



भारत सरकार

Government of India

राष्ट्रीय अनुसूचित जन जाति आयोग

National Commission for Scheduled Tribes

(A Constitutional Body set up under Art. 338A of the Constitution of India)

Case File No. JKF/2/2018/MENV1/DEOTH/RU-IV

Dated: 06.07.2018

To,

- 1 **The Secretary,**  
Environment & Forest,  
Indira Pariyavaran Bhawan,  
Jorbagh Road,  
New Delhi – 110 003.
- 2 **The Additional Chief Secretary,**  
(Forest and Environment),  
Forest & Environment Department,  
Block 14, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, Sachivalaya,  
Gandhinagar – 382 010  
Gujarat
- 3 **The Secretary,**  
Tribal Development Department,  
8<sup>th</sup> Block, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Sachivalaya,  
Gandhinagar,  
Gujarat.
- 4 **The Principal Chief Conservator of  
Forest & Head of the Forest  
Force (PCCF & HoFF),**  
A/1, Aranya Bhavan,  
Opp. St. Xaviers School,  
Near Ch-3 Circle, Sector – 10,  
Gandhinagar (Gujrat).
- 5 **The Principal Chief Conservator of  
Forest (Wildlife),**  
Government of Gujarat,  
Aranya Bhawan,  
Sector- 1C A,  
Gandhinagar – 382 010.  
(Gujarat)

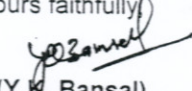
**Sub: Minutes of the meeting taken by Shri Nand Kumar Sai, Hon'ble Chairperson, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) on 25.06.2018 in the matter of J.K. Papers Ltd., for captive plantation in degraded forest lands for providing large scale employment to Scheduled Tribes.**

Sir,

I am directed to enclose a copy of the Minutes of the meeting held on 26.06.2018 under the Chairmanship of Shri Nand Kumar Sai, Hon'ble Chairperson, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes on the above mentioned subject for necessary action.

It is requested that action taken report in the matter may please be sent to the Commission within 30 days positively for placing the same before the Hon'ble Chairperson, NCST.

Yours faithfully,

  
(Y.K. Bansal)  
Research Officer

Copy to:-

Shri O.P. Shukla,  
Chief General Manager (RM),  
J.K. Paper Ltd.,  
Unit CPM, Fort Songadh,  
District – Tapi  
Gujarat – 394 660

5839-44  
9.7.18  
जारी किया  
ISSUED

6th Floor, 'B' Wing, Lok Nayak Bhawan, Khan Market, New Delhi -110003. Ph. 24601346 FAX: 24624628, 24657474

Toll Free: 1800117777 Website: <http://ncst.nic.in>

Copy to:-

J.S.S.A., N.I.C., NCST

Janraj  
23/7/18

**NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCHEDULED TRIBES**

JKP/2/2018/MENV1/DEOTH/RU-IV

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 25.06.2018 AT 12.00 NOON CHAIRED BY SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI, HON'BLE CHAIRPERSON, NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCHEDULED TRIBES (NCST) REGARDING CAPTIVE PLANTATION IN DEGRADED FOREST LANDS FOR PROVIDING LARGE SCALE EMPLOYMENT TO SCHEDULED TRIBES – PROPOSAL OF J.K. PAPER LTD.**

The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes has received a proposal cum representation dated 04.06.2018 from JK Paper Ltd regarding expression of interest for captive plantation in degraded forest lands in PPP model.

2. The Company wants to join hand with greening India mission by taking captive plantation in degraded forest wastelands of Gujarat & Maharashtra States under PPP model and identified 1000 Ha of degraded forest lands in Narmada forest division of Gujarat State. The company proposing captive Eucalyptus, Subabul & Casuarina plantations on these degraded forest lands in PPP model with JFMCs/Gram Sabhas & state forest department.

The Benefits of captive plantations is that to increase green cover, to create ample employment opportunities in rural tribal areas, approximately 380000 man days employment will be generated from this project i.e. from 1000 Ha plantations through plantation & its maintenance over 5 years rotation period in poor tribal areas (approx.. 325 people will be employed per annum), to able grow inter crops by the tribals in the first 2 years etc.

The Company requires permission from Ministry of Forest and Environment, Govt. of India for allotment of degraded forest land for captive plantations in PPP model and similarly permission from Ministry of Forest, Govt. of Gujarat for allotment of degraded forest land.

It has been requested to the Commission to propose suitable policy support from NCST for identification of degraded forest land for commercial plantation and employing Scheduled Tribes living in those areas. This will also create large employment opportunities in tribal rural areas.

2. The objective of the meeting was to examine the issue of generating employment opportunities for the Scheduled Tribes and to see the feasibility for plantation on unproductive land of forest and hill areas wherein any production can be generated. Accordingly, a meeting was held on 25.06.2018 under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Chairperson, NCST.

3. During the Meeting, Shri Noyal Thomas, Inspector General of Forests, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri S.K. Sinha, Principal CCF & Head of Forest Force, Government of Gujarat, Shri A.K. Saxena, Principal Chief Conservator of Forest Wild Life, Government of Gujarat, Shri B.R. Parmar, Joint Director (FRA), Tribal Development Department, Government of Gujarat along with Shri V. Kumaraswamy and Shri O.P. Shukla from J.K. Papers Ltd. attended.

4. The Hon'ble Chairperson, NCST asked the representatives of the J.K. Paper Ltd. To present their points of view and synopsis about project details.



नन्द कुमार साय/Nand Kumar Sai  
अध्यक्ष/Chairperson  
राष्ट्रीय अनुसूचित जनजाति आयोग  
National Commission for Scheduled Tribes  
भारत सरकार/Govt. of India  
नई दिल्ली/New Delhi

5. Shri V. Kumaraswamy, J.K. Paper Ltd. has presented data on productivity of people employed in various activities like forestry, agriculture, horticulture, livestock and fishing for the sample State of Andhra Pradesh for the year 2014-15. The productivity of forests and other areas where tribals live predominantly is very low at around Rs.8500/- per Hectare. He emphasized that with this land productivity, it is impossible to lift tribals out of their poverty in the foreseeable future. He further emphasized that the tribals are very low in skill. As of now their only means of livelihood comes from land produce. Land productivity is very poor as and therefore it is difficult to lift them from poverty. He presented following measures for tribals to improve their economic lot :-

- a. Compensation for Carbon foot print – Residents in primary forest which are to be preserved for bio diversity, rain bearing capacity, or green cover may have to be compensated with carbon certificates by rest of the economy.
- b. Transfer low skill industries
  - Beedi rolling
  - Sanitary and other hygiene products
  - Textiles and garments finishing stage
  - Rural solar electrification (he cited the example of people being trained in Tilonia, Rajasthan)
- c. Tribal Tourism - make it compulsory for Graduate students to spend certain days there, will get greater appreciation of their concerns
- d. Plantation activity - The experience of Vietnam which faced rapid de-forestation through its re-forestation programme titled 5 MHRP which started in 1995 was detailed. Under this programme, Govt. of Vietnam allotted land of 2 to 30 acres to individual farmers in rural areas and village communes with the primary objective of increasing the green cover. The seeds and clones of primarily of hybrid Acacia were developed and sold to the allottees of the land. The Govt. also provided training and advisory services. At the time of harvest, the Government shares a % of actual output value, as its royalty. The main achievements of the programme are as follows:-
  - i. Created employment for about 20 lacs farmers / families
  - ii. Increased green cover by 3.5%
  - iii. Enabled Vietnam to export 8 million tones wood chips by 2014.
  - iv. Earned foreign exchange of 900 million per year
- e. Outright lease modelling of large parcels of land as is the practice in Indonesia and Myanmar were also detailed. It is emphasized that similar models should be started on experimental basis in 1000 ha. each in 4-5 States and over a period of time, the same may be extended to larger areas. The interested industries may be food processing, furniture and building products, bio-diesel industries, agro forestry industries, pulpwood and paper industries, rubber manufacturers and plywood manufacturers etc.
- f. Design Considerations - Certain critical design considerations to be kept in mind are as follows :-
  - i) Simplicity
  - ii) Don't displace people from their usual place of dwelling
  - iii) Create markets but don't interfere in pricing
  - iv) The share of Government should be recovered from y-to-y basis as % share of the output.
  - v) Creating a sense of ownership on the standing crops is essential.

- vi) Creating demonstration effect in essential
- vii) Single agency to deal with the Lessees
- viii) Even single bids should be accepted and proceeded with. It only indicates lack of interest or market.

6. Shri O P Shukla from J.K. Paper Limited has also outlined sample plots of 1000 ha in 2 ranges namely Sorapoda 500 Hec & Sagbara 500 Hec of Narmada Forest Division, Gujarat in 6-7 different places with about 1 mtr soil depth. He mentioned that the major plantation species will be Eucalyptus 400 Hec, Subabul 300 Hec, Acacia 200 Hec and Bambusa Balcooa 100 Hec for proposed plantation program. Detailed project has been submitted to Secretary, Tribal Department, Government of India. He further informed that this sample plot would create employment for around 250 people over the next 5 years as has been observed elsewhere with varying levels of mechanization. It should be observed most of selling price paid out by buyers of wood would be paid out as costs, bulk of which would be wages for tribal labour. Such labour would be required for clone development, land preparation, planting, weeding, fertiliser application, cutting, staking, and loading all of which can be done by Tribals with some basic training. Besides the Government would also accrue some royalties on land which are lying vacant and non yielding as of now.

7. During the meeting, Shri Noyal Thomas, IG – Forest, Ministry of Environment & Forest informed the Commission that there are 12 million Ha of land which are culturable waste land where plantation can be attempted. He added that the draft forest policy has provided a facilitating atmosphere to implement the suggestions and the same can be incorporated in the final policy. It was mentioned that Min. of Environment and Forests have received more than 700 comments on the draft Forest Policy 2018 which are being studied for proper changes in the policy before announcement.


8. Mr.G K Sinha, Principal CCF & Head of Forest Force, Government of Gujarat was stated that details of National forest policy is awaited. The Govt. of India will provide the guidelines on allotment of degraded forest land to industries for planting.

9. Mr. Akshay Saxena, Principal Chief Conservator of Forest Wildlife, Govt. of Gujarat mentioned the land that would be required for forestation will have one meter soiled depth. He enquired why such land should be given away on lease basis.

- a. As per the biodiversity act, the local tribals have full right on forest produce.
- b. The forest conservation act 1980 will come on the way. And not allow diversion of forest land for commercial plantation by leasing to any industries.
- c. Amendment is required in working plan for plantation other than working plan prescription/treatment for which central government permission is required.

10. The Hon'ble Chairperson, NCST pointed out that these degraded areas have been lying un-utilised for several years and if there is a way to increase the output from such areas based on finances and expertise provided by private parties and then there should not be any objection. After the plantation the rainfall will be regulated so that agriculture crop can be raised in time and adverse effect of climate change and global warming can be mitigated. He was also stated that whatever problems are coming on the way for allotment of land for plantation should be resolved and tribals should be economically uplifted.

11. The Secretary, NCST exhorted the Officers from Government of Gujarat and IG, Forest, M/o Environment & Forest to get back with whatever legal changes or clarifications are required so that the pilot project can be implemented. He requested Shri OP Shukla from

  
नन्द कुमार साह/ Nand Kumar Singh  
अध्यक्ष/Chairperson  
राष्ट्रीय अनुसूचित जनजाति आयोग  
National Commission for Scheduled Tribes  
भारत सरकार/Govt. of India  
नई दिल्ली/New Delhi

JK Paper, Shri Sinha and Shri Saxena to jointly inspect the areas where experimental plantation can be commenced.

12. The Hon'ble Chairperson, NCST in his concluding remarks pointed out that with the stated level of land productivity, it would be difficult to lift the tribal people out of their current poverty levels. The various measures outlined hold promise of significantly increasing the incomes of tribals. The forestation schemes discussed hold promise of creating employment on wide scale with which several families can be lifted out of poverty.

13. After detailed discussion, the Commission recommends as follows:

- The officials from Govt. of Gujarat, Ministry of Environment & Forest will work with officials of J.K. Paper Ltd and identify areas so that final model can be rolled out quickly.
- For experimental basis, the Forest Department, Government of Gujarat may consider to allot approximately 1000 Hectare wasteland/degraded forest land to the J.K. Paper Ltd. for plantation on the basis of their proposal to facilitate employment of tribals in agro-forestry.
- The Officers of the Forest Department, Government of Gujarat will enlist difficulties of rules and regulations in allotment of land while working out modalities for allotment of degraded forestland to industries for plantation with adjoining tribal population as one of the key stake holders.

14. An action taken report will be submitted by the Government of Gujarat within 30 days.

  
(DR. NAND KUMAR SAI)  
Chairperson

National Commission for Scheduled Tribes

नन्द कुमार साय/Nand Kumar Sai  
अध्यक्ष/Chairperson  
राष्ट्रीय अनुसूचित जनजाति आयोग  
National Commission for Scheduled Tribes  
भारत सरकार/Govt. of India  
नई दिल्ली/New Delhi