

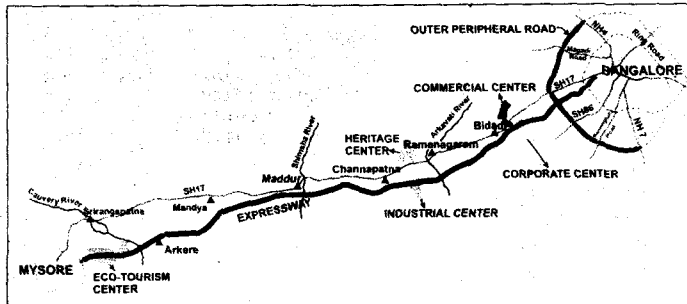
# Hearing on environment clearance today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

**Bangalore, March 8:** Things have finally started to move for Nandi Infrastructure Corridor Enterprises Limited (NICE), the company that will build the Bangalore-Mysore Expressway. Boggled down by controversies and bureaucratic redtape -- the group -- after much hue and cry has been sanctioned land, which will be leased by the State Government at Rs 10 per acre per year.

And now, the group will face the Pollution Control Board (PCB) on Thursday for a final environmental clearance.

## CITY-MYSORE EXPRESSWAY



In a public hearing at Yavanika here, the Nice group will face the PCB as well as nominated representatives from Urb-

an and Rural districts.

This will be followed by another round on March 13 for Mandya district and Mysore

on March 15. These are the four districts covered by the expressway project.

NICE won a public interest litigation at the Supreme Court against a writ petition contending that the project was environmentally unsafe.

Considering this public hearing is just a 'formality', sources in the Government say this will be a cakewalk for the company.

NICE has been thorough with its homework. "We are actually using 91 per cent of dry/waste land for the road," explains Ashok Kheny, Managing Director, NICE.

"The rest of it comprises 8 per cent of wet land and 1 per cent garden land -- which means the land next to the rivers," he adds.

The company, however, will relocate the forests and develop a green belt along the road.

The Pollution Board will also ensure that the project does not add to any air, water or noise pollution.

With a 'no objection certificate' from the Board, the next hurdle is to work out the resettlement and rehabilitation packages for land-owners along the project, with the Government and individual parties.