

Wildlife Board nod needed for Noida Park, Court told

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NEW DELHI: The Centre on Thursday informed the Supreme Court that environmental clearance from the National Board for Wildlife was essential for the ongoing Noida Park project taken up by the Mayawati Government.

A three-Judge Bench of Chief Justice S.H. Kapadia,

Justice Aftab Alam and Justice K.S. Radhakrishnan while reserving verdict on the petition challenging the Noida Park project had asked the Centre to file an affidavit indicating whether clearance was required from the NBW.

In its affidavit, the Centre said the Union Environment Ministry had issued an order on December 2, 2009, stating that projects falling within 10

km from the boundaries of national parks, wildlife sanctuaries and tiger reserves would be subject to NBW clearance. This order would be applicable to the pending Noida Park project also.

The affidavit said "if the Expert Appraisal Committee recommends the project, the clearance for the project would be subject to the condition, viz, "while granting en-

vironmental clearance to projects involving wildlife habitats located within 10 km from the boundaries of national parks and wildlife sanctuaries, a specific condition shall be stipulated that environmental clearance is subject to recommendation of the standing committee of NBW."

In July the Centre had filed an affidavit stating that it was

unable to grant clearance to the project until and unless all the conditions laid down by Bombay Natural History Society in its report dated July 28 and the conditions laid down by the Expert Appraisal Committee were satisfied.

It had said "given the complex nature of the project and its adverse impact on surrounding bio-diversity and its proximity to Okhla bird sanc-

tuary, it will not grant clearance".

It said that the stay order should continue to be in force until the State Government had first discharged all the measures required, including the designation of the Eco Sensitive Zones within the State and the adjoining boundaries within which no construction activity could be permitted.