

**STATE LEVEL EXPERT APPRAISAL COMMITTEE (SEAC), BIHAR**

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, BELTRON Bhawan, Shastri Nagar, Patna – 800023.

Ref. No. - 358

Patna Dated: - 21/06/2024

**MINUTES OF 41<sup>st</sup> MEETING OF STATE LEVEL EXPERT APPRAISAL  
COMMITTEE (SEAC), BIHAR CONSTITUTED ON 12.08.2021**

VENUE: SEIAA Office

DATE: 15 June, 2024.

**Minutes/Proceeding of the Meeting**

- 1. Opening Remarks of the Chairman:** The Chairman and Members extended a warm welcome to each other and among participants of the meeting. Thereafter, the meeting was opened for the proceedings as per the agenda adopted for the meeting.
- 2. Confirmations of Minutes of 39<sup>th</sup> Meeting (40/2023) vide Ref. No.- 319, dated:- 04.06.2024 of State Expert Appraisal Committee held on 29<sup>th</sup> May, 2024.** The State Expert Appraisal Committee, hereinafter referred to as SEAC, was informed that no representation has been received regarding projects considered in the meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> May, 2024. The minutes of the said SEAC meeting was confirmed by the Committee.
- 3. Consideration of Proposals:** The SEAC considered the proposals received as per the agenda adopted for the 41<sup>st</sup> meeting (41/2024) vide Ref. No. - 322, dated- 10.06.2024. The key points of the deliberations held were as follows.
- 4. With regard to the proposals submitted for the Real-estate / apartment / Residential building projects, industry, Sand Mining project, etc. and various issues concerning the green belt area/greenery, public health, and status of Waste Management, etc. were thoroughly discussed and scrutinized.**

**Consideration of Environmental Clearance Proposal**

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 01**

**Sand Mining Project on Morhar River at Block No. – 36 (Gaya Morhar – 23) Sand Ghat of District – Gaya, Area – 12.5 Ha., (File No. – SIA/1(a)/2420/2023), Online Proposal No.:- SIA/BR/MIN/445879/2023).**

Proponent:-Mr. Sanjay Kumar,

Consultant:- M/s Cognizance Research India Private Limited.

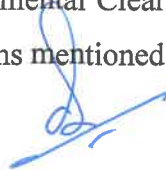
Application along with filled up 'Form - I 'and Pre-feasibility report in the prescribed format was submitted to SEIAA, Bihar on 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2023 for obtaining Terms of Reference (ToR). SEIAA, Bihar issued System Generated ToR Vide SIA/1(a)/2420/2023, dated 02.06.2023 and public hearing for the proposed project was conducted by Bihar State Pollution Control Board on 12.08.2023. Online Final EIA report was submitted by Project Proponent in the prescribed format to SEIAA, Bihar on 26.09.2023 for obtaining Environmental Clearance (EC).

The proposal has been mentioned in the District Survey Report (DSR) approved by the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Bihar vide letter no. 258, dated 23.05.2022.

The Committee in the earlier meeting dated – 13.10.2023 (Ref .No.- 366 dated 20.10.2023) “decided to keep the screening of proposal on hold and refer the matter to the Mines and Geology Dept. Govt. of Bihar for its opinion regarding the issues raised by the said Morcha.”

Reply of the Mines & Geology Department, Govt. of Bihar was received vide it's letter no. 1999 dated 24.05.2024 whereby manual sand mining was recommended. This letter was placed before the Committee.

The Project Proponent along with their environmental consultant M/s Cognizance Research India Private Limited, made a presentation on the key parameters and salient features of the project. Based on the discussion, the Committee found their presentation and proposal satisfactory and acceptable, hence the Committee decided to recommend the proposed proposal for grant of Environmental Clearance subject to the following additional conditions along with standard conditions mentioned in Annexure "A".



1. The proposed plantation consisting of mixture of indigenous and fast growing species of trees must be done and proper care must be taken. Plantation of a minimum of 5 feet tall plants must be done in the 1<sup>st</sup> year of lease period itself and properly maintained till the validity of Environmental Clearance and preserve the existing trees at the proposed site.
2. The Project Proponent shall execute and conduct measurable CER activities like facilities for drinking water supply, infrastructure creation, solar power, Rain Water Harvesting, Solid Waste Management Facilities, sanitation, essential furniture's for the local government schools and Anganwadi Kendra. A display board of the CER activities must be fixed for the information to the public. The Project Proponent has to intimate the concerned District Magistrate and the concerned district level officers of the concerned departments for record and information, with copy marked the Bihar State Pollution Control Board (BSPCB), Patna.
3. Under the Corporate Environment Responsibilities the modalities of all expenditure on skill development programme need to be done in consultation with and guidance of Bihar Skill Devolvment Mission, with intimation to the concerned District Magistrate, State Environment Impact Assessment Authority and Bihar State Pollution Control Board, Patna.
4. Project Proponent has to fix display board on each mining site mentioning thereupon various activities to be done under Environment Management Plan (EMP).
5. The project proponent should undertake the sand mining limited to 1 meter (one meter) depth only by manual excavation with total production capacity limited to 75,000 CUM/Year.
6. The Project Proponent must maintain nearby existing ponds if any.
7. Proper care should to be taken during transportation of sand from the sand mining site by covering the loaded sand. There should be a freeboard of atleast 3 inches from the body level of the vehicle, so that the sand doesn't get spilled over on the road and doesn't affect the air quality as well.
8. Proponent should submit high resolution satellite images with stereoscopic 3D view from the National Remote Sensing Center (NRSC), Hyderabad for any day in the month of June and December of every year, along with the respective half-yearly compliance report in hard and soft copy [as received from the National Remote Sensing Center (NRSC)].

## **AGENDA ITEM NO. 02**

**Sand Mining Project on Morhar River at Block No. – 38 (Gaya Morhar – 25) Sand Ghat of District – Gaya, Area – 18 Ha., (File No. – SIA/1(a)/2411/2023), Online Proposal No.:- SIA/BR/MIN/445945/2023).**

Proponent:- Malik Transport Company,

Consultant:- M/s Cognizance Research India Private Limited.

Application along with filled up 'Form - I 'and Pre-feasibility report in the prescribed format was submitted to SEIAA, Bihar on 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2023 for obtaining Terms of Reference (ToR). SEIAA, Bihar issued System Generated ToR Vide SIA/1(a)/2411/2023, dated 01.06.2023 and public hearing for the proposed project was conducted by Bihar State Pollution Control Board on 12.08.2023. Online Final EIA report was submitted by Project Proponent in the prescribed format to SEIAA, Bihar on 16.10.2023 for obtaining Environmental Clearance (EC).

The proposal has been mentioned in the District Survey Report (DSR) approved by the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Bihar vide letter no. 258, dated 23.05.2022.


The Committee in the earlier meeting dated – 10.01.2024 (Ref .No.- 25 dated 12.01.2024) “decided to keep the screening of proposal on hold and refer the matter to the Mines and Geology Dept. Govt. of Bihar for its opinion regarding the issues raised in the public consultation.”

Reply of the Mines & Geology Department, Govt. of Bihar was received vide it's letter no. 1999 dated 24.05.2024 whereby sand mining was not recommended. This letter was placed before the Committee.

The Project Proponent along with their environmental consultant M/s Cognizance Research India Private Limited, made a presentation on the key parameters and salient features of the project. Based on the discussion the committee decided to recommend for the rejection of this proposal.

## **AGENDA ITEM NO. 03**

**Sand Mining Project on Dardha River at Jehanabad Block No. – 13 Sand Ghat of District – Jehanabad, Area – 08.78 Ha., (File No.- SIA/1(a)/2305/2023), Online Proposal No.:-SIA/BR/MIN/446160/2023).**



Proponent:- M/s Rama & Sons.

Consultant:- M/s P & M Solutions,

Application along with filled up 'Form - I' and Pre-feasibility report in the prescribed format was submitted to SEIAA, Bihar on 08<sup>th</sup> February, 2023 for obtaining Terms of Reference (ToR). SEIAA, Bihar issued System Generated ToR Vide SIA/1(a)/2305/2023, dated 12.05.2023 and public hearing for the proposed project was conducted by Bihar State Pollution Control Board on 01.09.2023. Online Final EIA report was submitted by Project Proponent in the prescribed format to SEIAA, Bihar on 28.09.2023 for obtaining Environmental Clearance (EC).

The proposal has been mentioned in the District Survey Report (DSR) approved by the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Bihar vide letter no. 263, dated 23.05.2022.

Decision at earlier meeting dated - 06.04.2024 (Ref .No.- 172 dated 10.04.2024) "Reply received from Department of Mines and Geology, Govt. of Bihar vide letter no.- 292 dated 01.02.2024 regarding availability of sand at the proposed sand ghat. The report of District / Sub-Division level committee does not specify as to how much area (approximately), in percentage term is submerged or in how much area (approximately), in percentage term, sand is available for mining. Therefore, the Committee decided to refer back the matter to the Mines & Geology Department to clarify the position."

Reply of the district Mining Office, Jehanabad was received vide it's letter no. 465 dated 28.05.2024. This letter was placed before the Committee.

In this meeting the Project Proponent submitted a letter (Email) stating that due to out of station Project Proponent is unable to attend the meeting. Therefore the committee decided to defer this proposal for the next meeting.

#### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 04**

**Sand Mining Project on Gaya Morhar River at (Block No. - 29, Gaya Morhar - 16 Ghat) of District - Gaya Area - 17.0 Ha., (File No. - SIA/1(a)/2451/2023), Online Proposal No.:-SIA/BR/MIN/456553/2023).**

Proponent:- M/s Vinay Construction.

Consultant:- M/s Cognizance Research India Private Limited.



Application along with filled up 'Form – I' and Pre-feasibility report in the prescribed format was submitted to SEIAA, Bihar on 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2023 for obtaining Terms of Reference (ToR). SEIAA, Bihar issued System Generated ToR Vide SIA/1(a)/2451/2023, dated 19.07.2023 and public hearing for the proposed project was conducted by Bihar State Pollution Control Board on 20.10.2023. Online Final EIA report was submitted by Project Proponent in the prescribed format to SEIAA, Bihar on 11.01.2024 for obtaining Environmental Clearance (EC).

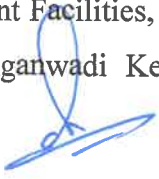
The proposal has been mentioned in the District Survey Report (DSR) approved by the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Bihar vide letter no. 258, dated 23.05.2022.

The Committee in the earlier meeting dated – 17.02.2024 (Ref .No.- 106 dated 27.02.2024) “decided to keep the screening of proposal on hold and refer the matter to the Mines and Geology Dept. Govt. of Bihar for its opinion regarding the issues raised in the public consultation.”

Reply of the Mines & Geology Department, Govt. of Bihar was received vide it's letter no. 1999 dated 24.05.2024 whereby manual sand mining was recommended. This letter was placed before the Committee.

The Project Proponent along with their environmental consultant M/s Cognizance Research India Private Limited, made a presentation on the key parameters and salient features of the project. Based on the discussion, the Committee found their presentation and proposal satisfactory and acceptable, hence the Committee decided to recommend the proposed proposal for grant of Environmental Clearance subject to the following additional conditions along with standard conditions mentioned in Annexure "A".

1. The proposed plantation consisting of mixture of indigenous and fast growing species of trees must be done and proper care must be taken. Plantation of a minimum of 5 feet tall plants must be done in the 1<sup>st</sup> year of lease period itself and properly maintained till the validity of Environmental Clearance and preserve the existing trees at the proposed site.
2. The Project Proponent shall execute and conduct measurable CER activities like facilities for drinking water supply, infrastructure creation, solar power, Rain Water Harvesting, Solid Waste Management Facilities, sanitation, essential furniture's for the local government schools and Anganwadi Kendra. A display board of the CER



- activities must be fixed for the information to the public. The Project Proponent has to intimate the concerned District Magistrate and the concerned district level officers of the concerned departments for record and information, with copy marked the Bihar State Pollution Control Board (BSPCB), Patna.
3. Under the Corporate Environment Responsibilities the modalities of all expenditure on skill development programme need to be done in consultation with and guidance of Bihar Skill Devolvment Mission, with intimation to the concerned District Magistrate, State Environment Impact Assessment Authority and Bihar State Pollution Control Board, Patna.
  4. Project Proponent has to fix display board on each mining site mentioning thereupon various activities to be done under Environment Management Plan (EMP).
  5. The project proponent should undertake the sand mining limited to 1 meter (one meter) depth only by manual excavation with production capacity limited to 1,02,000 CUM/Year.
  6. The Project Proponent must maintain nearby existing ponds if any.
  7. Proper care should to be taken during transportation of sand from the sand mining site by covering the loaded sand. There should be a freeboard of atleast 3 inches from the body level of the vehicle, so that the sand doesn't get spilled over on the road and doesn't affect the air quality as well.
  8. Proponent should submit high resolution satellite images with stereoscopic 3D view from the National Remote Sensing Center (NRSC), Hyderabad for any day in the month of June and December of every year, along with the respective half-yearly compliance report in hard and soft copy [as received from the National Remote Sensing Center (NRSC)].

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS IN 41<sup>st</sup> MEETING OF SEAC, BIHAR HELD ON 15<sup>th</sup> JUNE, 2024.**

Sl. No.	Name	Designation	Attended on 15.06.2024
1.	Dr. Gopal Sharma	Chairman	Present
2.	Dr. Ramakar Jha	Member	Present
3.	Dr. Bibha Kumari	Member	Present

4.	Dr. Anshumali	Member	<b>Absent</b>
5.	Dr. Aditya Mohanty	Member	<b>Absent</b>
6.	Shri Mokhtarul Haque	Member	<b>Present</b>
7.	Shri Ajit Samaiyar	Member	<b>Present</b>
8.	Shri Ranjan Kumar	Member	<b>Absent</b>
9.	Shri S. Chandrasekar	Member Secretary	<b>Present</b>

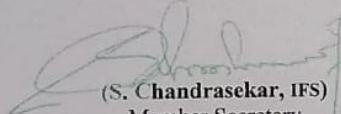
Signature(s) of the Members Present

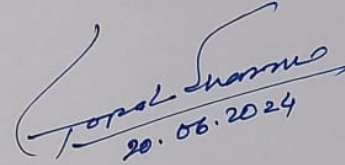
Sd/-  
(Dr. Ramakar Jha)  
Member, SEAC

Sd/-  
(Dr. Bibha Kumari)  
Member, SEAC

Sd/-  
(Mokhtarul Haque)  
Member, SEAC

Sd/-  
(Ajit Samaiyar)  
Member, SEAC

  
(S. Chandrasekar, IFS)  
Member Secretary  
20/6/24

  
20.06.2024

(Dr. Gopal Sharma)  
Chairman

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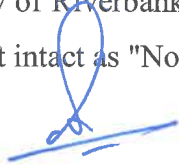
Member Secretary, SEIAA, Bihar  
for information and necessary action.



## Annexure – A (Sand Mining Projects – EC) for One meter depth

### A. Specific Condition

1. The Project Proponent shall obtain all necessary clearance/ permission from all concerned departments before commencement of mining works.
2. The Environmental Clearance will be valid for mine lease period subject to a ceiling of 5 years.
3. The project proponent before starting any activity /preparation of ground, on the leased area shall demarcate his lease hold by RCC pillars erected at the cost of lease holder after certification of the mining officer. On each pillar Geo-Coordinate and fore bearing/ back bearing shall be written with permanent paint mark as described in the mining plan. All the pillars should remain intact at same geo-coordinate. Establishment/ labeling of Benchmark at each pillars or ground control points.
4. Extraction of sand beyond annual production capacity is not permitted.
5. The Project Proponent should undertake the sand mining limited to 01 meter (one meter) depth by semi-mechanised method (without using any heavy machine), preferably by manual excavation.
6. Extraction will be carried out up to a maximum depth of 01 meter from surface of mineral deposit and not less than one meter from the water level of the River channel whichever is earlier.
7. No mining shall be carried out in the areas prominently used by wild animals (birds and reptiles) for nesting. Restricted working hours-Sand mining operation has to be carried out between 6 am to 7 pm.
8. No mining shall be carried out in 3 meter wide strip from the river bank in a River flood plain and within flowing/live water channel.
9. To maintain the safety and stability of Riverbanks, 3 meter or 10% of the width of the River whichever is more will be left intact as "No Mining Zone".



10. No stream shall be diverted for the purpose of sand mining. No natural water course and / or water reservoirs shall be obstructed due to mining operations.
11. The pollution due to transportation load on the environment will be effectively controlled & water sprinkling will also be done regularly. Vehicles with PUC only will be allowed to ply. The mineral transportation shall be carried out through covered vehicles / trucks only and the vehicle shall not be overloaded. Project should obtain 'PUC' certificate for all the vehicles from authorized pollution testing centre.
12. The stacking area of mined-out sand which shall be situated near the mining site within a fenced area from all sides to avoid being spread in the nearby areas by high winds and the height of stacking should not exceed 2 meter. Transportation shall be confined to day time only that is from sunrise to sunset, to avoid inconvenience to local population in anyway.
13. Rubbish burial shall not be done in the Rivers.
14. Adequate steps shall be taken to check soil erosion and control of debris flow etc. by constructing engineering structures.
15. Mining activity shall not be done for mine lease where mining can cause danger to site of flood protection works, places of cultural, religious, historical, and archaeological importance.
16. The approach road from loading point upto main road shall be properly developed with proper width and geometry required for safe movement of traffic by lease holder at his own cost.
17. Main haulage road in the mine shall be provided with permanent water sprinklers and other roads shall be regularly wetted with water tankers fitted with sprinklers.
18. Transportation of the Minerals by road passing through the village shall not be allowed. A 'bypass' road should be constructed (say, leaving a gap of at least 200 meters) for the purpose of transportation of the minerals so that the impact of sound, dust and accidents could be mitigated. The Project Proponent shall bear the cost towards the widening and strengthening of existing public road-network in case the same is proposed to be used for the Project. No road movement should be allowed on existing village road network without appropriately increasing the carrying capacity of such roads.

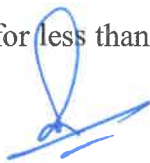
19. The project proponent shall comply with the provisions contained in this Ministry's OM vide F.No. 22-65/2017-IA.III dated 1st May 2018, as applicable, regarding Corporate Environment Responsibility.
20. Project Proponent shall appoint a Monitoring committee to monitor the replenishment study, traffic management, levels of production, river Bank erosion and maintenance of Road etc.
21. Project Proponent shall submit the annual replenishment report certified by an authorized agency. In case the replenishment is lower than the approved rate of production, then the mining activity / production levels shall be decreased / stopped accordingly till the replenishment is completed.
22. Regular monitoring of the flow rate of the springs and seasonal stream flowing in and around the mine lease shall be carried out and records maintained. Regular monitoring of water quality upstream and downstream of water bodies shall be carried out and record of monitoring data should be maintained and submitted to the SEIAA, Bihar, Regional office, Ranchi, Central Ground water Authority, Regional Director, Central Ground water Board, State Pollution Control Board and Central Pollution Control Board.
23. The project proponent shall abide by the Hon'ble Supreme Court order dated 08.01.2020 [Writ Petition 9 (s) (Civil No. (s) 114/2014)]. Proposal of re-grassing the mining area and any other area which may have been disturbed due to their mining activities and restore the land to a condition which is fit for growth of fodder, flora, fauna etc. In compliance to the direction dated 8<sup>th</sup> January, 2020 of Hon'ble Supreme Court in Writ Petitioner(s) Civil No. 114/2014, Common Cause Vs Union of India &Ors.
24. The individual sand ghat-miner will take appropriate measures to avoid parking of empty / loaded vehicles on nearest highway/ public roads to avoid traffic congestion.
25. Project Proponent will adhere to all applicable provisions of Sustainable Sand Mining Management Guidelines 2016 and Enforcement & Monitoring Guidelines for Sand Mining, 2020 (EMGSM – 2020) issued by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India. In case, any ambiguity or variation between the

provision of both these document arises, the provision made in “Enforcement and Monitoring Guidelines for Sand Mining – 2020” shall prevail.

26. All specific and general conditions which are of public concern at large shall be permanently displayed at a prominent place for public along with address and contact details of authority where the violation of EC conditions can be reported.
27. Project proponent shall erect a signboard on his project site and display information regarding name of the project, No. & date of validity period of EC, annual production capacity of the mineral and other relevant information for the general public.

**B. General condition**

1. No stacking of sand is allowed on road side of any public road including national highways/ State highways.
2. No labour camp shall be allowed in riverbed.
3. Provision shall be made for housing labour with all necessary infrastructure and facilities (outside mining Block and river-bed) such as fuel for cooking, toilets / mobile toilets, safe drinking water, First-Aid facilities, crèche etc. The housing may be in the form of temporary structures to be removed after the completion of the project.
4. Labour & Personnel working in dusty areas shall wear protective respiratory devices and they shall also be provided with adequate training and information on safety and health aspects. Occupational health surveillance program of the workers shall be undertaken periodically to observe any adverse health impact due to exposure to dust and take corrective measures, if needed.
5. The Project Proponent shall make arrangements for safe drinking water, first aid facility along With anti-venom injection, in case of emergency for the workers.
6. The project proponent shall maintain register for production and dispatch of mineral and submit periodic return (six-monthly) to the SEIAA, Bihar / Regional Office of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, Ranchi. If the remaining period of lease is for less than a year, the Project Proponent shall submit a monthly return of production.



7. The EC holder shall keep a correct account of quantity of mineral mined out, dispatched from the mine, mode of transport, registration number of vehicle and mine plan. This should be produced before officers of Central and State Government for inspection whenever asked for.
8. Regular monitoring of ground water table shall be carried out at the upstream and depth of water available in the adjoining dug-well.
9. Monitoring of Ambient Air Quality, Water Quality & Noise Quality shall be carried out as per the Notification, as amended from time to time by the Central Pollution Control Board. Water sprinkling should be increased at places of loading and unloading points & transfer points to reduce all sorts of fugitive emissions.
10. The funds earmarked for environmental protection measures should be kept in a separate bank account and should not be diverted for other purpose. Year-wise expenditure should be reported to the SEIAA, Bihar.
11. The Project proponent shall provide all necessary logistic support to the authorized officer of this authority as and when required. They will facilitate and assist the authority in site inspection and monitoring.
12. All the provisions made and restrictions imposed as envisaged in the Bihar Minor Mineral Rule, shall be complied with; particularly regarding Environment Management and payment of compensation to the affected land owner(s).
13. No change in mining technology and scope of working should be made without prior approval of the SEIAA, Bihar.
14. The Ministry / SEIAA may alter / modify the above conditions or stipulate any additional condition(s) in the interest of environment.
15. Concealing of factual data or submission of false / fabricated data and failure to comply with any of the conditions mentioned above may result in withdrawal/suspension of this clearance and attract action under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
16. The instruction contained herein above regarding air and noise pollution and details of mining proposals shall be displayed on Signboard in Hindi for the public information.

17. The SEIAA may impose additional conditions in the interest of Environment & Ecology whenever it becomes necessary to do so.
18. Any appeal against this environmental clearance shall lie with the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, if preferred, within a period of 30 days as prescribed under section 16 of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010.