MINUTES OF 36th MEETING OF SEAC- KERALA HELD ON 31st OCTOBER 2014, at HARITHASREE HALL, Dept. of ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The 36th meeting of SEAC-Kerala was held on 31st October, 2014. The meeting commenced at 9.00 am and the following members (Annexed at the end) attended the meeting. Chairman, SEAC welcomed all the members and made a briefing on the status of proposals appraised by SEAC during its tenure. As Chairman of the First State Committee of SEAC, he expressed his happiness, sincere gratitude and proud of his esteemed committee members for their sincerity, commitments, tremendous support and cooperation extended throughout the tenure of the committee. Thereafter, the following agenda items were taken up for consideration:

Item No. 36.06

Environmental clearance for removal of *ordinary earth/sand* in Re. Sy. Nos. 214/1 and 214/2 at Nadavayal Village, Kaniyambetta Panchayath, Sulthan Bathery Taluk, Wayanad District, Kerala by Mr. M.K. Aboobacker & Mr. P. Hashim and, judgment of the Honourable High Court of Kerala in W.P. (C) No. 12495 of 2014 (J) (File No. 350/SEIAA/KL/2251/2014) (Former Item No. 30.39,31.70)

The item is DEFERRED. As per the direction of 31st SEIAA, a subcommittee has visited the field. The application is for the removal of sand from a land located adjacent to the river and not ordinary earth. In the field visit it is found that extensive paddy fields exist adjacent to the site and the water table is close to the surface. Considering the proximity to the river, meandering nature of the river and extensive paddy fields in the vicinity, extraction of sand must be done with extreme caution. Hence the item can be considered only after conducting an impact assessment study by a competent agency.

<u>Item No. 36.19</u>

Environmental clearance for removal of ordinary earth in Block No. 14 Sy. Nos. 2/1 and 2/2 at Kaniyaambetta Village and Panchayath, Vythiri Taluk, Wayanad District, Kerala by Sri. George K.P. (File No. 490/SEIAA/KL/3442/2014) (Former Item No. 34.20)

The item is DEFERRED. As decided in SEAC, a subcommittee has visited the field. In the field visit it is found that the water table is close to the surface. Considering the proximity to the river and meandering nature of the river, extraction of sand must

be done with extreme caution. Hence the item can be considered only after the impact assessment study by a competent agency.

<u>Item No. 36.24</u>

Environmental clearance for removal of ordinary earth in Sy. No. 329/1 at Muttil North Village and Panchayath, Vythiri Taluk, Wayanad District, Kerala by Sri. Shihabudheen (File No. 557/SEIAA/KL/4118/2014) (Former Item No. 34.58)

The item is DEFERRED. As decided in SEAC, a subcommittee has visited the field. In the field visit it is found that the plot is a part of flood plain of major stream that joins the Panamaram puzha. The river bed is about 2m below the surface. Considering the proximity to the river presence of agricultural lands in the vicinity and water table at shallow level extraction of sand must be done with extreme caution. Hence the item can be considered only after the impact assessment study by a competent agency.

Item No. 36.25

Environmental clearance for removal of ordinary earth in Sy. No. 427/2A 2A at Ambalawayal Village and Panchayath, Batheri Taluk, Wayanad District, Kerala by Smt. Paruchettichar (File No. 558/SEIAA/KL/4119/2014) (Former Item No. 34.59)

The item is DEFERRED. As decided in SEAC, a subcommittee has visited the field. In the field visit it is found that the site is a levelled land falling in the wide flat bottom valley supporting with mixed landuse. A stream that originates from the rocky hills near Ambalavayal drains the valley to the west. The stream bed is lower than the valley floor. Water table is close to the surface at the time of investigation. Considering the above terrain parameters and the presence of cultivable land extraction of sand must be done with extreme caution. Hence the item can be considered only after the impact assessment study by a competent agency.

Item No. 36.26

Environmental clearance for removal of ordinary earth in Sy. No. 427/ 2A2A at Ambalawayal Village and Panchayath, Batheri Taluk, Wayanad District, Kerala by Sri. Vijayakumar (File No. 559/SEIAA/KL/4120/2014) (Former Item No. 34.60)

The item is DEFERRED. As decided in SEAC, a subcommittee has visited the field. In the field visit it is found that the site is a level land falling in the wide flat bottom valley supporting with mixed landuse. A stream that originates from the rocky hills near Ambalavayal drains the valley to the west. The stream bed is lower than the valley floor. Water table is close to the surface at the time of investigation. Considering the cultivable land in the vicinity extraction of sand must be done with extreme caution. Hence the item can be considered only after the impact assessment study by a competent agency.

Item No. 36.27

Environmental clearance for removal of ordinary earth in Sy. No. 329/2 at Muttil North Village and Panchayath, Vythiri Taluk, Wayanad District, Kerala by Sri. Sunny and others (File No. 564/SEIAA/KL/4168/2014) (Former Item No. 34.62)

The item is DEFERRED. As per the direction of 31st SEIAA, a subcommittee has visited the field. In the field visit it is found that the plot is a part of flood plain of major stream that joins the Panamaram puzha. The river bed is about 2m below the surface. Considering the proximity to the river and meandering nature of the river extraction of sand must be done with extreme caution. Hence the item can be considered only after the impact assessment study by a competent agency.

<u>Item No. 36.07</u>

EC application for removal of ordinary earth from Sy. No. 296/7 at Kanayannur Village, Chottanikkara Panchayath, Kanayannur Taluk, Ernakulam District, Kerala by Mr. Dennis M. Paul (File No. 358/SEIAA/KL/2514/2014) (Former Item No. 31.05)

Based on the field visit report of the subcommittee the item was RECOMMENDED for issuance of Environmental Clearance on usual conditions for mining of brick earth/ordinary earth stipulated in O.M. No. L-11011/47/2011-IA.II(M) dt. 24.06.2013 of Ministry of Environment and Forests, for removal of 7000 m³ of ordinary earth from 38.4 ares of land comprised in Sy. No. 296/7 at Kanayannur Village, Chottanikkara Panchayath, Kanayannur Taluk, Ernakulam District, Kerala for the levelling the land under the following specific conditions.

- 1. The earth must be removed in a stepped manner taking the sloping nature of the area. There is no need to flatten the entire area.
- 2. The height of the cut faces should not be more than 3 m. The safety of the steep cut faces must be ensured by providing sufficient support mechanism.
- 3. Excavation and removal of earth should not expose white clay rich layers.
- 4. The storm water from the entire plot must be conserved through appropriate rain water harvesting structures and should not be let out into open drains.

Item No. 36.13

Environmental clearance for removal of ordinary earth in Sy. No. 381/9 at Kottarakkara Village, Kottarakkara Taluk, Kollam District, Kerala by Mr. Thomas (File No. 456/SEIAA/KL/3178/2014) (Former Item No. 33.34,35.11) (Discussion with proponent)

The item was DELISTED since the project proponent was absent irrespective of the chances given to appear before the committee for hearing.