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ACTION HISTORY OF RTI REQUEST No.WLIOI/R/2016/50008

Applicant Name Rohit Choudhury

Text of Application This is in reference to the Indo-Bhutan Road 1) Provide me the copy of minutes of the meeting of the Joint Management Committee on Indo-Bhutan Border Road held on 09/07/2016 2) Provide me the copy of suggestions / reports made by the Wildlife Institute of India with regard to the above mentioned project

Reply of Application The information sought by you, has been collected from the concerned authority of the Institute and attached.

SN.	Action Taken	Date of Action	Action Taken By	Remarks
1	RTI REQUEST RECEIVED	25/10/2016	Nodal Officer	
2	REQUEST FORWARDED TO CPIO	02/11/2016	Nodal Officer	Forwarded to CPIO(s) : (1) Aseem Shrivastava
3	REQUEST DISPOSED OF	18/11/2016	Aseem Shrivastava- (CPIO)	

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Minutes of the meeting of the Joint Management Committee on Indo-Bhutan Border Road held on 9/8/2016

The meeting was chaired by Smti. L.S. Changsan, IAS, Commissioner & Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, Home, Political, Border etc. Department. At the outset, she welcomed all and apprised that this meeting is of high significance to discuss a vital issue like Construction of Indo-Bhutan Border Road which is very important in terms of public convenience as well as for National security. She requested PWD (Building & National High Way), the executing agency to present the up to date status of the road.

The Executive Engineer, PWD (Building & National Highway) stated that the proposal amounting to Rs. 9.95 crore for preparation of DPR for the new alignment of the road had already been approved by the Technical Committee and was placed in the meeting of High Level Empowered Committee on 28/07/2016. It was learnt that Govt. of India approved the project reducing the cost to Rs. 9.88 crore. The minute of the meeting is awaited to know the exact position.

The Chairperson requested to prepare the terms of Reference required in the process of bidding in consultation with Wild Life Institute of India, Dehradun to make the project eco-friendly. She also made it clear that the Wild Life should not be disturbed. So the road should be environment friendly and at the same time National Security angle also should be noted.

Participating in the discussion, the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Wildlife informed that Supreme Court is the ultimate authority to issue clearance. Before that the project is to be approved by the Cabinet. Then it is to be agreed by State Board for Wildlife under Chief Minister and National Board for Wildlife under Prime Minister. Then the Apex Court is to be moved for the clearance.

Director General of Police (DIG) opined that the border road should be as close as possible to the border and if it is far away then it would not serve the purpose.

The Field Director, Manas Project Tiger expressed his strong reservations against the road passing through Manas. He requested to shift the road to the Southern boundary of Manas.

The Secretary, BTC commented that there should not be any hindrance to the public in using the road.


(Samali Ghosh)

ATTESTED
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CPIO, Wild Life Institute of India, Dehradun

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The Executive Engineer, PWD (Building & National High Way) assured that the DPR would be prepared after strategic Environment Impact Assessment and it would not be detrimental to forest.

The Secretary, BTC requested to construct the road in the southern part of Dadgiri.

Divisional Forest Officer, Dhansiri Division offered some adjustments in some portions.

The Executive Engineer, PWD (Building & National High Way) informed that this is a Tentative alignment only prepared on the basis of google map. After the survey, the actual alignment will be made.

The Chairperson requested all the DFOs of the entire area to go personally during the critical part of Survey time.

Smti. Sonali Ghosh, IFS, the Scientist, Wildlife Institute of India pointed out that the issue of alignment is to be modified since Sonkosh Bhairabkunda Manas is a Legal Entity under Wildlife Protection Act. There are some Go Zones and some No Go Zones. It is a high seismic zone with Himalayan-Bhabhar eco-system. So, there is acute shortage of water in that area and human habitation is a bit difficult. Anyway, ecological consideration is to be looked into.

After threadbare discussion, the following decisions were taken :-

1. The Wildlife Institute of India will be the Consultant for Strategic Environment Impact Assessment during preparation of DPR.
2. PWD (Building & National Highway) will prepare the draft NIT for survey & DPR preparation within 7 (seven) days and will submit to WII, Dehradun for consultation.
3. All the stake holders will be consulted for finalization of draft NIT.
4. After approval of preparation of DPR by MHA, the Bidding process is to be completed within two months, so that the survey and DPR preparation can be started in November, 2016 and completed within 4-5 months.


(Sonali Ghosh)

ATTESTED

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The Chairperson requested PWD (Building & National Highway) to work in a war footing manner in consultation with all the stake holders within the time frame.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks from the Chair.

Sd/-
(Smti. L.S. Changsan, IAS)

Commissioner & Secretary to the Govt. of Assam
Border Areas Department, Dispur

Memo No. BD. 128/2016/158

Dated Dispur, the 29th August, 2016.

Copy to:-

- (1) The Commissioner & Secretary to the Govt. of Assam,
PWD (Building & National Highway), Dispur.
- (2) The Secretary to the Govt. of Assam,
Forest & Environment Department, Dispur.
- (3) The Principal Secretary,
B.T.C., Kokrajhar.
- (4) Mr. Robinson Muchahari,
Secretary, B.T.C., Kokrajhar.
- (5) The Inspector General, Frontier Head Quarter, SSB,
Khanapara, Nikita Complex, Guwahati.
- (6) Dr. V. B. Mathur, Director
Wildlife Institute of India, Post Box # 18, Chandrabani
Dehradun 248 001 Uttarakhand
- (7) The Principal Chief Conservator of Forest or his representative. (Spl. Invitee)
Wild Life, Basistha Forest Complex, Assam.
- (8) Shri H. K. Sarma, IPS, (Spl. Invitee)
The Field Director,
Manas Project Tiger, Barpeta Road, Assam. (Spl. Invitee)
- (9) The Director, Border Areas, Assam. (Spl. Invitee)
Pannyagar Bhawan (ASWC Building),
1st Floor, Amarawati Path, Christian Basti, Guwahati - 5.
- (10) Shri Shyamanta Bezbarua,
Deputy Secretary to the Govt. of Assam,
P.W. (Building & National Highway) Department, Dispur.
- (11) Shri K. Brahma, DCF, (Spl. Invitee)
O/o the D.F.O. Kachugaon Divn., Kokrajhar.
- (12) Shri S. K. Brahma, DCF, (Spl. Invitee)
O/o the DFO, Chirang Division, Chirang District.
- (13) Shri M. K. Sarma, D.F.O., (Spl. Invitee)
Dhansiri Division, Udalguri District.
- (14) Shri N. C. Nath, DCF, (Spl. Invitee)
O/o the D.F.O., Baksa Division, Baksa.

By order etc.

29/8/16
Joint Secy. to the Govt. of Assam,
Border Areas Department, Dispur

d/c
ATTESTED

CPJO, Wild Life Institute of India, Dehradun

29/8/16
(Sanati Ghosh)