SEAC, if so advised;
- b. The technology involved in production stage to have the barest minimum effect on pollution (dust pollution);



- c. Disposal mechanism of various wastes, viz plastic, Hazardous, E.waste, etc shall need to be clearly spelt out;
- d. Green Energy around the Project area needs to be proposed;
- e. Management Plan required to ensure support by way of livelihood generation to nearby community;

The Committee is of the considered view to recommend for issue of TOR to the applicant proponent with the above points, specially covered, in the Standard TOR by the SEIAA for grant of the EC in due course as the case may be.

Agenda 10.

It is a proposal seeking Terms of Reference (TOR) for grant of the Environmental Clearance (EC) applied for by the proponent Mr Uttam Karmakar on 28.06.2023.

The details of the project is as under:

Proposal for seeking Terms of Reference (TOR) for Salmara Sand, Stone & Silt/Earth Mining Project on Beki River located near Village –Salmara, P.O. Balabhita, P.S. Barpeta Road, District: Kamrup, State-Assam proposed by Uttam Karmakar: SEIAA. 3562/2023 (SIA/AS/MIN/433265/2023).

Brief description of the project:

This is a project proposal for mining of Sand, Stone, Silt / Earth comprising an area of **66.00** Ha and the area allotted for mining is measuring **86.4** Ha. The Letter of Intent (LOI) is granted for 7 (Seven) years on 12. 07. 2022 by the DFO, NK Division.

The RQP Dr Abhijit Bora has prepared the Mining Plan which was duly approved by the Director Geology and Mining on 15.01.2022 recommending total quantity of Minor Mineral measuring **30, 51, 370** Cum in 5 (five) years.

Facts were placed before the august Committee for discussion and deliberations. The Consultant **Cognizance Research India Ltd** made full and detailed presentation before the Committee. The Committee after hearing the party made the following observations which need to be addressed by the proponent as mentioned here under:

- a. The NOC from the Water Resources Department regarding any adverse impact for mining operation in the area bounded by the Geo-coordinates;
- b. Name of the Consultant is to be invariably indicated to ensure proper accountability for any misinformation, suppression of material facts;

- c. Gradation of Minor Minerals and its quantification out of Mining;
- d. As the proposed stretch of the mining area is 3.0 km (Approx) a gap of 50 mtrs should be kept as non mining (buffer zone) stretch after each 1(one) km stretch;
- e. Plantation proposed appears to be vague in nature which need to be attended with utmost sincerity and care. The proponent shall consult the DFO concerned and come up with a realistic plantation scheme to be carried out with suitable species of plants. The expenditures involved up to its establishment need to be worked out and the requisite fund may be made available to the DFO, Social Forestry Division, Barpeta for proper execution in the field and accountability. This needs to be decided by the concerned DFO.

In the process of Public hearing to be conducted in due course, all stake holders are to be invited including Public Representative and the Registered NGOs with up to date renewal of the Registration of the respective NGOs. (This is for guidance only after issue of TOR to the applicant proponent by the SEIAA).

The Committee is of the considered view to recommend for issue of TOR to the applicant proponent with the above points, specially covered, in the Standard TOR by the SEIAA for grant of the EC in due course as the case may be.

Agenda 11.

It is a proposal seeking Terms of Reference (TOR) for grant of the Environmental Clearance (EC) applied for by the proponent Mr Palash Das on 28.06.2023.

The details of the project is as under:

Proposal for seeking Terms of Reference (TOR) for Khudnabari Pathar Sand, Stone & Silt/Earth P.S. Sarbhog, District Mining Project on Naljhara River, Located near Village -Khudnabari Pathar P.O.-Sarbhog, District: Kamrup, State-Assam proposed by Shri Palash Das: SEIAA. 3564/2023 (SIA/AS/MIN/433237/2023). Brief description of the project:

This is a project proposal for mining of Sand, Stone, Silt / Earth comprising an area of **36.24** Ha and the area allotted for mining is measuring **36.24** Ha. The Letter of Intent (LOI) is granted for 7 (Seven) years on 15. 12. 2022 by the DFO, NK Division.

The RQP Dr Abhijit Bora has prepared the Mining Plan which was duly approved by the Director Geology and Mining 18.03.2023 recommending total quantity of Minor Mineral measuring **6,70,190** Cum in 7 (Seven) years.

Facts were placed before the august Committee for discussions and deliberations. The Consultant **Cognizance Research India Ltd** made full and detailed presentation before the Committee. The Committee after hearing the party made the following observations which need to be addressed by the proponent as mentioned here under:

- a. The NOC from the Water Resources Department regarding any adverse impact for mining operation in the area bounded by the Geo-coordinates;
- b. Name of the Consultant is to be invariably indicated to ensure proper accountability for any misinformation, suppression of material facts;
- c. Gradation of Minor Minerals and its quantification out of Mining;
- d. As the proposed Stretch of the mining area is 3.9 km (Approx) a gap of 50 mtrs should be kept as **non mining** (buffer zone) stretch after each 1 (one) km stretch;
- e. Plantation proposed appears to be vague in nature which need to be attended with utmost sincerity and care. The proponent shall consult the DFO concerned and come up with a realistic plantation scheme to be carried out with suitable species of plants. The expenditures involved up to its establishment need to be worked out and the requisite fund may be made available to the DFO, Social Forestry Division, Barpeta for proper execution in the field and accountability. This may be decided by the concerned DFO.
- f. In the process of Public hearing to be conducted in due course, all stake holders are to be invited including Public Representative and the Registered NGOs their with up to date renewal of the Registrations (of the respective NGOs). [This is for guidance only after issue of TOR by the SEIAA].

Agenda 12.

It is a proposal seeking Terms of Reference (TOR) for grant of the Environmental Clearance (EC) applied for by the proponent Mr Krishna Debnath on 23.06.2023. The details of the project is as under:



Proposal for seeking Terms of Reference (TOR) for Longai Sand Minor Mineral Unit No. 1 (C) near Baithakhal area, Village: Bagadahar, P.O: Patharkandi, P.S: Patharkandi proposed by Shri Krishna Debnath: SEIAA. 3565/2023 (SIA/AS/MIN/434377/2023).

Brief description of the project:

This is a project proposal for mining of Sand comprising an area of **10.30** Ha and the area allotted for mining is measuring **10.30** Ha. The **Letter of Intent (LOI)** is granted for 5 (**Five**) years on **19.11. 2022** by the DFO, Karimganj Division.

The RQP Sri Prabal Kr Goswami has prepared the Mining Plan which was duly approved by the Director, Geology and Mining, Assam by letter dated 18.03.2023 recommending total quantity of Minor Mineral measuring **50,000** Cum in 5 (Five) years.

Facts and figures were placed before the august Committee for discussions and deliberations. The Consultant **Ultra Tech** made full and detailed presentation before the Committee. The Committee after hearing the party made the following observations which need to be addressed by the proponent/DFO as mentioned here under:

- a. Name of the Consultant is to be invariably indicated to ensure proper accountability for any misinformation, suppression of material facts;
- b. The NOC from the Water Resources Department regarding any adverse impact for mining operation in the area bounded by the Geo-coordinates;
- c. Gradation of Minor Minerals and its quantification out of Mining;
- d. As the proposed Stretch of the mining area is **3.84** km (Approx) a gap of **50** mtrs should be kept as **non mining** (buffer zone) stretch after each 1km stretch;
- e. The proponent shall consult the DFO concerned and come up with a realistic plantation scheme to be carried out with suitable species of plants as are mostly endemic to Barak Valley area. The expenditures involved up to its establishment need to be worked out with the concerned DFO and the requisite fund may be made available to the DFO, Social Forestry Division, Karimganj for proper execution in the field and accountability.
- f. It was noted that the **processing Fee** as required to be deposited with the SEIAA is not done which need to be complied with immediately.



Agenda 13.

It is a proposal seeking grant of the Environmental Clearance (EC) applied for by the proponent Mr Biswajit Brahma on 02.11.2023.

The details of the project is as under:

Proposal for seeking for EC for Silbari Sand and Gravel Minor Mineral Unit proposed by Shri Biswajit Brahma: SEIAA. 1945/2021 (SIA/AS/MIN/435741/2023).

This is a project proposal for mining of Sand comprising an area of **14 Ha** and the area allotted for mining is measuring **14 Ha**. The **Letter of Intent (LOI)** is granted for 5 (**Five**) years on **19.11. 2022** by the DFO, Dhubri Division.

The RQP Dr Abhijit Bora has prepared the Mining Plan which was duly approved by the Director, Geology and Mining, Assam vide letter dated 22.09.21 recommending total quantity of Minor Mineral measuring **1,50,000 Cum Sand** and **85,000 Cum Sand-gravel** in **5 (Five)** years. The TOR was issued dated 29.11.2022, as accepted, and Public hearing was conducted which is submitted.

Facts were placed before the august Committee for discussions and deliberations. The Consultant, **Indian Mine Planners** (Dr N B Chanda) made full and detailed presentation before the Committee. The Hon'ble Committee after hearing the party made the following observations which need to be addressed by the proponent as mentioned here under:

- a. Name of the Consultant is to be invariably indicated to ensure proper accountability for any misinformation, suppression of material facts;
- b. It was observed that a linear structure is seen in the Down stream at a distance of **296 mtrs** (Upstream-**355 mtrs**) which need to be ascertained and clarified;
- c. The NOC from the competent authority in the Water Resources Department is required to be made as to the adverse impact,if any, that may likely to have due to mining in the area limited to the approved area;
- d. The stretch of the proposed mining area is revealed to be **3.88 km** covering 4 blocks / stretches, distances of which need to be spelled out by revisiting the Mining Plan. The DFO shall need to clarify after the exercise is done with the RQP Dr Abhijit Bora;
- e. Proposal for development of Green Belt area (**4.62 Ha**) as a measure of reclamation, mitigation measure has to be worked out with the concerned DFO and the expenditures so involved till its establishment needs to be worked out. Fast growing suitable species of plants are to be planted in the area so selected, preferably with due collaboration of the DFO, Dhubri Division.

The Committee is of the considered opinion that once the clarifications are done with by the project proponent / the concerned DFO the recommendation will be made accordingly for grant of the EC by the SEIAA.

Agenda 14.

It is a proposal seeking grant of the Environmental Clearance (EC) applied by the proponent Daivik Cement Manufacturing Private Limited on 04.07.2023.

The details of the project is as under:

Proposal for seeking for EC for Setting up of 300 TPD VSK Clinker manufacturing Unit and 500 TPD cement manufacturing Unit proposed by Daivik Cement Manufacturing Private Limited: SEIAA. 3558/2023 (SIA/AS/IND1/445498/2023).

The Proponent Company represented by its authorized signatory Mr Abhishek Agarwala has applied for the on 04.07.2023 the grant of the EC for the setting up of 300 TPD VSK Clinker manufacturing unit with a proposed project cost of **Rs 40 Crore**.

Brief Description of the Project:

M/s Daivik Cement Manufacturing Private Limited represented by its authorized signatory Mr Abhishek Agarwala is proposing to set up a **300 TPD VSK (Vertical Shaft Kiln) Clinker manufacturing Unit and 500 TPD cement manufacturing Unit** at Village Chamata Pathar, Mauja- Sonapur, District- Kamrup (M), Assam over a piece of land measuring an area of **2.007 Ha**. The project falls under Schedule 3(b) as per the EIA Notification dated 14th September, 2006. Since the plant is an integrated plant with production of Clinker and Cement unit hence, it is categorized as "Category B1" project. **It is a greenfield project.** The TOR was issued on 24.03.2023 while the company got the Consent to Establish (CTE) from the State Pollution Control Board, Assam on 14.06.2022. The plant will produce **300 TPD Clinker and 500 TPD Cement**.

The facts are placed before the Hon'ble Committee for detail deliberations and discussions. Letter from the concerned DFOs in respect of distances of the project location from the nearest boundary of the Wildlife Sanctuaries and the Eco Sensitive Zone of Amchang Wildlife Sanctuary and Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary were considered and discussed. From the forestry angle no such issues as pointed out above require deliberation as the distances from the Amchang WL Sanctuary and Pobitora WL Sanctuary are in a safe zone as not covered by the ESZs. Detailed public hearing has been conducted and completed by the



Regional Office, SPCB, Guwahati on 25.08.2023 and the proceedings there to have been submitted / uploaded to the SEIAA and the Minutes have been uploaded in the PARIVESH portal on 14.10.2023.

Detailed Presentation was made by the consultant **Perfect Enviro Solution Pvt Ltd**. The Committee stressed that name of the consultant be furnished to keep accountability and liability on the part of the Consultant for any misinformation or suppression of material facts before the committee.

Upon hearing the party and due deliberation the committee deemed it appropriate to invoke certain conditions which need to be complied with and submitted for further clearance and approval for grant of the EC by the SEIAA.

- a) The Green Belt proposed around the project area in an area measuring **0.6623** Ha shall be done in Miyawaki Model under the guidance and supervision of the Member Secretary, SEAC/ SPCB, Assam with species of plants which are dust tolerant. For selection of suitable species of plants the SEAC may be approached, if so advised. The project proponent or its authorized signatory shall work out on the project accordingly.
- b) Solid waste disposal methodology need to be furnished to the SEAC for further action to recommend grant of the EC.
- c) Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) liability under Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 as amended, shall be fulfilled.

With these above observations the august Committee deem it fit to recommend for grant of the EC by the SEIAA.

Agenda 15.

It is a proposal seeking grant of the Environmental Clearance (EC), as applied by the proponent / applicant Mr Suresh Agarwalla on 04.07.2023.

The details of the project proposal is as under:

This is a proposal requesting for grant of the EC for Construction of Proposed B+G+18 Residential cum Commercial Building, Garchuk, Guwahati, Assam by Agarwalla Brothers: SEIAA.3534/2023 (SIA/AS/INFRA2/431122/2023)



This is a project proposal for construction of Residential cum Commercial Building at Gorchuk and the person making the application is Mr Suresh Agarwalla (**Partner**). The total plot area is measuring **9742.39** sq.m while the Built up is **43,985.80** sq.m. Cost of the project is proposed at Rs **90** Crore.

The matter was placed before the august SEAC body for deliberation and discussion for issue of the Environmental Clearance (EC). Deliberations were made and thorough discussions held on presentation made by the consultant **M/S OCEAO-ENVIRO Management Solutions (India) Private Limited**. It was emphasized to have a ground inspection and verification of the project as to its present status by a committee comprising of domain experts on a later date to be notified accordingly. It is on record that the States' only Ramsar Site, Deepor Beel is located at a distance of around **6.40** km. On deliberation the august Committee sought the necessary documents / information which ought to be furnished / submitted as mentioned here under are:

- a. **Processing Fee** to be deposited with the SIEAA and to furnish the name of the **Consultant** with his undertaking so that adequate accountability and responsibility could be vested for any kind of misinformation or suppression of material facts;
- b. Approved Plan by the GMDA and GMC to be furnished;
- c. Disaster Management Plan;
- d. Rain Water Harvesting, Sewage Treatment Plan (STP);
- e. Certificate regarding use of ground water from the Central Ground Water Commission;
- f. Solid Waste Management Plan with segregation mechanism and their disposal plan;
- g. Plan of Green Building with its stipulations so far use of Solar Energy;
- h. Drainage Layout Plan along with the connection to the outside main drain;
- i. Procurement of Raw material and their storage specially in case of use of Minor Mineral;
- j. Traffic Management Plan;
- k. Detail development of the Green Belt / Green Cover and the landscape plan;
- l. EMP during construction & operational phases.

The committee is of the opinion that the information be furnished and the conditions complied with for approval to grant the EC by the SEIAA.

Agenda 16.

It is a proposal seeking grant of the Environmental Clearance (EC), as applied by the proponent / applicant Mr Rana Pratap Bordoloi on behalf of the Fortune Towers (India) Private Limited on 04.07.2023.

The details of the project is as under:

EC for Proposed residential complex Fortune Victor (a unit of Fortune Towers Pvt Ltd) by Fortune Towers (India) Private Limited: SEIAA.3502/2023 (SIA/AS/INFRA2/431555/2023)

The project proponent did not turn up for the presentation and, therefore, no deliberation, discussion in the matter at hand. If so advised, the PP may come up for presentation in due course of time under proper intimation for arranging a slot in the meeting to be convened.

Agenda 17.

It is a proposal seeking grant of the Environmental Clearance (EC), as applied by the proponent / applicant Lily P Chawang on behalf of the ONGC, Jorhat on 11.08.2023.

EC for Exploratory drilling for Forest Location TNAA by A&AA Basin, ONGC in Cachar District PML, Assam Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited: SEIAA.3536/2023 (SIA/AS/IND2/404297/2022)

Brief about the Project:

The project is about Exploratory drilling for Forest Location **TNAA** by **A & AA** Basin, ONGC in Cachar District (Petroleum Mining Lease) PML, Assam in an area involving **6.09** Ha of which land requirement for drilling purposes is **3.24** Ha and for approach road to the site is **2.85** Ha. The area in question is falling in the Reserved Forest of Cachar Territorial Division and, reportedly, anticipating Forest Clearance 1st Stage in terms of the provisions of the FC Act, 1980. Proposed number of well is 1(one) and its depth is expected to be around 2500m. The project duration of the project is expected to be completed 3-6 months.

Initially, the application was filed online on 21.02.2022 and after scrutiny the SEIAA had asked for the EDS (Essential Documents Sought).



A brief presentation was made before the august Committee and updated with information. It was advised that the process of 1st Stage approval of Forest clearance (In Principle Approval) be completed and to come up for the purposes.

The Committee was thoroughly briefed about the urgency and necessity and the likely outcome of such exploration ventures which many a times fail while huge expenditures made go in vain. In the instant project an expenditure amounting to **Rs 40** Crore is expected.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.



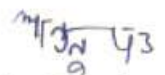
Chairman
SEAC, Assam

Memo No. SEIAA.33/2013/Pt-I

Dated Guwahati, the 30 November, 2023.

Copy to:

- 1) The Chairman, State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Assam for favour of kind information.
- 2) The Member Secretary, State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Assam for favour of kind information and necessary action.
- 3) All Members, SEAC, Assam for favour of kind information.
- 4) Concerned DFOs for their information and needful action.
- 5) Accountant cum Cashier of the Office of the SEIAA, Assam for his information.
- 6) Office copy for each proposal in question.



Member Secretary,
SEAC, Assam