



Government of India

Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change

J&K ENVIRONMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY**(at) DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY, ENVIRONMENT AND REMOTE SENSING**

S.D.A. Colony, Bemina, Srinagar-190018 (May-Oct)/ Paryavaran Bhawan, Transport Nagar, Gladni, Jammu-180006 (Nov-Apr)

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE JK ENVIRONMENT IMPACTASSESSMENT AUTHORITY
HELD ON 18th DECEMBER, 2020 AT 14:30HRS VIA VIDEO COFERENCING**

The following attended the meeting:-

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|---|--------------------------|
| 1. Mr. Lal Chand, IFS(Retd.) | Chairman, JKEIAA |
| 2. Er.Nazir Ahmad (Retd., Chief Engineer) | Member, JKEIAA |
| 3. Dr. Neelu Gera, IFS PCCF/Director, EE&RS | Member-Secretary, JKEIAA |

In pursuance to the Minutes of the Meeting of JKEAC held on 5th December, 2020 conveyed vide endorsement No.EAC/JK/20/3599-3612 dated 14-12-2020, a meeting of JK Environment Impact Assessment Authority was held on 18th December, 2020 at 14:30 Hrs.

Following are the deliberations and decisions of the meeting: -

Agenda Item No: 01.

Grant of Terms of Reference in favour of Shri Rakesh Kumar Chaudhary S/O Shri Koula Ram R/O 51 B/D Gandhi Nagar, Jammu for (River Bed Mining) project Block-21 over an area of 9.37 ha. Ziarat Syed Rehmatullah Nazneen pora upstream Nallah Rambiar District Shopian, J&K U.T. under proposal No.**SIA/SIA/JK/58161/2020.**

Deliberations:

During appraisal of the project JKEAC have discussed various aspects of the project like mining depth, replenishment concerns, surface plan and extraction route. The Consultant of the project has demonstrated the mining block on the satellite image and Committee has examined local environmental settings of the area and found the block fit for mining of river bed material. The Committee have accordingly recommended the case for grant of Terms of Reference enabling the consultant to formulate the EIA/EMP and pre-feasibility report and accomplish other statutory formalities.

Decision:

The JKEIAA upheld recommendations of the Committee to issue Terms of Reference for the project enabling the consultant to formulate the EIA/EMP and pre-feasibility report and to accomplish other statutory formalities.

Agenda Item No: 02.

Grant of Terms of Reference in favour of Shri Mangal Singh S/O Shri Om Prakesh R/O Saidgarh Bishnah, J&K U.T. for (River Bed Mineral) Minor Mineral Block Mining project, Block - 14 over an area of 6.83 ha.) Mogalpora Bridge to Bohipora Bridge upstream Kehmil Nallah, Tehsil & District, Kupwara J&K U.T. under proposal No.**SIA/JK/MIN/58174/2020.**

Deliberations:

During the appraisal of the project JKEAC have discussed various aspects of the project like mining depth, replenishment concerns, surface plan and extraction route. The consultant demonstrated the block on Google Earth platform/satellite image. While examining local environmental settings of the area committee has found the block boundaries traverses through neighboring croplands; besides there is Bridge upstream at distance of 105 Mts. Accordingly, Committee has recommended the project for rejection of ToR in the present form. However, the project proponent may get green patch comprising of trees with presumably cropland excluded from the mining block by the competent authority before considering the project for grant of ToR. Also min. distance of 500mts from the bridge may be maintained by relocating /reducing mining block appropriately.

Decision:

The JKEIAA upheld the recommendations of the Committee for rejection of ToRs in the present form. However, the project proponent may get green patch comprising of trees with presumably cropland excluded from the mining block by the competent authority and relocate/ resize block to maintain a minimum distance of 500 mtrs from bridge before considering the project for grant of ToRs.

Agenda Item No: 03.

Grant of Terms of Reference in favour of Shri Rahil Choudhary S/O Shri Rakesh Kumar R/O H.No.51 B/D, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu J&K U.T. for (River Bed Mineral) project, Block - 39 over an area of 6.88 ha. Heff Foot Bridge Downstream Nallah Rambiar, District Shopian, J&K U.T. under proposal No. **SIA/JK/MIN/58258/2020.**

Deliberations:

During the appraisal by the JKEAC, the various aspects of the project like mining depth, replenishment concerns, surface plan and extraction route have been discussed. The consultant demonstrated the mining block on Google Earth platform/satellite image. Examination of the local environmental settings of the area by committee have revealed that more than 50% of the mining block remains under active water channel throughout the season. Also, the orientation of the mine block has escaped the potential sand mine area. Accordingly, Committee have opined that the block carved does not qualify for mining as such recommended the project for rejection of Terms of Reference.

Decision:

The JKEIAA upheld the recommendations of the Committee for rejection of TOR's in view of the fact that more than 50% of the mine block remains under active water channel throughout the season and also the orientation of the mine block has escaped the potential sand mine area.

Agenda Item No: 04.

Grant of Terms of Reference in favour of Shri Kimat Lal S/O Shri Koula Ram R/O Raipur Satwari, J&K U.T. for block -4, ANG/SA/04, Area-6.67 Ha. Bridge, upstream Sandran Nallah N/v-, Shankerpora, Tehsil-Dooru, District Anantnag under proposal No. **SIA/JK/MIN/58298/ 2020.**

Deliberations:

During the appraisal of the project by the JKEAC, various aspects of the project like mining depth, replenishment concerns, surface plan and extraction route have been discussed. The consultant demonstrated the mining block on the Google Earth

platform, the Committee examined the local environmental settings of the area and found that Bridge is located at 115 mts from the mining block. Besides, 10% of the area was under active water channel which too needs to be reduced while calculating the minable reserves. Subject to relocation/ resizing/reducing minor mineral block to achieve a distance of 500mts from the bridge and excluding the active water channel area (10%), the Committee recommended issuance of Terms of Reference for the project enabling the consultant to formulate the EIA/EMP and pre-feasibility report and to accomplish other statutory formalities: -

Recommendations:

The JKEIAA upheld the recommendations of the Committee to issue Terms of Reference to the Project subject to relocation/ reducing size of the minor mineral block to achieve a distance of 500mts from the bridge and excluding 10% of active water channel area.

Agenda Item No: 05.

Grant of Terms of Reference in favour of Shri Rakesh Kumar Choudhary S/O Shri Koula Ram R/O 51 B/D Gandhi Nagar, Jammu for River Bed Mining Project Block-34 over an area of 9/90 ha. H/O Abdul Gaffar Bhat Sugun, Upstream Rambiarra Nallah District Shopian, J&K U.T. under proposal No. **SIA/JK/MIN/58163/2020.**

Deliberations:

During appraisal of the project, JKEAC have discussed various aspects of the project discussed. The Consultant demonstrated the mining block on Google Earth platform and Committee examined the Environmental settings of the area and found fissure like features already noticed w.r.t some other blocks in the area on the images earlier which were later verified in field as land upheavals due to heavy mechanized unauthorized mining in the area. One of the Members expressed curiosity about such a large scale active mining activity with heavy machinery being done in broad day light, when the site offices of the project proponents are already operative on ground. L&T hydraulic Excavators lying in close vicinity have been photographed by the members of Sub-Committee during their site visit to the area. Therefore, the forum desired the Geology & Mining Department to constitute a joint inspection committee comprising of representatives of Irrigation & Flood Control Department, Geology & Mining Department, Soil Conservation Department and SSP Pulwama to report as to who was involved in such a large-scale mining activity in the area without a valid EC and formal mining lease and action taken thereof. The Committee have finally recommended the case for grant of Terms of Reference in favour of the project subject to the condition that the proposed Committee reports categorically that the project proponent is not involved in any mining activity in the area.

Decision:

The JKEIAA upheld the recommendations of the Committee to issue Terms of Reference to the project subject to the submission of report by the Committee proposed by JKEAC that project proponent is not involved in any mining activity in the area.

Agenda Item No: 06.

Grant of Environment clearance in favour of Shri Mangal Singh S.O Shri Om Prakash R/O Saidgarh, Bishnah, J&K U.T. for River Bed Mining project Block-8 over an area of 4.30 ha. Birma Nallah upstream National Highway Bridge at Village Batal Ballian, District Udhampur J&K U.T. under proposal No. **SIA/JK/MIN/182410/2020.**

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Deliberations:

During the appraisal of the project by JKEAC, various aspects of the project have been discussed. The consultant demonstrated the mining block on Google Earth platform/satellite image, the Committee examined the local environmental settings of the area and found the mining block encompassing a large chunk of crop land including human settlement in the area. The Committee unanimously recommended the mining block for rejection of the EC and desired that the JKEIAA may again ask the Geology & Mining Department to identify the mining blocks properly and with due diligence. Further, the forum desired that while taking up the issue of identification of mining blocks with the G&M Dept., the issue of non-availability of replenishment data and inaction on this account for the last one year should also be flagged before the G&M Dept. duly endorsed to all the concerned higher authorities monitoring the environmental clearance process of the RBM projects so that due cognizance is taken in this regard for achieving scientific appraisal of these projects.

Decision:

The JKEIAA upheld the recommendations of the Committee for rejection of EC in favour of the project proponent. The authority discussed that the Department of Geology and Mining has already been advised to take all stakeholders onboard and follow proper guidelines while identifying mining blocks. However, the Department of Geology and Mining may be advised again to ensure that the replenishment studies are taken up immediately so that due cognizance is taken for achieving scientific appraisal of Riverbed/Sandmining projects.

Agenda Item No: 07.

Grant of Terms of Reference in favour of Shri Aajaz Ahmad Magray S/O Shri Gh.Mohi-ud-din Magray R/O Kandi Khass, Handwara, Kupwara, J&K U.T.193221 for Minor Mineral Block No.07 over an area of 9.76 ha. Mughalpora Bridge to Bumhama (Exist Point) downstream, Pohru Nallah, District-Kupwara. under proposal No.**SIA/JK/MIN/58321/2020.**

Deliberations:

During the appraisal of the project by JKEAC, the consultant gave a detailed power point presentation during which he was asked to demonstrate the mining block on Google Earth platform and it was found that a bridge is at a distance of 294 mts from the mining block and therefore, the Committee desired that the mining block be resized/reduced/relocated by the competent authority. In view of the fact and subject to relocation/resizing/reducing the minor mineral block to achieve a distance of 500mts from the bridge and excluding the active water channel area (10%), the Committee recommended Terms of Reference for the project enabling the consultant to formulate the EIA/EMP and pre-feasibility report and to accomplish other statutory formalities: -

Decision:

The JKEIAA upheld the recommendations of the Committee to issue Terms of Reference to the project enabling the consultant to formulate the EIA/EMP and pre-feasibility report and to accomplish other statutory formalities subject to relocation/ reducing size of minor mineral block to maintain min. distance of 500mts from bridge and excluding 10%the active water channel area.



Agenda Item No.08.

Grant of Terms of Reference in favour of Shri Mohammad Irfan-Ullah S/O Shri Mohammad Shabir Ahmad Shah R/O Namblabal Pampore, Pulwama J&K U.T. for River Bed Mining project situated at Minor Mineral Block-23, Ziarat Bakif Sahab(RA) Adura upstream, Nallah Rambiarra, Village-Adura, Tehsil Keegam, District Shopian, J&K U.T. over an area of 9.75 ha. under proposal No.**SIA/JK/MIN/57750/2020.**

Deliberations:

During the appraisal of the case project by JKEAC, the consultant gave a detailed power point presentation during which he was asked to demonstrate the mining block on Google Earth platform and it was found that a rectangular area has been delineated within the block. The area of the mining block was calculated on screen and found to be 10.04. ha against area of 9.75 ha indicated in the LoI. The consultant could not give any satisfactory explanation and therefore, the Committee considered the mining block for grant of ToRs subject to necessary clarification from the G&M Dept.

Decision:

The JKEIAA upheld the recommendations of the Committee to grant Terms of Reference to the project proponent enabling the consultant to formulate the EIA/EMP and pre-feasibility report and to accomplish other statutory formalities subject to necessary clarification and correct assessment of area of the mining block from the G&M Department and restrict area to 9.75 ha as per LoI.

Agenda Item No: 09.

Grant of Terms of Reference in favour of Shri Danish Yousuf S/O Shri Mohammad Yousuf Mir R/O Kakapora, District Pulwama, J&K U.T. for Minor Mineral Block No. 10, ANG/SA/10 Hillar Bridge, Bringi Nallah Downstream Anantnag under proposal No.**SIA/JK/MIN/58435/2020.**

Deliberations:

During the appraisal of the case project, the consultant gave a detailed power point presentation during which he was asked to demonstrate the mining block on Google Earth platform. It was found that the mining block has been coarsely laid and encompasses large chunk of orchards and cultivated land. Besides, the block is at a distance of 89.60 mts from the bridge. The Committee expressed its dismay for casual and unprofessional selection of the mining block and recommended rejection of Terms of Reference in favour of the project proponent.

Decision:

The JKEIAA upheld the recommendations of the Committee for rejection of Terms of Reference to the project in view of observations of JKEAC.

Agenda Item No: 10.

Grant of Terms of Reference in favour of Shri Mushtaq-ul-Islam S/O Shri Gh. Mohd-uddin Bhat, Karimabad, Pulwama, J&K U.T. for Nallah Bed Mining project situated at Minor Mineral Block-10, J-Ching, Adigan Bridge, downstream, Vishu Nallah, Village-Ching Adigan, Tehsil-D.H. Pora, District, Kulgam J&K U.T. over an area of 8.84 ha. under proposal No.**SIA/JK/MIN/57824/2020.**

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Deliberations:

During the appraisal of the project the by JKEAC, the consultant gave a detailed power point presentation during which he was asked to demonstrate the mining block on Google Earth platform, it was found that the mining block encompasses large chunk of orchards and cultivated land almost 45% of the area of the mining block and in view of the fact, the Committee rejected the mining block for grant of Terms of Reference.

Decision:

The JKEIAA upheld the recommendations of the Committee for rejection of Terms of Reference in favour of the project proponent in view of the observations of JKEAC.

Agenda Item No: 11.

Grant of Environment clearance in favour of Shri Parvaiz Ahmad Kuchay, Manzoor Ahmad Dar & Mohammad Shafi Bhat R/O Safapora, District Ganderbal, J&K U.T. – 191201 for proposed Quarry Mining project of size 2.50 ha at Quarry Cluster (Building Stones) Village Pehlipora Tehsil Lar District Ganderbal J&K U.T. under proposal No. **SIA/JK/MIN/133613/2019.**

Deliberations:

During the appraisal of the case project, the consultant gave a detailed power point presentation on the various aspects of the proposed cluster of stone quarry site falling under B2 category with a total size of 2.50 ha with an average production capacity of 1,29,401.072 TPA. Committee has observed that there are many missing links about the project and while discussing, it has come to fore that a number of stone quarries were operational close to the vicinity of Manasbal lake which were closed on the directions of Hon'ble High Court of J&K in a Public Interest litigation bearing No. 1553/11. The District administration subsequently allotted replacement quarry area to the displaced quarry operators who were ancestrally involved in the extraction of stones in the area, as an alternative site under a rehabilitation programme. A copy of letter No. DCG/PS/F-20/2302-06 dated 27/10/2020 issued by the Dy. Commissioner, Ganderbal District and addressed to the Director, Department of Ecology, Ecology, Environment & Remote Sensing with subject, 'Rehabilitation of affected stone quarry owners of Safapora' was presented during deliberations. The said correspondence reveals that land measuring 2.5 ha has been identified by the district administration under survey No. 1086/1 in the estate Pahlipora, Safapora after obtaining the necessary clearances from the Line Departments and the list of affected quarry holders of Safapora quarry belt has been forwarded to the Director, Geology & Mining Department vide letter No. DC/GBL/PS/F-20/1256-60 dated 10/10/2018 and subsequently the Director, Geology & Mining Department Declared the area measuring 2.50ha at Pahlipora, Safapora as stone quarry cluster vide No.1126/1126/MCC/DGM/DMO/09/7430-35 dated 23/01/2019 for rehabilitating the affected /displaced stone quarry holders. The Forum was informed that the affected stone quarry holders obtained the approved mining plan from the competent authority which has been uploaded on the environmental clearance portal for grant of EC. But, as pointed out by one of the members, details of mining procedures etc. was not found appended or presented before the committee during discussions. The Chairman asked the Secretary, JKEAC to upload the KML file of the area and forest/protected area network boundary on Google Earth platform to examine the environmental settings of the proposed site. During examination, it was found that the area declared as cluster of quarries by the Geology & Mining Department on the recommendation of the District Administration under survey No. 1086/1, falls in Ajas Wildlife Conservation area. Since, the forest/protected area network boundary is on a scale of 1:50,000, and therefore not so accurate but

giving an alert on close proximity to the forest/protected areas. one of the members desired that Environmental Clearance be made subject to clarification/NOC from Wildlife Protection Department even though, the Ajas Conservation reserve is neither a sanctuary nor a national park and does not attract the order of 4.08.2006 of Hon'ble Supreme Court in the matter of T.N. Godavarman Thirumulpad Vs. UOI in W.P.(C) No. 202 of 1995 and dated 21.4.2014 in the matter of Goa Foundation Vs. UOI in W.P.(C) No. 435 of 2012 and as per OM dated 8th August, 2019. It was opined that even if the site is part of a Wildlife Conservation Reserve, the site be considered for necessary statutory clearances under Rules keeping in view the uniqueness of the matter and livelihood concerns of a large number of quarry holders. One of the members pointed out that only three project proponents have applied for EC of designated quarry site declared as a cluster by the G&M Dept. Videletter No. DC/GBL/PS/F-20/1256-60 dated 10/10/2018. The Dy. Commissioner, Ganderbal has communicated that the allotment is for a number of affected quarry holders. However, their list was not presented before the committee. According to Mr. Parvaiz, one of the project proponents, quarry holders were large in number but being poor with lack of exposure were therefore, represented by three of them only. Another member, opined that if this be the case then it becomes necessary for the forum to obtain the list of the affected quarry holders communicated by the Dy. Commissioner, Ganderbal vide above reference so that interests/rights of all are safeguarded. Therefore, the committee desired that the list of affected quarry holders communicated by Dy. Commissioner, Ganderbal, be sought from the Director, Geology & Mining Department with list of all stone quarries in the belt supported by KML files in each case so that the issue is examined thoroughly before proceeding further. In view of foregoing deliberations, the Committee have unanimously recommended that JKEIAA office may kindly obtain the copy of letter No. DC/GBL/PS/F-20/1256-60 dated 10/10/2018 issued by the Dy. Commissioner, Ganderbal wherein the list of affected quarry holders of Safapora stone quarry belt to be rehabilitated has been communicated to the Director, Geology & Mining Department. Further, a clarification be sought from the Geology & Mining Department whether, the area of 2.5 ha allotted for rehabilitation of the affected quarry holders of Safapora is the only land declared as cluster of quarries for rehabilitation of the affected quarry holders or 2.5 ha land has been allotted to only three project proponents viz. Parvaiz Ahmad, Manzoor Ahmad Dar and Mohammad Shafi Bhat and others are in que and are yet to apply for EC. Besides, the JKEIAA may forward the KML file of the cluster area to the Chief Wildlife Warden, J&K and Regional Wildlife Warden (Kashmir) with request to indicate whether the area is inside or outside the Ajas Conservation Reserve. If it is found to be inside the Ajas Conservation Reserve, the pertinent Rules and methodology/procedure be quoted for diversion of such land for non-wildlife conservation area.

Decision

The JKEIAA deliberated on the issue and recommendations of the Committee. It was agreed that secretary shall obtain the copy of letter No. DC/GBL/PS/F-20/1256-60 dated 10/10/2018 issued by the Dy. Commissioner, Ganderbal wherein the list of affected quarry holders of Safapora stone quarry belt to be rehabilitated has been communicated to the Director, Geology & Mining Department. Further, a clarification be sought from the Geology & Mining Department whether, the area of 2.5 ha allotted for rehabilitation of the affected quarry holders of Safapora is the only land declared as cluster of quarries for rehabilitation of the affected quarry holders or 2.5 ha land has been allotted to only three project proponents viz. Parvaiz Ahmad, Manzoor Ahmad Dar and Mohammad Shafi Bhat and others are in queue and are yet to apply for EC. Besides, the KML file of the cluster area be forwarded to to the Chief Wildlife Warden J&K /



Regional Wildlife Warden (Kashmir) as case may be, to ascertain whether the area is inside or outside the Ajas Conservation Reserve.

Agenda Item No.12.

To place the reports of site visit of mining blocks 01, 05 and 08 of Ferozpur Nalla and mining block 05 and 32 of Rambiarra Nalla conducted by Sub-Committee of JKEAC

Deliberations:

The site visit of mining block Nos 1,5 and 8 in Ferozpur Nalla were inspected by the Sub-Committee on 12/11/2020 constituted for assessing implications of the proposed mining activity on the Ecology and environment of the area. The sub-committee has observed that the areas is highly fragile. Keeping the steeper banks, the tourism and hydropower potential of higher reaches of Ferozpur Nalla into consideration besides the other important factors as highlighted during the deliberations of 14th&15th JKEAC meeting in view, any mining activity in the area above (upstream) Chanpora- Kunzar shall adversely affect the area environmentally. The sub-committee also visited mining block Nos 5 and 32 in Rambiarra Nalla on 21/11/2020 for verifying whether the peculiar linear features on the Google satellite image was due to presence of heavy mining activity on ground. The observations and recommendations made by the subcommittee in each case are summarized here as under: -

a) Mining block 1,5 and 8 in Ferozpur Nalla

Observations of the Sub-Committee: -

- a) The Ferozpur Nalla associated with Gulmarg route, is ecologically very fragile with great aesthetic value and tourism potential.
- b) There is a possibility that the slope on the right side of the nallah (which is covered by dense forests), may get damaged on account of river bed mining as also the banks have close proximity to a number of habitations thereby posing a direct threat to these habitations.
- c) A number of irrigation canals off-take from the Ferozepora Nallah in this area which may affect the irrigation facility to thousands of hectares of paddy land in parts of the twin districts of Budgam and Baramullah, thereby can create hardships for the farming community in the area.
- d) With regard to the Mining block at ChanporaKunzer on the Ferozepora Nallah, parts of the block so identified form part of the patches which pose a direct threat to some habitations especially near the Chanpora Bridge and can even damage the famous Gulmarg Road as can be seen from the photographs taken during the site visit and placed alongside.
- e) The mining block No. 5 and 8 includes patches of land outside the nallah bed which is utterly unprofessional.

Recommendations of Sub-Committee:

1. . Keeping the eco-sensitivity of the area in view besides the tourism and hydropower potential of higher reaches of Ferozpur Nalla into consideration, the Ferozpur Nalla upstream from Chanpora bridge-Kunzar and upstream from Aboora Bridge of Ferozpur Southern flank tributary be declared as, '**No mining Zone**'
2. In view of coarsely identified mining block No.8, ToRs may be granted subject to condition that the mining block boundaries are resized / redefined to exclude small patches of cropland at few places and necessary corrigendum to mining plan to that effect issued by the competent authority.

The report of the subcommittee substantiated with photographic evidence was discussed by the Committee and one of the members opined that 'No-mining zone' may be recommended from Kunzar-Chanpora/ Check-Treran and Kulhama bridge upstream instead of Aboora bridge upstream. Another member highlighted the issue of mining activity detected in the block No.8 during deliberations held earlier and desired to have a relook in the light of similar cases appraised in Rambiarra Nala.

Decision of JKEIAA:

The JKEIAA upheld the recommendations of the Committee that Keeping the eco-sensitivity of the area in view besides the tourism and hydropower potential of higher reaches of Ferozpur Nala into consideration, the Ferozpur Nalla upstream from Chanpora bridge-Kunzarand upstream from Aboora Bridge of Ferozpur Southern flank tributary be declared as, 'No mining Zone' and also upheld the recommendations of the Committee that in view of coarsely identified mining block No.8, ToRs may be granted subject to condition that the mining block boundaries are resized / redefined to exclude small patches of cropland at few places and necessary corrigendum to mining plan to that effect issued by the competent authority. The JKEIAA also agreed that 'No-mining zone' may be recommended from Kunzar-Chanpora/ Check-Treran and Kulhama bridge upstream instead of Aboora bridge upstream.

b) Mining block No. 5 and 32 in Rambiarra Nala

Observations of Sub-Committee: -

- a) The team correlated the peculiar pattern of features on the satellite image with the corresponding features on ground which showed mining activity already going on in the area.
- b) The deep linear pits/ drains of depth about 3 mts. or more were seen spread across the Nalla boulder landscape providing a safe heaven for camouflaging tippers/heavy machinery operating in the area, from the sight. Heavy machinery like L&T Hydraulic excavators were seen operating in the river bed.
- c) The locals in the vicinity who gathered during site visit, expressed their deep anger the way reckless mining is being carried out by the LoI holders using heavy machinery since May, 2020. The locals informed the committee that large-scale mining is being carried out especially at night on an unprecedented scale. The Committee could find heavy machinery and tippers sporadically in some mining pits in block Nos 3, 4 and 5 which are having plenty of river bed material. Mining activity was not observed in block 32 presently where material seems to have been extracted already in the past, as is evident from site photos.

Recommendations of Sub-Committee: -

- a) ToRs granted in favour of the mining blockNo. 32 may be confirmed as such.
- b) ToRs granted in favour of mining block No.5 may also be confirmed subject to condition that PP applies for EC under violation category.

- c) An undertaking may be taken from the PP that only manual with minimal mechanical methods shall be used and that heavy machinery like hydraulic excavators shall not be used for extraction of the river bed material, so that mining depth is as per technical deliberations of the Expert Appraisal Committee.
- d) The report of the subcommittee substantiated with photographic evidence was discussed by the Committee and the members expressed their dismay at the failure of concerned district authorities in enforcing rule of law where deep mining activity using heavy machinery is going on for unauthorized extraction of river bed material. The Committee ratified the report of the Sub-Committee and desired immediate action to stop the illegal mining activity going on wantonly. The violators be identified including if any among the letter of Intent holders, in whose favour Environmental Clearance and formal mining lease is yet to be issued by authorities concerned.

Recommendations: In view of the above observations/recommendations of the sub-Committee and deliberations made in each case, the JKEAC unanimously recommended as under:-

- 1. Grant of Terms of Reference for Minor mineral block No. 01, (Area- 5.24 ha), MahyenFerozepora downstream nallah Ferozpora, village- Mahyen, tehsil-Tangmarg, district, Baramulla, J&K**
and
- 2. Grant of Terms of Reference for River Bed Mining Project of Minor Mineral Block-05, Area 2.32 Ha Kunzar/ Chanapora bridge to Abandoned bridge Upstream FerozePora Nallah Village- Kunzar/Chanapora bridge to Abandoned bridge, Tehsil- Tangmarg, District- Baramulla, Jammu & Kashmir.**

The above projects may be considered for rejection as blocks are lying in recommended 'No-mining zone' from Kunzar-Chanpora bridge and Kulhama bridge upstream. Further, in case the Irrigation and Flood Control Department wants to lower the nala bed in particular sections of the "No-mining zone", the necessary maintenance procedures may be carried out departmentally after taking care of all ecological and environmental safeguards in consultations with other line departments involved in the area.

- 3. Grant of Terms of Reference for Minor Mineral (River Bed) Mining Project BLOCK NO. 08, (AREA- 8.52 Ha), LALPORA BRIDGE TO BABAGUND DOWNSTREAM NALLAH FEROZPORA, TEHSIL- PATTAN, DISTRICT- BARAMULLA, UT- J&K**

In view of coarsely identified mining block No.8 where boundary of the mining block is traversing through **small patches of cropland at few places between pillar R&S and G&F**, ToRs already recommended during 14th JKEAC meeting, may be put on hold till **the mining block boundaries are refined to exclude the cropland and necessary corrigendum to mining plan to that effect is issued by the competent authority**. Besides, in view of mining activity noticed in the area, the project proponent shall have to apply for EC under violation

category or else concerned DMO may give a report that he is not involved in mining activity without a valid EC.

4. Grant of Terms of Reference for Minor Mineral BLOCK NO. 05, (AREA- 4.53 HA), E-LASSIPORA SIDCO BRIDGE DOWNSTREAM NALLA RAMBIARA, VILLAGE- LASSIPORA, TEHSIL- LITTER, DISTRICTPULWAMA

ToRs granted in favour of mining block No.5 are confirmed subject to condition that Project Proponent applies for Environmental Clearance under relevant notifications/OMs dealing with violation category cases.

5. Grant of Terms of Reference for Minor Mineral (River Bed) Mining Project Block No.-32, Area 8.64 Ha SIDCO Bridge D/Stream Nallah Rambiar, Village Aripora Tehsil Chitragam, Distt Shopian

ToRs granted in favour of the mining block No. 32 are confirmed as such.

Recommendations of JKEIAA:

The JKEIAA upheld the recommendations of the Committee from 1-5 in toto.

Agenda Item No: 13.

Grant of Environment clearance in favour of M/S JK Mineral, Rail Head Complex Jammu for River Bed Mining project Block No.5/1 (Area 9.57) ha. Chenab River Downstream Old Bridge, Akhnoor Village - Malpur, Tehsil-Bhalwal, District Jammu under proposed No.**SIA/JK/MIN/54629/2019.**

Deliberations:

During the appraisal of the case project, the Consultant informed the Committee that the project was deliberated during the 20th JKEAC meeting during which various aspects of the project came under discussion like; mining depth, replenishment concerns, surface plan, extraction route and concerns expressed by locals during Public Hearing. He again informed that the project has been sanctioned in favour of the proponent Vide No. 01/MCC/DGM/J&KML/MM on 25.05.2020. Further, he informed that the Mining Plan has been approved by Office of Deputy Director (MS) Department of Geology & Mining Department, Jammu vide letter No.DGM/DD(MS)/MPJmu/222-23 dated 23.06.2020. He further informed that the total minable reserves are 1,71,765 MTs but he had wrongly calculated annual extraction at 34,353 MT due to which the case was deferred and the Committee desired to submit the revised calculations. The consultant also informed that the Public Hearing was conducted on 8-02-2020. and also informed that the local people present in the public hearing expressed their concerns about the illegal mining and demanded that it should be stopped completely and immediately. They also suggested various mitigation to be adopted by project proponent during and after the mining lease period is over. They strongly advocated for proper demarcation of mining lease area in the river bed before starting the mining work and also for the display of the contact detail regarding officers Departments for loading of complaints in case of violation of the commitments made to the general public during the course of the Public Hearing. The participants and local public were of the opinion that mining

may be allowed in the above stated block not only to enable the general public to earn their livelihood but also boost the developmental activities which have been marred during the period of the ban on mining. The consultant gave a detailed power point presentation during which he showed the revised targeted annual mineral production but he had not revised the list of plant species found in the area and had not revised the details in the Pre-feasibility report. Therefore, the committee asked him to submit the revised version of EIA bearing revised list of plant species besides revised PFR before grant of formal EC. The Committee finally recommended the case for grant of E.C. subject to prior submission of video graphic evidence of Public Hearing and revised version of EIA/PFR/route map documents in accordance with the deliberation recorded herein as above and also subject to standard and specific conditions including those mentioned by the concerned stake holders in the NOCs, which the project proponent may submit prior to issuance of formal EC. The geographical coordinates to be included in the E.C. as per Letter of Intent.

Recommendations:

The JKEIAA upheld the recommendations of the Committee to issue E.C. in favour of the project subject to prior submission of video graphic evidence of Public Hearing and revised version of EIA/PFR/route map documents in accordance with the deliberation by the JKEAC as recorded in its Minutes of the meeting and also subject to standard and specific conditions stipulated by the Committee in Minutes of the meeting including those mentioned by the concerned stake holders in the NOCs, which the project proponent may submit prior to issuance of formal EC.

Sd/-
Dr. Neelu Gera, IFS PCCF/Director,
Member Secretary, JKEIAA, EE&RS

Sd/-
Nazir Ahmad (Rtd. Chief Engineer)
Member, JKEIAA

Sd/-
Lal Chand, IFS (Rtd.)
Chairman, JKEIAA

No: JKEIAA/2016/02/III/17/2-16
Copy by email to:

Dated: 18/12/2020

1. Mr. Lal Chand, IFS (Rtd.), Chairman, JKEIAA, for information.
2. Er. Nazir Ahmad (Rtd. Chief Engineer), Member, JKEIAA, for information.
3. Dr. Neelu Gera, IFS PCCF/Director, EE&RS, Member Secretary, JKEIAA, for information.
4. The Secretary, JK Expert Appraisal Committee for information.
5. Website


(Staff Officer) 18/12/2020
to PCCF/Director/Member Secretary JKEIAA
Ecology, Environment & Remote Sensing, J&K