

Activists, fishermen oppose LNG terminal at Kakinada

OUR BUREAU

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Environmental activists, social activists and representatives of fishermen have opposed the establishment of an LNG terminal by the AP Gas Development Corporation.

At a public hearing here on Thursday, activists voiced their opposition. They said the environmental impact assessment (EIA) report was incomplete and ignored many vital aspects.

'Misleading'

The proposed LNG terminal would cause extensive damage to the eco system around Kakinada, especially Hope Island which stands as a bulwark against cyclones protecting the Kakinada town.

The activists said Hope Is-

land was shown in the EIA report as a reserve forest, which was factually incorrect, as the island formed part of the Coringa wildlife sanctuary. T Swami Naicker, Advocate, said it was shown in the EIA report that there were no residents on the Hope Island, but in fact there were quite a few fishermen families living on the island. He said the report ignored the socio-economic factors as well as ecological factors. He added that the project should not be taken up based on such a report.

VS Sastry, another activist, said the proposed LNG terminal was too close to the Kakinada town for comfort and safety aspects were ignored while preparing the report. There were no risk management plans mentioned and

therefore it was incomplete and misleading, he alleged.

Safety assured

Representatives of fishermen said the terminal would cause large-scale eco damage and destruction of fisheries resources off the Kakinada bay, for which it should be given up, they pleaded.

S Narayana, MD of AP Gas Development Corporation, explained that all steps would be taken to make the project as eco-friendly as possible. The capacity of the terminal would be 5 million tonnes per annum and it was proposed to expend ₹1,800 crores on it. There were also a few who said the project should be taken up with requisite pollution control measures and safety standards.