

Minutes of the second meeting of the Orissa State Coastal Zone Management Authority held at Paradeep on 6th February, 2004

The second meeting of the Orissa State Coastal Zone Management Authority (OSZMA) was held at Paradeep on 6th February under the Chairmanship of the Principal Secretary to Government, Forest & Environment Department.

Members Present (please see Annexure – I).

1. Project Proposals

a) Eight proposals had been received:

1. Deepening of the entrance channel of Paradeep Port.
2. Expansion of Paradeep Port Trust's helipad into an airstrip.
3. Laying of a Pipeline from Paradeep to Haldia over land by Indian Oil Corporation.
4. Four laning of Chandikhol Paradeep stretch of National Highway No. 5A.
5. Development of Fish Landing Centre at Balugaon by the Chief Construction Engineer Gopalpur Port.
6. Development of a second Fish Landing Centre at Hatabardi by the Chief Construction Engineer Gopalpur Port.
7. Development of two Fish Landing Centres at Barakudi and Sipakuda by Chilika Development Authority.
8. Construction of a slipway at Magarmukh by CDA.

b) All these project proponents made their presentations before the OSCZMA. The members discussed with them in detail their respective projects and had their queries clarified. The members also went to the Paradeep Port and were shown by the Port Authorities the areas where the deepening of entrance channel would be made and also the dumping site of the dredged materials. The helipad and the proposed area of expansion was also seen.

2. Deepening of entrance channel of Paradeep Port

Some of the members wondered whether this proposal would fall within the purview of OSCZMA because it is entirely in the sea and away from CRZ. The Member Secretary clarified that initially this project was returned to the proponents with the same observation. However, they submitted a letter from the MoEF in which this clearance, with some others, was stipulated.

The members discussed the impact of the dredging operations from the benthic flora/ fauna point of view not only at the point of dredging, but also where the dredged material would be dumped - an item which even a reputed organization like the NIO had missed. However, the committee, recognizing that the impact is likely to be minimal, decided to recommend the proposal to MoEF; stipulating nevertheless that before actual operations, a study would be made on this aspect by NIO or by any other reputed organization.

Action
LN. 3429 2004
to 27.2
to 4/2004
DE 41/2003.

Action
A.N. 3427
dt 27-2-2004
to Mr. J. S. Datta
EE 42/2003

3. Expansion of helipad into an airstrip at Paradeep

The relevant provisions of the CRZ rules as amended up-to-date were scrutinized. It was felt that since the rules provide for development of airstrip in Andaman and Nicobar Islands as well as in Lakshadweep which are extremely sensitive zones and there is no mention of other areas, it can safely be assumed that there is per se no bar in CRZ-II areas.

Considering that:

- This proposal is only for expansion of an existing helipad and not for a new airstrip,
- Paradeep is critically located for emergency operations, including cyclone/flood relief; facilitating the landing of slightly bigger aircrafts would be in overall interest.
- The proposed area for expansion would cover some scrubland, some recent plantations of *Acacia auriculiformis*, a portion of the Port Trust road; all designated as CRZ-II.
- A patch of mangrove plantation a little further down, raised by the Port Authorities and designated as CRZ-I would be left in tact at the time of development of the airstrip.

OSCZMA decided to recommend this proposal for environmental clearance to MoEF, Government of India

Action
A.N. 3358
dt 26-2-2004
to Mr. J. S. Datta
EE 7/2004

4. Laying of pipeline from Paradeep to Haldia by Indian Oil Corporation.

The project proponents stated that the pipeline would go through Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, Bhadrak and Balasore districts where public hearing has been done by SPCB as per EIA notification. To a query on possible leakages, it was clarified that they have an in-built system of detection and immediate stoppage of the flow automatically. The proponents also explained how the pipeline would be laid under water-channels and rivers/ creeks with the same degree of safety inbuilt. This would be a subterranean pipe-line and in view of the fact that this is a permissible activity under CRZ, the members recommended this proposal for environmental clearance by MoEF, Government of India.

Action
A.N. 3519
dt 28-2-2004
to Mr. J. S. Datta
EE 43/2003

5. Four laning of Chandikhol-Paradeep Stretch of National Highway No. 5A

This proposal is a part of the national programme of four laning of the National Highways. The CRZ rules recognize any existing road as the limit upto which development programmes may be allowed on the landward side. The proposed stretch of the existing road passes through CRZ-III areas mostly and CRZ-II near Paradeep across eight creeks. It does not pass through any mangrove area and hence the members recommended it for environmental clearance by the MoEF, Government of India as the approximate cost is more than Rs. 5 crores.

Action
A.N. 3419
dt 27-2-2004
to Mr. J. S. Datta
EE 6/2003

6. Development of Fish Landing Centre at Balugaon by the Chief Construction Engineer Gopalpur Port

Construction of a Fish Landing jetty is a permissible activity under CRZ. But this proposal includes the construction of an auction hall, drying yard, net-mending unit and an earthen bund. The members discussed the possibility of installing water channels under it but in view of the negligible currents in Chilika, did not insist. The project proponents clarified that there it was not possible for them to locate an alternate space away from the jetty for those accessories. Besides, the existing jetty had to be kept for tourist traffic; so there was no scope of extending

it. Taking into account the socio-economic aspects of the local area where the people depend solely on fishing and because a jetty with storing, washing, grading, marketing makes more sense, OSCZMA decided to recommend this case for granting environmental clearance by MoEF Government of India.

Action
No. 3422
dt 27.2.2004
EE 13/2003

7. Development of a second Fish Landing Centre at Hatabardi by the Chief Construction Engineer Gopalpur Port.

OSCZMA decided to recommend this proposal also on the same grounds as the previous case to MoEF, Government of India for environmental clearance.

Action
No. 3468
dt 28.2.2004
to Secretary, Govt of Orissa
EE 13/2004

8. Development of two Fish Landing Centres at Barakuda and Sipakuda by CDA.

OSCZMA decided to recommend these two Fish Landing Centres which had no accessories as in the previous two cases to MoEF. These are located on islands in Chilika lake and these would improve the livelihoods of the local fisherfolks. The jetties were designed to allow water to pass under it.

9. Construction of a slipway at Magarmukh by CDA

OSCZMA decided to recommend this project as well to MoEF for environmental clearance.

10. Review of Follow-up of the decisions made in the first OSCZMA meeting

The compliance with the proceedings of the first meeting of the OSCZMA was reviewed.

- a) A technical cell had been constituted
- b) Development Authorities in the coastal Districts as well as the Coastal District Collectors had been provided with the CRZ notification with all the amendments.
- c) The proposal for reclassification of Rushikulya sea-turtle rookery from CRZ-III to CRZ-I has been submitted to the Chairman, National Coastal Zone Management Authority. They were to be reminded.
- d) No progress in the digitization of CRZ maps had been made. The OSCZMA then discussed the reasons and the options. The Member Secretary suggested that Prof. Ramachandran of Anna University, Chennai, has already prepared digital maps of the entire Orissa coast which could be obtained and updated. Dr. B. R. Subramanian kindly volunteered to assist in the updation if he was given two hands for a period of two months. It was decided that this offer be accepted and areas like Paradeep, Gopalpur, Puri, Konark, Balugaon and the like, which are likely to see rapid development should be taken up first for digitization.

11. Review of allegations and action taken thereon:

The next agenda item was the review of the allegations of violation of the CRZ notification. It was found that there are as many as 19 allegations from various quarters. Besides, 7 notices u/s 19(b) of the Environment Protection Act have also been received. These were taken up one by one as follows:-

Action
No. 4489
dt 17.3.2004
to Collector, Puri
EE 10/2003

- 1. Prawn culture by Sri Tara Patnaik in the Sahara Bank of river Surya in Puri district. The collector had reported that this is subjudice. The committee suggested that the details be obtained.

Action
 A.O. 4488 dt 17.3.2004
 Collector, Ganjam
 F.E. 10/2003
 Report
 A.O. 2503 dt 10.2.04
 A.O. 4457 dt 17.3.2004
 for Puri, H & UD
 Direction u/s 5 of EPA
 to Collector, Puri
 A.O. 4775 dt 22.3.2004
 (F.E. 10/2003)

2. Hatcheries in Gopalpur in Ganjam district. The Ganjam Collector has reported that he has passed orders to demolish them. The committee advised that a notice be issued if this has not been complied with.
3. Intensive Prawn culture in Bhadrak district. The Collector has reported that there is no such Prawn culture in the district. The committee advised that the complaint would be requested to provide details.
4. CRZ violation by Puri-Konark Development Authority has been admitted by them. H & UD Department has been asked to initiate action against those responsible.
5. Construction of a road in CRZ at Chakratirtha in Puri district referred by the CCF of the Regional office of the MoEF, Bhubaneswar. It was decided that a direction u/s 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act should be issued to the Collector, Puri.

The Regional office of MoEF had given a list of violations of CRZ in Puri and Ganjam districts. In the case of all such allegations of CRZ violation, it was decided to hold a meeting with the Principal Secretary, H & UD Department to take effective steps because there have been some cases in the High Court and these also figured during discussions in the State Legislature. Hence, a meeting between the two departments (H & UD and F & E) along with the Development Authorities and the Town Planning Authority is to be convened before the next meeting of the OSCZMA.

In these cases also it was decided to give directions to the Collectors of Puri and Ganjam u/s 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act.