

File No.: 10/78/2023-IA.III
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Impact Assessment Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Aliganj, Jorbhag Road,
New delhi-110003.

Dated 8th October, 2024.

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Widening and improvement of the NH-163 starts from Hyderabad [ORR near Appa Junction at design km.14+000 and end at near Mannegudda (design km.60+405) in Telangana State. The total Length is 45.5 km in the State of Telangana under NH (O) on Hybrid Annuity Mode by M/s National Highway Authority of India.

Ref: Proposal No: IA/TG/INFRA1/457022/2024; File No: 10/78/2023-IA.III.

The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal vide Judgment dated 6th November, 2023 in the matter of Balantrapu Vs. Union of India and NHAI 6th November, 2023 in Original Application No.242 of 2021(SZ) LA. Nos.17 & 75 of 2023 (SZ) directed as following:

"62. In the light of the above, we hold that the courts being not experts an Environmental Impact Study in this regard if conducted would have given a better appreciation of the project. While we appreciate the project which is of public interest and the same could not be stopped or put to stand still, considering the rare phenomena of existence of more than 800 numbers of Banyan Trees besides several thousands of other trees, an Environmental Impact Assessment is suggested and the expansion project of the road may be taken up after the EIA study is conducted.

63. Accordingly,

- i. The NHAI (Respondent No.2) is directed to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Study to minimize the loss to the trees before proceeding further.*
- ii. The MoEF&CC (Respondent No.1) is directed to issue the Terms of Reference (ToR) at the earliest and complete the process in 4 (Four) months time".*

2. In compliance to the judgment of the Hon'ble NGT dated 6th November, 2023, NHAI submitted the proposal for grant of ToR in the Ministry through PARIVESH Portal on 22.06.2024. The proposal was considered under Schedule 7(f), Highways, Category "A" of EIA Notification 2006 and placed in the 353rd EAC meeting held on 10th & 12th January, 2024. The EAC after thorough due diligence recommended that a subcommittee of the EAC shall visit the site for finding out possible changes in the alignment and road design and submit its recommendations so as to enable the EAC to issue additional TOR, if required. Subsequently, the subcommittee of the EAC visited the project site on 28th-30th January, 2024 and made certain recommendations for change in alignment and design of road to save more trees, especially the heritage banyan trees. Accordingly, the Ministry granted the ToR on 17th February, 2024.

3. In compliance to the ToR letter dated 17th February, 2024, M/s NHAI has submitted the EIA report vide letter dated 22nd June, 2024 to the Ministry. The aforementioned proposal

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was placed before the EAC during its 368th meeting of the Expert Appraisal Committee held on 04th July, 2024. The EAC taking in to account the submission made by the project proponent had a detailed deliberation during its 368th meeting held on 04th June, 2024 and accepted the EIA Report submitted by the NHAI with certain recommendations. The Copy of the MoM is enclosed herewith for further necessary action.

4. This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.

Encl: Copy enclosed


(Amardeep Raju)
Scientist-E

To

- i. M/s National Highways Authority of India, G-5 & 6, Sector-10, Dwarka, New Delhi-110075.

Copy to:

- i. The Deputy Director General of Forests (C), Integrated Regional Office, Hyderabad, 3rd Floor, Room No. 309, Aranya Bhawan, Opp. RBI, Safiabad - 500004, Hyderabad, Telangana.
- ii. Monitoring Cell, MoEF&CC, Indira Paryavaran Bhavan, New Delhi.
- iii. Guard File/Record File
- iv. Notice Board.


(Amardeep Raju)
Scientist-E

BEFORE THE NATIONAL
GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE

M.A. NO 11/2024.

O.A. No. 242 of 2021

MR. TEJA BALANTRAPU
...Applicant

Vs.

THE PROJECT DIRECTOR NHAI
TELENGANA & OTHERS.

...Respondents

OFFICE MEMORANDUM
OF

MOEF & C.C.

Dated :- 08/10/2024.

SU.SRINIVASAN (475/1993)
STANDING COUNSEL FOR NHAI

COUNSEL FOR RESPONDENTS
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