

MINUTES OF THE 4TH MEETING OF RECONSTITUTED WEST BENGAL STATE COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY (WBSCZMA) HELD ON 03.02.2020 IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

Shri Prabhat Kumar Mishra, Principal Secretary, Department of Environment and Chairman, West Bengal Coastal Zone Management Authority, chaired the meeting. The list of all the participants is attached herewith.

Advisor, West Bengal Tourism Development Corporation Ltd. gave a power point presentation at the meeting on behalf of the Tourism department. He stated that the tower at Henry Island is required to provide basic amenities like washrooms and cloth changing rooms near beach to tourists and to provide security to tourists from natural calamity, rough weather and anti social elements. Women folks do not have any other facility for changing clothes as the nearest wash-room facility from sea beach is approx. 1.5 km away. He also submitted that the Watch Tower at Henry Island beach has been constructed with a single shade, with smallest possible dimensions for providing basic amenities to tourists. The Watch Tower is made up of cement concrete at the fringe of forest so that it could withstand the high winds from sea. This Watch Tower will be handed over to either forest department or Police department for stationing security personnel.

He requested West Bengal State Coastal Zone Regulatory Authority (WBSCZMA) to agree to these urgent public welfare measures at Henry Island beach. Law Officer, Tourism Department also submitted that as NGT has directed "The State Coastal Zone Management Authority shall take steps in this regard as per the relevant law." the WBSCZMA may pass necessary order.

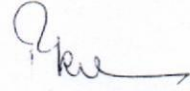
The Principal Secretary, Environment Department read Paragraph 17 of the order of Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench dated 09.07.2019 in O.A.473/2018/EZ (earlier O.A. 20/2014/EZ) Tribunal on its own Motion regarding Sunderbans Forests –Vs- Union of India & Ors.) which states that "*The tower said to be a cafeteria was in fact found to have been constructed on the beach ostensibly for protection of tourists but the structure along with a temporary wooden structure being used by the State Disaster Management Authority have been raised without taking CRZ clearance although it falls within CRZ I (A) area. The photograph of the tower placed before us by the Amicus Curiae shows that far from it being a tower, it is a two storeyed building which obviously cannot be used for protection of tourist. The Tower, therefore, also is liable to be demolished as being an*

illegal structure alongwith its extensions.... The State Coastal Zone Management Authority shall take steps in this regard as per the relevant law."

It was specifically pointed out by the expert members of SCZMA that according to CRZ notification, 2011 it is explicitly stated all projects attracting the notification shall seek **prior** clearance of SCZMA.

In the present case, the tower at Henry Island falls within CRZ-IA area which has been constructed without any CRZ clearance.

After taking into consideration all the aspects, the SCZMA is of the opinion that being an unauthorized structure, the tower at Henry Island is liable to be demolished as pointed out by Hon'ble NGT in its order mentioned and quoted above.



Principal Secretary

Department of Environment &

Chairman

West Bengal Coastal Zone Management Authority