

utility building for further damping of noise during operation phase.

23. The environmental impact assessment has confirmed the chosen site, indicating that there will be minimal impact that can be easily managed. More than one study was conducted and a feasibility report for setting up the underground laboratory of India based Neutrino Observatory in the Theni region was submitted as early as in October, 2009 by the Geological Survey of India. The Institute of Mathematical Sciences (IMSc), Chennai requested M/s. Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON) to conduct an Environment Impact Assessment study of the proposed India-based Neutrino Observatory (INO) project site at Pottipuram village, Uthamapalayam Taluk, and Theni District of Tamil Nadu.. Though this was not required as the project falls under item 8(a), SACON carried out a rapid ecological impact assessment study. Although a Public Hearing is not required for an 8a Category B (20,000m² to 1,50,000m²) project, a public meeting was sought and held by the Theni Collector on 08/07/2010 at Ramakrishnapuram. It was attended by about 1200 residents from nearby villages as also the local MLA and the Pottipuram Panchayat President. The Collector