

Stakeholder Consultation near Ghats during the Screening & Scoping Stage

As a prelude to screening and scoping, numbers of field visits were made by the experts of the EIA portal. Findings in the wake of consultations with the stakeholders, highlighted elsewhere in the foregoing chapters, form the seed of the consultation report. From the consultations, it is gathered that not a single water vessel in this part of the country is equipped with any modern gadgets with closed sanitary and waste water systems with coverage for any oil or other emulsions, noise covered and sulphur free diesel consuming engines.

From the findings of the consultations, an inference is drawn to suggest that the awareness about the importance of environmental safeguards during project implementation and thereafter, is seen lacking among the stakeholders including the project authority.

During field visits, local people were consulted regarding the impact of the work on the environment. It was observed that the fringe communities have very little awareness on the quality of environment and they are more concerned about the speedy development of the river terminal. Even when the structural interventions like piers of staging in intake point of water supply project or of RCC jetty, bridges, foundation sub structures of the towers in the river or remains of abandoned hydraulic structures pose environmental threats to IWT, inviting vessel accidents, none of the stakeholders are seen worried.

As a matter of fact, the other day (05/09/2018) one motorized 'bhutbhuti' plying between Guwahati and North Guwahati remained stranded in the mid Brahmaputra due to engine failure but the vessel was later broken into pieces after hitting the piers of JICA funded staging at the intake point of North Guwahati Water Supply Project under construction. From consultations at jetty sites, the emerging focus is around the structural interventions created by state WRD along the rivers to address the river training needs.

Porcupine screens laid on the river bed in the proximity of a river terminal are very active threats to inland water vessels frequenting the Ghats. From consultations around the issues of the kind, it is suggested that there should be strong coordination among the stakeholders to know each other's activities at jetty or along the river route to avoid mishap. Given that long stretches of the Brahmaputra and Barak River are vulnerable to river bank erosion; there is ample scope for river training works at terminals to be executed by state WRD and IWT in convergence mode for sustainable and better results.



Consulation At North Guwahati Ghat



Consulation At Fakirganj Ghat



Consulation At Aphalamukh Ghat



Consulation At GGG Ghat



Consulation At Medartary Ghat