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NGT clears
Yettinahole
project

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The National Green Tribunal on Friday allowed the construction of the Yettinahole drinking water project in Sakleshpur taluk in Hassan district, which aims to provide drinking water to drought-hit Tumakuru, Chikballapur and Kolar districts.

The green panel, headed by Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel, in its detailed order on Friday said that the project could be allowed since it was to provide drinking water to parched areas of eastern parts of Karnataka.

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Yettinahole
project gets
NGT clearance

Forest dept, MoEF directed
to monitor the project

NEW DELHI: The National Green Tribunal on Friday allowed the construction of the Yettinahole drinking water project in Sakleshpur taluk in Hassan district, which aims to provide drinking water to drought-hit Tumakuru, Chikballapur and Kolar districts.

The green panel, headed by Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel, in its detailed order said that the project could be allowed since it was to provide drinking water to parched areas of eastern parts of Karnataka.

While dismissing all the petitions seeking to scrap the project, the green panel directed the Karnataka Forest Department and the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) to monitor the project and take action against the project proponent in case of any violations.

"If they (Forest Department and MOEF) want any further study to be conducted while the project is in progress taking into consideration the impact on the Western Ghats, they are at liberty to do so at the stage of implementation of the project for protecting the environment," the order said.

Though the NGT had given permission for the project with some conditions on October 6, 2017, before pronouncing a detailed order, the panel's expert member Ranjan Chatterjee retired. Since the new expert member assumed office, the NGT again allowed all the parties to place their arguments before the bench and pronounced the detailed order.

The order also quoted the Forest Department, which had said the project was not falling within the prohibited distance of any National Park or any wildlife sanctuary and only minimal diversion of forest land was required.

Several petitioners alleged that the project work was started by the Karnataka government without getting the required permission from various statutory bodies and is coming up in the ecologically sensitive Western Ghats.

According to the proposal, the state government wanted to lift the water from Netravathi river from Yettinahole region in the Western Ghats and supply it to parched districts of eastern parts of Karnataka.

DH News Service