

Minutes of the third meeting of the Expert Group for the Formulation of Guidelines for Management of River Fronts through the River Regulation Zone (RRZ)

The third meeting of the Expert Group for the formulation of guidelines for management of river fronts through River Regulation Zone (RRZ) was held on 30.03.2012 under the Chairmanship of Shri. J.M. Mauskar, Special Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests at 3.00 PM at Society of Integrated Coastal Management (SICOM), 9-Institutional Area, Lodhi Road, New Delhi. List of the participants is at **Annexure – I**.

2. The Chairman welcomed the members to the third meeting of the above Expert Group and Special Invitees. Prof. C.J. Chakrapani, Member, Expert Group and Dr. Latha Anantha, Special Invitee could not attend the meeting.

3. The Chairman initiated the discussion on the agenda. Since there were no comments on the draft minutes of the second meeting of the Expert Group held on 23.01.2012, the Committee approved the minutes of the second meeting.

4. Shri R. C. Trivedi, National Institute of Ecology provided a brief background of the draft River Conservation Zone (RCZ) Notification and made a presentation on its salient features including classification of River zones proposed, prohibition of activities in RCZ areas, procedure for environmental clearance and enforcement issues etc. He said that the suggestions and comments made by the Expert Group members and Special Invitees have been incorporated in the draft RCZ Notification.

5. Expert Group members and Special Invitees discussed various aspects of the proposed RCZ Notification. Prof. Brij Gopal suggested modification in the preamble. He also suggested that no permanent structures should be allowed inside the embankment of the river. Shri Manoj Misra, Yamuna Jiye Abhiyaan emphasized the importance of taking measures for the protection and improvement of the river water quality as per the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. Shri. Yogesh Dwivedi, Additional Director, Department of Environment, Chennai, Tamil Nadu informed the Committee that industries are not allowed within one km. of the river in Tamil Nadu.

6. Ms. Mira Mehrishi, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests observed that since water is a State subject, it was important to be certain about the correct legal position before finalizing the proposed notification.

7. Shri Rajiv Gauba, Joint Secretary, MoEF suggested that discussion on the RCZ should be carried forward in consultation with the concerned stakeholders particularly the States. The Ministry of Water Resources, Ministry of Urban Development and Ministry of Rural Development should also be invited since the Notification significantly involves their areas of the work.

8. After detailed discussion, the following decisions were taken:

- I. As an immediate outcome of the Expert Group deliberations, a "Concept Paper" on River Conservation Zone (RCZ) should be prepared. The concept paper should include the necessity and rationale for river regulation, suggest various options for permitted activities, regulation and prohibited activities in the river stretches, and options for legal administrative and other measures.
- II. The concept paper will be discussed with the stakeholders and State Governments for further action.

9. It was decided that the next meeting would be held in the 3rd week of April, 2012.

ANNEXURE-I

List of the participants who attended the third meeting of the Expert Group for the Formulation of Guidelines for Management of River Fronts through the River Regulation Zone (RRZ) held on 30th March, 2012 at 3:00 P.M. in SICOM

1. Shri J. M. Mauskar, Special Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests E-mail: jm.mauskar@nic.in
2. Ms. Meera Mehrishi, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests E-mail: m.mehrishi@nic.in
3. Shri Rajiv Gauba, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests E-mail: r.gauba@nic.in
4. Shri Yogesh Dwivedi, Additional Director, Department of Environment, Panagal Building, Saidapet, Chennai, T.N. E-mail: tndoe@nic.in
5. Shri Brij gopal, 41-B, Shivashakti Nagar, Jagatpura Road, Jaipur-17, Rajasthan. E-mail: brij44@gmail.com.
6. Shri Manoj Misra, Convener, Yamuna Jiye Abhiyaan Secretariat, 178-F, Pocket -4, Mayur Vihar-I, Delhi – 110091. E-mail: yamunajiye@gmail.com
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