

Item No. 02

Court No. 1

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI**

Original Application No. 385/2019  
(IA No. 333/2020)

(With report dated 22.12.2020)

Centre for Wildlife and Environment Litigation

Applicant

Versus

Union of India & Ors.

Respondent(s)

Date of hearing: 23.12.2020

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ADARSH KUMAR GOEL, CHAIRPERSON  
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SHEO KUMAR SINGH, JUDICIAL MEMBER  
HON'BLE DR. SATYAWAN SINGH GARBYAL, EXPERT MEMBER  
HON'BLE DR. NAGIN NANDA, EXPERT MEMBER**

Applicant: Mr. Gaurav Kumar Bansal, Advocate

Respondent: Mr. Atin Shankar Rastogi, Advocate for MoEF&CC  
Mr. Amar Dave, Advocate for National Solar Energy Federation of  
India (NSEFI), in IA 333/2020 for impleadment and directions

**ORDER**

1. The issue for consideration is the mitigation measures for protection of Great Indian Bustard (GIB) – rare bird and one of the critically endangered species, as per Schedule-I to the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. Though the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has taken up a project called “Habitat Improvement of Great Indian Bustard-An Integrated Approach”, wind projects are potential danger to the safety of the bird. Vide order dated 04.04.2019, this Tribunal sought a factual report from the MoEF&CC with regard to the allegation that steps taken are not adequate and there continues to be high mortality of the birds.

2. According to the applicant, population of GIB has steadily declined by 75% in last thirty years. Main reason for such decline is fatal accidents with the power lines. This requires habitat improvement and conservation breeding. In the course of reviewing the project “Habitat Improvement of Great Indian Bustard-An Integrated Approach” of the MoEF, in a review meeting on 19.07.2018 it was noted that the wind projects did not require any EIA studies. There was also no substitute mechanism to ensure safeguards for protection of such birds on ‘Precautionary’ principle of Environment. Forest Advisory Committee, Government of India considered the matter in its meeting on 10.11.2016 and recommended study of impact of such proposed project on wildlife as the GIBs face threat from high tension transmission lines. The preventive measures identified are:

- i. **Route planning***
- ii. **Underground cabling***
- iii. **Removal of ground/earth wires***
- iv. **Line modifications***
- v. **Mandatory installing of bird flight diverters on all transmission and high voltage lines with large constructions with tall pylons (35m or higher for 150kv or more) on regular intervals on conductors in order to in the course of make them more visible.***
- vi. **Vane tips of the wind turbine shall be painted with orange colour to avoid bird hits.”***

3. The ‘Great Indian Bustard and Lesser Florican’ Conservation and Breeding Programme recommendations are as follows:

- i. As directed by the Forest Department, compensatory afforestation should be carried out by using local species which will help to enhance/improve biodiversity.*
- ii. Immediate surrounding area (around 50 meter) of each WTG should be maintained vegetation free area to avoid faunal movement.*
- iii. Fruit tree species should be avoided near WTGs; otherwise this may attract bird and bats which may result in mortality of bats and birds.*

- iv. *Dead animal and carcasses (if any) should be removed immediately from WTG site to prevent attraction of carnivore birds/raptors towards sites.*
- v. *No water bodies/pond formation allowed within site/near turbines this may attract water birds and lead to collision.*
- vi. *Project personnel may be given basic information about biodiversity conservation and awareness programmes may be conducted for sensitizing about bio-diversity conservation.*
- vii. *If bridges are proposed, culverts should be provided for smooth movement of other faunal species.*
- viii. *Awareness camps on green energy projects can be conducted within nearest school and other educational institutions.*
- ix. *The Vane tips of the Wind Turbine shall be painted with Orange colour to avoid bird hits.”*

4. According to the applicant, mortality of birds is around one lakh annually. On consideration of the matter, the Tribunal sought a response from the MoEF. In its response vide report dated 11.07.2019, the MoEF&CC acknowledged the problem. It was submitted that adult mortality of GIBs is still very high due to collisions with power-lines that crisscross their fly paths. The Wildlife Institute of India has made following recommendations:

**“4. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 4.1. *Keeping the above scientifically established threats in mind, the following evidenced based actions are recommended by WII that are required to be taken up in time bound manner to achieve the species recovery.*
- 4.2. **Mitigate all power transmission lines passing through priority bustard habitats identified by WII (Please refer Annexure 10) by undergrounding cables (where technically/ technologically feasible) or installing bird diverters to make them prominent to birds.** *The priority areas where this intervention is required has been mapped by the Wildlife Institute of India and a technical-cum-financial proposal has been submitted to RVPNL for necessary approvals from Rajasthan Energy Department for mitigation. This action must be expeditiously implemented in the short-term (1-3 years), as power-line mortality is currently the biggest threat to the species.*
- 4.3. **Disallow new wind turbines, solar farms (photovoltaic power stations) from priority GIB habitats and remove**

**existing ones that are in the critical areas.** The priority areas where this intervention is required has been mapped by Wildlife Institute of India (Please refer Annexure 10). This action needs to be implemented in the long-term spanning 5-10 years from present.

- 4.4. **Develop predator-proof enclosures of 5-10 sq km area in known breeding sites in and around DNP to improve GIB recruitment, and keep away nest predators by routinely translocating dogs, pigs, foxes, mongoose and other species outside the enclosures using professional trappers.** Number of water guzzlers inside the enclosures need to be reduced to curtail availability of surface water that attracts non-native nest/chick predators such as dogs, foxes, pigs and mongooses. Also establish such enclosures in the larger Thar (Jaisalmer) landscape, as identified by joint surveys of WII and RFD. These enclosures need to be developed and will serve as breeding sites and stepping stones for movement across the larger landscape.
- 4.5. **Create an inviolate area of 200 sq km (WII proposal- 500 sq km) in northern DNP as a National Park through voluntary and incentivized relocation of local people (if needed) with the mandate of conserving GIB.**
- 4.6. **Delineate priority GIB habitats outside DNP as Eco Sensitive Zones where agro-pastoral practices are regulated to low-intensity through Zonal Management Plans and detrimental infrastructure such as wind turbines and overhead transmission lines are curtailed. This action needs to be implemented in the short-term (1-2 years).**
- 4.7. *Engage with local communities to promote bustard-friendly practices such as stall-feeding of livestock during monsoon – GIB chick-rearing and grass growing season – and cultivating food crops preferred by GIB during monsoon such as gram, ground nut and millets while leaving the fields fallow for the remaining period. These land-uses can be promoted by Rajasthan Forest Department in conjunction with other State Departments, through appropriate financial and other incentive schemes, such as provisioning of fodder for stall feeding or compensatory payments to foregone production cost by opting for low intensity farming. This action needs to be implemented in the longer scale (4-8 years).*
- 4.8. **Reduce poaching of GIB and other wildlife in the Thar landscape by improving protection enforcement through training of Forest Department frontline staff in smart patrolling tools with the help of conservation organizations such as WII and WWF, provisioning of better patrolling equipment, enrolling frontline staff from non-wildlife divisions of Forest**

**Department and local volunteers in this activity, and ensuring trials of convicts.** Further, it is to bring to the notice that areas controlled by Armed forces in Jaisalmer District harbor about 50% of the GIB population found in Rajasthan. This secure zone under the control of Army where human activities are minimal is a blessing for the bird on the verge of extinction. Thus, continued cooperation of Army, Air Force and Border Security Force to conserve the GIB and control the incidents of poaching could play a vital role as well.

4.9. **Implement the conservation breeding programme by creating an offshore insurance population (if needed) by shipping a batch of about 10 GIB eggs to a state-of-the-art international breeding center such as IFHC houbara breeding center at Abu Dhabi that produces up to 30,000 houbara chicks every year (short-term solution 3–5 years), and meanwhile, establish a national breeding center by training staff, developing a state-of-the-art center at Sarsen (main facility) and Ramdev (satellite facility), where eggs collected from wild can be artificially incubated, hatched, reared and captive bred to create an insurance population that can be reintroduced into the wild.**

4.10. *To continue with targeted research on GIB to characterize threats spatio-temporally, understand landscape use patterns using satellite telemetry, and objective monitoring of their population status by involving research organizations, understanding of species biology, behavior, reproduction, genetics, ecology and management in wild and captivity of GIB, and collection of biological samples for species identification from carcasses, for disease screening for better understanding of threats, develop disease prevention protocol, and forensic examination of mortalities.”*

5. The matter was considered on 04.09.2019 in the light of above report. It was observed:

**“3. The above recommendations need to be acted upon which requires preparation of a time bound action plan.**

**4. Let a joint Committee comprising Director General, Forest, MoEF&CC, Additional Director General, Forest (Wildlife), MoEF&CC, nominees of Ministry of Power, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Central Government and nominees of Energy Departments of Gujarat and Rajasthan prepare a time bound action plan in the matter within two months. The nodal agency for the purpose will be Director General, Forest, MoEF&CC and the Additional Director**

**General, Forest (Wildlife), MoEF&CC will be member secretary of the nodal agency. Compliance report be furnished to this Tribunal before the next date by e-mail at judicial-ngt@gov.in.”**

6. Accordingly, the MoEF&CC has filed its further report on 22.12.2020 as follows:

*“2. That the Hon’ble NGT vide its order dated 04/09/2019 in O.A. No. 385 /2019 in the matter of Centre for Wildlife and Environment Litigation (CWEL) Vs. Union of India &Ors., has been pleased to constitute a committee comprising the following officials, and directed to finalise an Action Plan on recommendations for conservation of Great Indian Bustard: -*

- i. Director General of Forest, MoEF&CC- **Chairperson***
- ii. Additional Director General of Forest (Wildlife), MoEF&CC- **Member Secretary***
- iii. Nominee of Ministry of Power, Govt. of India.*
- iv. Nominee of Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Govt. of India.*
- v. Nominee of Energy Department of Gujarat*
- vi. Nominee of Energy Department of Rajasthan.*

*3. That since its constitution the Committee has been continuously engaging with different stakeholders including the Central Government Ministries of Power and New & Renewable Energy, the Central Electricity Authority, the Forest Departments, Energy Departments, and energy generation/ transmission agencies of the States of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, and has held successive meetings dated 16<sup>th</sup> October 2019, 11<sup>th</sup> Nov, 2019 , 05<sup>th</sup> May, 2020, 03<sup>rd</sup> Nov, 2020 and recently on 17<sup>th</sup> Dec, 2020 in this regard so that all the relevant issues are considered in their full comprehension and a time-bound actionable plan is prepared in the best interest of conservation and development of GIB. It is also to mention that while deliberations have been going on in the Committee meetings, concomitant and significant field action on the ground has also been pursued so that it becomes a matter of priority for all stakeholders, and these conservation and development measures are scaled-up with time.*

*4. That during the meetings of the Committee it was impressed upon by the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India that the main areas of conservation of GIB in western Rajasthan overlaps with one of the main renewable energy hubs of the country. As per inputs provided by the MNRE, the area has been in development as such since 2004 and already major power generation stations based on wind and solar energy totaling around 1500 MW have been commissioned. Although, the area has huge solar and wind power potential, only 2400 MW of additional renewable projects are under execution in that area which will be critical for energy security of the country. This will contribute not only for meeting national target of installing 1,75,000 MW*

renewable capacity by 2022 but also for meeting India's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) under the Paris Climate Agreement to achieve 40 percent of installed electric power capacity from non-fossil sources by 2030. **These concerns were appreciated. However, given the needs of GIB conservation, it ought to be given highest priority, and all feasible action need to be taken to protect, conserve and develop the GIB population in this area. Accordingly, the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change has continually taken up with all the concerned stakeholders in its deliberations so far so that they could appreciate the seriousness and the critical importance of concerted action to protect, conserve and develop GIBs and their habitats within the area of their operation, and start taking concerted action accordingly.** A summary of such issues taken up in the Committee meetings are given in the following paragraphs:

- i. The first meeting of the Committee was convened on 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2019 under the Chairmanship of DGF&SS, MoEF&CC. During the meeting, it was brought to the notice of the committee that environmental clearances are being obtained for the power projects. It was highlighted that the projects which have already been contracted/initiated in the field, it would be difficult to initiate the mitigation like underground cable or aerial bunched cables or cornered conductors as it would amount to revising the project cost and initiating a fresh process for financial clearance. This might lead to the undue delay in execution of important projects of alternate energy. **It was further brought to the notice of the committee that the power-lines passing through GIB arc are of higher voltage and at present there is no technology which is techno-economically feasible for under grounding such high voltage power cables. The power transmission agencies voiced the major issue relating to availability of financial resources for underground of technically feasible segments of the transmission lines. The committee, however, made clear that there is urgent need to have a time bound action plan for the implementation of all the mitigation measures such as under-grounding of power lines, installation of bird diverters and their regular maintenance and monitoring by the power agencies.** The minutes of the Meeting are attached at **Annexure-I.**
- ii. A second meeting of the committee was convened on **11<sup>th</sup> November, 2019.** In the meeting, technical feasibility to have a hybrid power transmission line including underground as well as over ground transmission were discussed. However, the difficulties in maintenance of such hybrid systems and ensuring the uninterrupted supply of electricity without any transmission losses were brought before the committee. It was also informed that it might not be possible to introduce such systems in the existing power lines since most of the work has been completed and cost of the underground lines is 3 to 4 times higher and therefore, non-economic to convert the current

overhead transmission lines into the hybrid transmission lines. The minutes of the Meeting are attached at **Annexure-II**.

- iii. Thereafter, a meeting was convened on **05<sup>th</sup> May 2020** to discuss progress by the relevant agencies for the formulation of the action plans, as well as various steps being taken on the ground by the GIB range states, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Ministry of Power, State Energy Departments of Rajasthan and Gujarat. The minutes of the Meeting are attached at **Annexure-III**.
- iv. The Committee convened another meeting on **03<sup>rd</sup> November, 2020** and each of the recommendation listed in the order of the Hon'ble NGT dated 04.09.2019, and the progress made by different agencies, including on providing the requisite inputs to finalise the action plan was reviewed in detail. Specific directions were given by the Chairman of the Committee to each of the concerned stakeholders in this regard so that the plan could be finalised immediately. The minutes of the meeting are attached at **Annexure-IV**.
- v. A meeting of the Committee was again convened on 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2020. The Committee discussed action taken by various stakeholders on each of the recommendations, and also the draft GIB conservation action plan prepared in consultation with various concerned stakeholders was deliberated during the meeting. Given the unique geography and the land tenure of the area, various constraints that were highlighted included:
  - a. Technical Specifications of bird diverters are required to be finalized by Ministry of Power and Central Electricity Authority (CEA) in a time bound manner. CEA will also review and recommend if bird diverters are to be installed on the earthing wire alone or on all the wires in the transmission line.
  - b. Technical phrases used in Action Plan such as 'critical area', 'priority area' and 'potential area' must be used unambiguously so that clear delineation could be done on the map and on the ground without any overlap so that renewable energy project developers could plan accordingly.
  - c. As GIB potential area covers a very large geographical space, putting absolute restrictions on Renewable Energy projects would be counter-productive, as the area around Desert National Park (DNP) is very crucial for green energy supply of the country as informed by MNRE.
  - d. Under-grounding of transmission lines be taken up on priority as per technical feasibility, while widespread installation of bird diverters may be pursued strongly.
  - e. Various agencies on renewable energy emphatically requested that any restriction on new renewable energy projects should be made prospectively and not retrospectively. They submitted that all those projects for which clearances have been given already may be continued, otherwise this would create serious financial and technical complexities including revision of tariffs as the projects were given go-ahead after a detailed bidding process. Further, under-grounding of already existing power-lines will entail huge financial resource for which funding support is required either from Government or by way of a



- suitable order on tariff by the electricity regulator which will have serious downstream impacts.
- f. Similarly, very large funds and lands are required for voluntary relocation of villages in the Desert National Park and the process itself is highly time consuming to serve a useful purpose in the immediate time period.
  - g. Significant progress has been made towards construction and maintenance of predator proof fencing and GIB enclosures, however, for the system to have permanent benefits, sustainable funding successively over the years is required.
  - h. A proposal for declaration of ESZ around DNP has already been formulated and is ready to be deliberated by the Committee constituted for this purpose by Government of Rajasthan. The Chief Wild Life Warden (CWLW), Rajasthan informed that by including Priority GIB habitats outside DNP in the proposed Eco Sensitive Zones, the boundaries of the proposed ESZ is stretching to hundreds of kilometers away from the DNP which is not a practical solution for effective management, and, therefore, alternative spatial delineation as per need and practical aspects of GIB conservation needs to be reviewed properly.
  - i. Energy agencies submitted that under-grounding of power lines would also entail land acquisition. Timelines need to be fixed and fund requirement and sources of funds need to be ascertained to complete the process. Given the significance of the task, this should be acted on priority.

It was decided during the meeting that the views expressed by the concerned stakeholders are required to be suitably incorporated in the draft action plan. Further, discussion is also required on the draft action plan before it is finalized and submitted to Hon'ble Tribunal.

5. Substantial progress has already been made on the recommendations made by the Wild Life Institute of India (WII). A detailed summary of the actions taken by the various stakeholders on the recommendation cited in para-2 of the Hon'ble NGT order dated 04-09-2019 are at **Annexure-V**.

6. Further, the Ministry has taken up an initiative on conservation breeding of the Great Indian Bustard (GIB) in collaboration with Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra Forest Departments and technical support from Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun. The Ministry with financial support from National Authority for Compensatory Afforestation Funds has sanctioned an outlay of Rs. 33.85 crores for the duration of five years (2016-2021) for the programme titled 'Habitat Improvement and Conservation Breeding of Great Indian Bustard-an integrated approach'. Under the project, the details of the major works done are at **Annexure-VI**.

7. Financial Assistance is also being provided by the Ministry to the Great Indian Bustard range states like Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Karnataka for undertaking works for the conservation and protection of Great Indian Bustard under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme-Development of Wildlife Habitat (CSS-DWH).

8. Gujarat State Forest Department has acquired 5321.09 ha. land from different agencies in the GIB landscape. In addition, 2988.57 ha. land has been acquired under Compensatory Afforestation Scheme. Therefore, collectively 8511.66 ha. of area has been acquired and has been developed as Great Indian Bustard habitat area. Due to the focused efforts of the department, the above said area has been restored as a GIB habitat and is being used by the GIB at present. In last five years 4,898 running meter fencing has been done within Great Indian Bustard habitat. Measures to curb the invasion of *Prosopis Juliflora* has been particularly mentioned in the Recovery Plan. Accordingly, *Prosopis Juliflora* and other unwanted plant species are being uprooted and removed by the department and the area is being restored as grassland. Owing to this effort, till 2019-20 a large patch of 855 ha. of habitat has been restored and the GIB have observed to have started using it. To protect the GIB from predation by feral dogs, sterilization and vaccination programme of dogs is being carried out by the forest department in the 21 villages falling within the Eco-sensitive zone on a regular basis.

9. India submitted a proposal for listing of Great Indian Bustard in Appendix I of Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) during 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP) to the CMS held in Gandhinagar Gujarat from 15<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2020. The proposal was considered and accepted. This will further strengthen the conservation efforts for the Great Indian Bustard as it gets global protection. In addition, the Great Indian Bustard was adopted as the mascot for the CMS COP-13 and named as 'Gibe – the Great'.

10. It is submitted that the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change is fully committed and taking effective measures in addition to steps already taken to strengthen the conservation of Great Indian Bustard in the country.

**11.** It is submitted before the Hon'ble NGT that due to unprecedented situation of COVID-19 in the country and physical restrictions imposed, it has been difficult for various stakeholders, scientists and field staff/ project team to visit the area and carry out field surveys in a time bound manner so that the Action Plan could not be finalized as yet. However, substantial progress has been made and the framework of the Action Plan has already been prepared. The same needs to be now refined and finalised in light of the concerns listed above so that speedy implementation of the Plan could be affected by all the concerned stakeholders. **Therefore, it is humbly requested from Hon'ble Tribunal to kindly grant six months' time to enable the Committee to finalize the Action Plan for GIB conservation as directed in the order dated 04/09/2019 and 20/02/2020, and for this it is ever prayed."**

7. We have duly considered the report and the deliberations of the six-member expert Committee, in consultation with the stake holders.

The proposed action plan which has already been delayed needs to be finalised at the earliest, preferably within two months. Since the main reason for mortality of GIBs is the collisions with power lines laid by the Wind/Solar Energy projects, crisscrossing their paths and undergrounding of transmission lines is not viable for the projects already completed, installation of the bird diverters to prevent such fatalities needs to be undertaken on priority basis expeditiously, preferably within four months. Undergrounding of transmission lines needs to be ensured for all new projects henceforth, as recommended by the six-member expert Committee, by making it a mandatory condition for grant of consents under the Water/Air Acts by the concerned State PCBs which may be overseen by the CPCB and the MoEF&CC. If consent is not required, even then undergrounding of transmission lines may be ensured. While granting such consents, impact of such projects on biodiversity of the area, specially in the context of GIBs, be undertaken. The MoEF&CC/CPCB/State PCBs may take further action as per action plan suggested by the six-member Committee, appointed by this Tribunal.

8. We may now consider IA 333/2020 filed by the National Solar Energy Federation of India (NSEFI) for being heard in the matter. We have heard learned Counsel for the NSEFI and considered its submissions. It is stated that Writ Petition (Civil) No. 838/2019, *M.K. Ajitsinh v. Union of India* is pending in the Hon'ble Supreme Court on the subject for emergency response plan for protection and recovery of the GIBs. The Hon'ble Supreme Court has constituted a three-member Committee as follows:

“1) Director, Bombay Natural History Society, Hornbill House, Mumbai.

2) *Dr. Asad R. Rahmani, former Director of Bombay Natural History Society and Member of the Governing Body of Wetlands International South Asia.*

3) *Dr. Dhananjay Mohan, Chief Conservator of Forests, Wildlife, Admn. Protection & Intelligence, Nainital, Uttarakhand.”*

9. On 18.02.2020, the Hon’ble Supreme Court added following members:

*“(1) Dr. Sunitha Dutta*

*Scientist, Wildlife Institute of India Address:  
Wildlife Institute of India, Chandramana,  
Post Office – 248018, Dehradun, Uttarakhand.  
Telephone: +91 8937074550  
Email: [sutirthadutta@gmail.com](mailto:sutirthadutta@gmail.com).*

*(2) Dr. Thuli Rao,*

*Director, Research & Extension, Andhra Pradesh  
State Biodiversity Board (APSBB)  
Address: Walnut Block, Flat No. 311, Rain Tree Park,  
Guntur-522 508, Andhra Pradesh.  
Telephone: + 91 8500782528, 6305770234  
Email: [drkthulsirao@gmail.com](mailto:drkthulsirao@gmail.com)*

*(3) Dr. Samad Kottur, Lecturer, Govt. PU College*

*Address: #461, “ASHA”, Mahadeshwar  
Bada vane, Hospet-583 201, Karnataka  
Telephone: 9448989263  
Email: [samadkottur@gmail.com](mailto:samadkottur@gmail.com).”*

10. It is submitted that since the Hon’ble Supreme Court has taken cognizance of the matter and notices have been issued to the States/Government authorities, the order of this Tribunal will impact projects for generation of solar and wind energy which will be helpful for generating non-fossil energy to advance Paris Agreement. This prayer is opposed by the Counsel for the Applicant and the MoEF by submitting that directions of this Tribunal will only expedite mitigation measures urgently required and there is no conflict in consideration of matter by the Tribunal with the consideration of the matter by the Hon’ble Supreme Court.

11. We do not find any conflict in the order of this Tribunal and consideration by the Hon'ble Supreme Court. There is also no conflict with the projects for generation of non-fossil energy. Protection of critically endangered species like GIBs cannot be ignored on the specious plea put forward by the NSEFI.

12. In view of above, we dispose of this application with a direction that necessary steps be taken for protecting critically endangered GIBs by installing the diverters on all existing powerlines and undergrounding the new powerlines, as suggested by the six-member Committee of the MoEF&CC, as directed in para 7 above. Monitoring of compliance be done, preferably by the Wildlife Institute of India atleast twice in a year. Needless to say, the directions of this Tribunal are subject to further directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the matter pending, noted above.

The application is disposed of.

A copy of this order be forwarded to the MoEF&CC, Wildlife Institute of India, CPCB and Maharashtra, Gujarat and Rajasthan State PCBs for compliance by e-mail.

Adarsh Kumar Goel, CP

S.K. Singh, JM

Dr. S.S. Garbyal, EM

Dr. Nagin Nanda, EM

December 23, 2020  
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(IA No. 333/2020)  
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