

NGT complaint over HT towers at Mrugavani

Mar 7, 2022, 04.05 AM IST

Hyderabad: A complaint has been filed with the National Green Tribunal (NGT) against the laying of high tension electric transmission towers cutting through Mrugavani National Park in Chilkur in the city. Environmentalists Donti Narasimha Reddy and Mahesh Mamindla filed a complaint alleging that it would harm the wildlife in the national park.

Speaking to TOI, Donti Narasimha Reddy said, “They could have bypassed the national park or laid underground cable instead of high tension cables. The electromagnetic waves from the cables will impact the wildlife adversely. They are claiming 1800 trees are being cut, but it would be more than that. The TSTransco staff has not done environmental impact assessment correctly. The forest department has given permission without studying in depth.”

He added, “ORR has already divided the reserve forest abetting the park and curtailed movement of wildlife and now the high tension wires.”

A 400kV sub-station is being laid at Rayadurg to cater a load of 500 MW in IT SEZ and realty sector in and around Hi-Tec City.

“TSTransco has studied three routes and considered a stretch to minimise the forest land requirement. There are no other possible routes. Underground cable is not technically viable. The termination of 400kV UG cable requires around 1000 square meters switchyard on both the sides, which is not feasible. Further, a maximum 3 km UG cable can be laid and this is laid from 400kV sub-station to ORR. There is no scope for UG cable,” said Transco officials.