



**SOLAR POWER DEVELOPERS ASSOCIATION**

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**SPDA/PG/2021/253**

**January 11, 2021**

**To,**

**Shri Bhanu Pratap Yadav**

**Joint Secretary**

Ministry of New and Renewable Energy

GoI, Block-14, CGO Complex, New Delhi

**Subject: Request for clarifications on the order issued by National Green Tribunal (NGT) dated 23.12.2020 against application No- 385/2019 in respect to mitigation measures for protection of Great Indian Bustard (GIB).**

Dear Sir,

Greetings from Solar Power Developers Association.

This is regarding the order issued by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT) dated 23.12.2020 against application No- 385/2019 in which NGT has directed concerned authorities to take certain necessary steps for protecting critically endangered Great Indian Bustard (GIB) species based on the recommendation of the 6-member committee.

Hence, in this regard, we request you to kindly provide clarifications on the issues mentioned below which are critical for Renewable Developers: -

**1. Clarification of GIB area**

We understand that 6-member committee constituted by the Hon'ble NGT has recommended that "Critical / Priority area" to be considered for the mitigation plan of undergrounding of 33 kV, cables and bird diverters for cables above 33 kV. These preventive measures will be implemented to protect the Great Indian Bustard habitat. At present, there is no clarity about the areas in which this NGT order will be applicable.

**2. New Projects Definition.**

"New projects" term is used in order, however, there is no clarity regarding its definition and the projects that will be included under "New projects".

**3. Undergrounding of Power lines.**

The dedicated transmission lines from upcoming projects will be undergrounded as preventive measure and we understand that six-member committee has recommended undergrounding of power lines will be applicable to lines having voltage



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level of 33 kV and below. However, there is no clarity in this order regarding voltage level of power lines which will be undergrounded for new projects.

In addition to the above issues, referred order contains few of the Annexures; which are not available in the public domain. The same may be provided for better clarity.

**Request:**

In view of preceding facts, to avoid any ambiguity related to GIB area which needs to be considered for new and existing projects. We request you to kindly clarify that

1. The NGT order is applicable on the critical / Priority area only as per the recommendations of the 6 members committee.
2. The definition of "New projects" and that new projects term is applicable for only critical/Priority area.
3. Regarding the voltage level of power lines which will be undergrounded for new projects.

In addition to above issues, the referred order contains few of the Annexures, which are not available in the public domain. We request the same may be provided for better clarity.

We shall be happy to provide additional details as may be required by you. Looking forward to a positive consideration.

Yours Sincerely,

Praveen Golash

Joint Secretary- SPDA

Copy to:

1. Shri Indu Shekhar Chaturvedi, Secretary, MNRE, New Delhi
2. Shri Rameshwar Prasad Gupta, Secretary, MOEF & CC, New Delhi