

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

WESTERN ZONE BENCH, PUNE

IN

ORIGINAL APPLICATION No. 54 of 2022

IN THE MATTER OF:

DATTATRAY PHALKE

.....APPLICANT

VERSUS

MoEFCC&ors. .

.....RESPONDENT

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WESTERN ZONE BENCH, PUNE**

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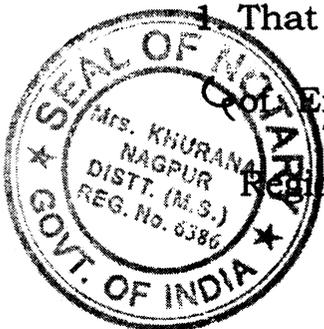
.....RESPONDENT

**REPLY AFFIDAVIT ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT No.1 i.e
(MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & CLIMATE
CHANGE, NEW DELHI)**

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:

I, Surender Gugloth S/o, Shankar Gugloth, aged about 37 years, currently working as Scientist 'E' in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Integrated Regional Office, Nagpur, do hereby solemnly affirm and state as under: -

That I, in my official capacity of Scientist 'E' in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Integrated Regional Office, Nagpur i.e. Respondent No.1 in the above



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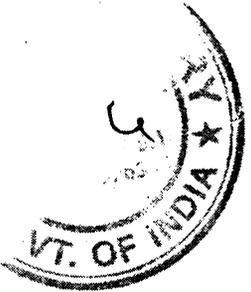
mentioned matter, am conversant with the facts and circumstances of the case on the basis of official records, and as such authorized and competent to swear this affidavit.

2. It is submitted at the very outset that the Respondent No.1 denies each averment and/or submission made in the application which is contrary to and inconsistent with the averments made and facts stated in the present reply. It is submitted that the nothing stated in the application may be deemed to have been admitted by the Respondent No.1 unless and until the same is expressly admitted in the present reply.
3. That a short affidavit is being filed by the answering respondent at this stage and craves leave and liberty to file a Reply Affidavit to the aforesaid Petition, as and when required.
4. That the applicant is alleging the illegal mining activity done by Respondent No.6- Rajendrasinh Bhamboo Infra Pvt. Ltd. (Project Proponent) on Gat No. 41 and 42, Village Devdari, Taluka Kalamnuri, District Hingoli and Gat No. 113, Village Bhosi, Taluk Kalamnuri, District Hingoli. It is alleged that



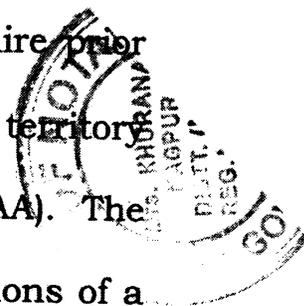
the Project Proponent has not deliberately obtained prior Environmental Clearance (EC) for the impugned project for having excavated more than 4,50,000 Brass (one brass equal to 2.831 cubic meters) of Stone, Murom, Sand, etc., and has carried out illegal mining activities at the impugned project. Therefore, Project Proponent is liable to be levied the Exemplary Environmental Compensation in terms of the formula derived by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in Original Application No. 593 of 2017 in the matter of Paryavaran Suraksha Samiti & Anr. V. Union of India &Ors. for undertaking mining activities at the impugned project.

5. That, as per the order passed by this Hon'ble Tribunal on 20.12.2022 in the present application, a chronological narration was given regarding the circular of the State of Maharashtra dated 12.12.2013 and subsequent clarification order issued by the State of Maharashtra i.e. 24.03.2022 in pursuance to the NGT order dated 17.02.2022. The legal status as of now is that *"no Environmental Clearance would be required for seeking temporary permit for excavation of minor minerals as that would be required only in cases of*



quarry leases". The bench has asked for the clarification regarding the Answering respondent regarding the rule position.

6. That it is submitted that respondent Ministry issued Environment Impact Assessments (herein after referred as "EIA") Notification dated 14th September, 2006 which requires certain projects to obtain prior Environmental Clearance ("EC") before any construction work in case of new projects or expansion and modernization of existing projects or activities. The Schedule to the Notification details the categories or projects or activities which require prior environmental clearance.
7. That all projects and activities are broadly categorized into two categories - Category "A" and Category "B", based on the potential impacts on spatial extent and human health and natural and man-made resources.
8. That it is further submitted that all projects or activities included as Category 'B' in the Schedule will require prior environmental clearance from the State/Union territory Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA). The SEIAA shall base its decision on the recommendations of a



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State or Union territory level Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC) as to be constituted for in this notification.

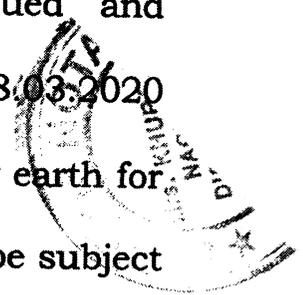
9. That it is submitted that the Hon'ble Apex Court vide its order dated 27.02.2012 in Special Leave Petition (C) No.19628-19629 of 2009, in the matter of "*Deepak Kumar etc. Vs. State of Haryana and Others etc*" has ordered that prior environmental clearance has now become mandatory for mining of minor minerals irrespective of the area of mining lease. The area of less than five hectare must also be brought into purview of EIA Notification, 2006 so that prior Environmental Clearance is made mandatory for mining activity for less than five hectare of lease area. The copy of the judgment order dated 27.02.2012 in Special Leave Petition (C) No.19628-19629 of 2009, in the matter of "*Deepak Kumar etc. Vs. State of Haryana and Others etc*" is annexed herein and marked as **ANNEXURE R1/1**.

10. That the exemption to the EC shall only be as per the notification S.O 1224(E) dated 28.03.2020 Appendix IX which states the "*Exemption of certain cases from requirement of Environment Clearance*". There are 13 cases which shall not require prior environmental clearance.



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Clause 13 of the notification exempts for "*activities declared by the State Government under legislations or rules as non-mining activity.*" The copy of the notification S.O. 1224 (E) dated 28.03.2020 is annexed herein and marked as **ANNEXURE R1/2.**

11. That the answering respondent issued an Office Memorandum (O.M) F.No 3-70/2020-IA.III(141127) dated 08.08.2022 regarding the "*Clarification on the applicability of EIA Notification 2006 for excavation of Ordinary Earth from borrow area for linear projects*". The said OM is in pursuance to judgment passed by Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench in the matter of *Noble M. Paikada vs. Union of India &ors. dated 28.10.2020.* As per the judgment, exemption from the environment clearance as per the Ministry's notification S.O. 1224 (E) dated 28.03.2020 should strike balance and should not be a blanket exemption. Therefore, the said OM was issued and exemption from EC as per the notification dated 28.03.2020 for extraction or sourcing or borrowing of ordinary earth for linear projects such as roads, pipelines etc" shall be subject to Standard Operating procedure (SOP) as given in the OM.
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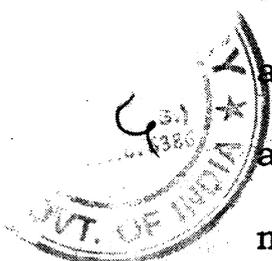
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Copy of the Office Memorandum F.No 3-70/2020-IA.III(141127) dated 08.08.2022 is marked and annexed herein as **ANNEXURE R1/3**

12. That as per the provision EIA notification, 2006 and it's subsequent amendments, and various court orders prior environmental clearance is mandatory for mining of any mineral other than those which are exempted vide notification dated 28.03.2020.

13. That the Answering respondent vide notification S.O. 1886 (E) dated 20.04.2022 states that environmental clearances of all minor mineral shall be dealt at State level irrespective of mine lease area. Copy of the Notification S.O. 1886 (E) dated 20.04.2022 is marked and annexed herein as **ANNEXURE R1/4**.

14. It is respectfully submitted that State Department of Mines and Geology is the nodal authority in the State for dealing with the allotment of mining leases under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act (MMDR Act) and is entrusted with the enforcement and regulation of mining operations in a State including illegal mining. Further, the State Government is empowered under Section

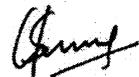


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23 C of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act 1957(MMDR Act) to make rules for prevention of illegal mining, transportation and storage of minerals and the State Department of Mines & Geology is the nodal authority in the state for dealing with the allotment of mining leases under the MMDR Act and is entrusted with the enforcement and regulation of mining operations in a State.

15. That it is humbly submitted that, the State Pollution Control Board is the nodal authority in the State for dealing with cases related to pollution or environment management coming under the purview of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and the Environment Protection Act 1986.

16. That, in view of the aforementioned facts and circumstances, this Hon'ble Tribunal may kindly be pleased to pass appropriate order(s).



DEPONENT

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VERIFICATION

Verified at Nagpur on this day 3 of February 2023 that the contents of this affidavit based on official record(s) maintained and information available in the office are true and correct, no part of it is false and nothing has been concealed there from.

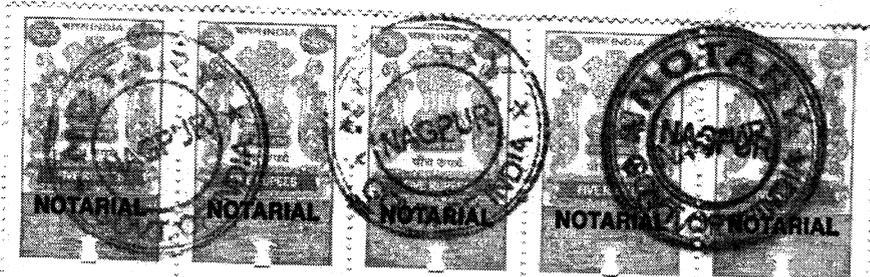
NOTARIAL REG
ENTRY No. 4281
DATE 3/2/2023

[Signature]
DEPONENT

SEAL OF NOTARY
Mrs. KHURANA
NAGPUR
DIST. (M.S.)
REG. No. 6386
GOVT. OF INDIA

SWORN BEFORE ME ON THIS 3 DAY OF Feb 20 23 AT NAGPUR BY SHRI / SMT. / Ku. Surender Gauglath R/o NAGPUR WHO HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED BY SHRI / SMT. Arundhati Roy ADVOCATE, NAGPUR

[Signature]
NOTARY
GOVT. OF INDIA
Nagpur (M.S.) INDIA



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Annexure R1/1

REPORTABLE

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

CIVIL APPELLATE JURISDICTION

I.A. Nos.12-13 of 2011

IN

SPECIAL LEAVE PETITION (C) NO. 19628-19629 OF 2009

Deepak Kumar etc.

...Petitioners

Versus

State of Haryana and Others etc.

...Respondents

WITH

SLP(C) Nos. 729-731/2011, 21833/2009, 12498-499/2010, SLP(C) CC... 16157/2011 & CC 18235/2011

ORDER

K. S. Radhakrishnan, J.

I.A. Nos. 12-13 of 2011 are allowed. SLP (C) Nos.12498-12499 of 2010 be detagged and be listed after two weeks.

The Department of Mines and Geology, Government of Haryana issued an auction notice dated 3.6.2011 proposing to auction the extraction of minor mineral boulder, gravel and sand quarries of an area not exceeding 4.5 hectares in each case in the District of Panchkula, auction notices dated 8.8.2011 in the District of Panchkula, Ambala and Yamuna

Nagar exceeding 5 hectares and above, quarrying minor mineral, road metal and masonry stone mines in the District of Bhiwani, stone, sand mines in the District of Mohindergarh, slate stone mines in the District of Rewari, and also in the Districts of Kurukshetra, Karnal, Faridabad and Palwal, with certain restrictions for quarrying in the river beds of Yamuna, Tangri, Markanda, Ghaggar, Krishnavati River basin, Dohan River basin etc. The validity of those auction notices is under challenge before us, apart from the complaint of illegal mining going on in the State of Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

2. When the matter came up for hearing on 25.11.2011, we passed an order directing the CEC to make a local inspection with intimation to MoEF, State of U.P., Rajasthan and Haryana with regard to the alleged illegal mining going on in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and also with regard to the areas identified for mining in the State of Haryana and submit a report. We also directed the CEC to examine whether there has been an attempt to flout EIA Notification dated 14.9.2006 by breaking the homogeneous area into pieces of less than 5 hectares. CEC was also

directed to examine whether the activities going on in that area have any adverse environmental impact.

3. CEC, in response to our order, submitted a detailed report on 4.1.2012. However, the report is silent with regard to the disturbing trend of serious illegal and unrestricted upstream, in-stream and flood plain sand mining activities and the prevailing degree of degradation of the sites and the environment, especially on the river beds mentioned earlier. Report of CEC however states that the auction notice also refer to mining leases of less than 5 hectares and hence no environmental clearance need be obtained as per the MoEF notification dated 14.9.2006. No light is also thrown on the question whether there has been, in fact, an attempt to flout the notification dated 14.9.2006 by breaking the homogeneous area into pieces of less than 5 hectares and the possible environmental or ecological impact on quarrying of minor minerals.

4. Mr. Patwalia, learned senior counsel appearing for the petitioners, submitted that CEC report is silent about those aspects and also whether 1 km. distance has been

maintained between the mining blocks of less than 5 hectares. Learned counsel also submitted that mining areas earmarked are at the foothills of fragile Himalayan ranges known as Shivalik hills, which are spread over the Districts of Panchkula, Ambala and Yamuna Nagar and the illegal and excessive mining has caused serious environmental degradation and ecological impact, and no Environmental Impact Assessment has ever taken place in areas earmarked for mining especially on the river beds.

5. Shri Gopal Subramaniam, learned senior counsel appearing for the State of Haryana, submitted that the State has taken adequate and effective precautions to maintain 1 km. separation between mining blocks of less than 5 hectares each and that the auction notice dated 3.6.2011 itself has imposed strict restrictions on quarrying in the river beds so also the auction notice dated 8.8.2011. Further, it was pointed out that the notification dated 14.9.2006 would not apply for quarrying minor minerals from areas of less than 5 hectares and therefore, no environmental impact assessment needs to be undertaken either at the instance of the State Government or the Project Proponent.

6. Shri Mohan Jain, learned Additional Solicitor General, appearing for the MoEF submitted that the grant or allotment of mining licence/lease of smaller plots of less than five hectares should not be encouraged from the environmental point of view and that the applicability of EIA notification of 2006, has to be seen in its letter and spirit so as to ensure environmental safeguards in place and implemented for sustainable mining. Learned counsel also assured, if environmental clearance is sought for covering a mining area of less than five hectares, the same shall be immediately attended to and necessary clearance would be granted in accordance with law.

7. We have no materials before us to come to the conclusion that the removal of minor mineral boulder, gravel, sand quarries etc. covered by the auction notices dated 3.6.2011 and 8.8.2011, in the places notified therein and also in the river beds of Yamuna, Ghaggar, Tangri, Markanda, Krishnavati river basin, Dohan river basin etc. would not cause environmental degradation or threat to the biodiversity, destroy riverine vegetation, cause erosion,

pollute water sources etc. Sand mining on either side of the rivers, upstream and in-stream, is one of the causes for environmental degradation and also a threat to the biodiversity. Over the years, India's rivers and Riparian ecology have been badly affected by the alarming rate of unrestricted sand mining which damage the ecosystem of rivers and the safety of bridges, weakening of river beds, destruction of natural habitats of organisms living on the river beds, affects fish breeding and migration, spells disaster for the conservation of many bird species, increases saline water in the rivers etc. Extraction of alluvial material from within or near a streambed has a direct impact on the stream's physical habitat characteristics. These characteristics include bed elevation, substrate composition and stability, in-stream roughness elements, depth, velocity, turbidity, sediment transport, stream discharge and temperature. Altering these habitat characteristics can have deleterious impacts on both in-stream biota and the associated riparian habitat. The demand for sand continues to increase day by day as building and construction of new infrastructures and expansion of existing ones is continuous

thereby placing immense pressure on the supply of the sand resource and hence mining activities are going on legally and illegally without any restrictions. Lack of proper planning and sand management cause disturbance of marine ecosystem and also upset the ability of natural marine processes to replenish the sand.

8. We are expressing our deep concern since we are faced with a situation where the auction notices dated 3.6.2011 and 8.8.2011 have permitted quarrying mining and removal of sand from in-stream and upstream of several rivers, which may have serious environmental impact on ephemeral, seasonal and perennial rivers and river beds and sand extraction may have an adverse effect on bio-diversity as well. Further it may also lead to bed degradation and sedimentation having a negative effect on the aquatic life. Rivers mentioned in the auction notices are on the foothills of the fragile Shivalik hills. Shivalik hills are the source of rivers like Ghaggar, Tangri, Markanda etc. River Ghaggar is a seasonal river which rises up in the outer Himalayas between Yamuna and Satluj and enters Haryana near Pinjore, District Panchkula, which passes through Ambala

and Hissar and reaches Bikaner in Rajasthan. River Markanda is also a seasonal river like Ghaggar, which also originates from the lower Shivalik hills and enters Haryana near Ambala. During monsoon, this stream swells up into a raging torrent, notorious for its devastating power, as also, river Yamuna.

9. We find that it is without conducting any study on the possible environmental impact on/in the river beds and elsewhere the auction notices have been issued. We are of the considered view that when we are faced with a situation where extraction of alluvial material within or near a river bed has an impact on the rivers physical habitat characteristics, like river stability, flood risk, environmental degradation, loss of habitat, decline in biodiversity, it is not an answer to say that the extraction is in blocks of less than 5 hectares, separated by 1 kilometre, because their collective impact may be significant, hence the necessity of a proper environmental assessment plan. Possibly this may be the reason that in the affidavit filed by the MoEF on 23.11.2011 along with the annexure-2 report, the following stand has been taken:

“The Ministry is of the opinion that where the mining area is homogenous, physically proximate and on identifiable piece of land of 5 ha or more, it should not be broken into smaller sizes to circumvent the EIA Notification, 2006 as the EIA Notification, 2006 is not applicable to the mining projects having lease area of less than 5 ha. The Report of Committee on Minor Minerals, under the Chairmanship of the Secretary (E&F) with representatives of various state Governments as members including the State of Haryana and Rajasthan recommended a minimum lease size of 5 ha for minor minerals for undertaking scientific mining for the purpose of integrating and addressing environmental concerns. Only in cases of isolated discontinued mineral deposits in less than 5 ha, such mining leases may be considered keeping in view the mineral conservation.”

Situations referred to earlier prevail not only in the State of Haryana but also in the neighbouring and other States of the country as well and those issues had come up for serious deliberations before the Government of India, on various occasions.

10. Government of India was receiving various reports regarding the adverse impacts on riverbeds and groundwater due to quarrying/mining of minerals. The Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act 1957 empowers the State Governments to make rules in respect of minor

minerals. It was noticed that proposals for mining of major minerals typically undergo environment impact assessment and environmental clearance procedure, but due attention has not been given to environmental aspects of mining of minor minerals. Environmental Impact Assessment Notification of 1994 did not apply to the mining of minor minerals, noticing that minor minerals were brought under the ambit of the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification of 2006 and as per the said notification mining of minerals with a lease area of 5 hectares and above require prior environmental clearance. MoEF's attention was drawn to several instances across the country regarding damage to lakes, riverbeds and groundwater leading to drying up of water beds and causing water scarcity on account of quarry/mining leases and mineral concessions granted under the Mineral Concession Rules framed by the State Governments under Section 15 of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act 1957. MoEF noticed that less attention was given on environmental aspects of mining of minor minerals since the area was small, but it was noticed that the collective impact in a particular area over a

period of time might be significant. Taking note of those aspects, MoEF constituted a Core Group under the Chairmanship of the Secretary (E&F) to look into the environmental aspects associated with mining of minor minerals, vide its order dated 24.03.2009. The terms of reference to the Group were as under:

- (i) To consider the environmental aspects of mining of minor minerals (quarrying as well as river beds mining) for their integration into the mining process.
- (ii) Specific safeguard measures required to minimize the likely adverse impacts of mining on environment with specific reference to impact on water bodies as well as groundwater so as to ensure sustainable mining.
- (iii) To evolve model guidelines so as to address mining as well as environmental concerns in a balanced manner for their adoption and implementation by all the mineral producing States.

The Group held its first meeting on 7.7.2009 and discussed the impact that may be caused by quarrying/mining of minor minerals on riverbeds and ground waters. It was noticed that individual mines of minor minerals being small in size may have insignificant impact, however, their collective impacts, taking into consideration various mines on a regional scale, is significantly adverse. It was, therefore, felt

necessary to consider various aspects since appropriate guidelines have to be issued on the basis of the report of the Committee. The issues which were brought up for consideration were; (i) the need to re-look the definition of minor mineral, (ii) minimum size of lease for adopting eco friendly scientific mining practices, (iii) period of lease, (iv) cluster of mine approach for addressing and implementing EMP in case of small mines, (v) depth of mining to minimize adverse impact on hydrological regime, (vi) requirement of mine plan for minor minerals, similar to major minerals, and (vii) reclamation of mined out area, post mine land use, progressive mine closure plan etc.

11. Comments and inputs from various States and Experts were also invited so as to prepare a report for consideration of the MoEF. Based on the discussion held and subsequent inputs received, a draft report was prepared and circulated to all members for their further inputs. Report was further discussed on 29.1.2010 for its finalization. The observations/comments made during the meeting were incorporated in the report and it was again circulated to all members for their consideration. The report so circulated

was ultimately finalized. The decision taken by the MoEF affects generally the mining of minor minerals including the riverbed mining throughout the country. For an easy reference, we may extract the issues and recommendations made by the MoEF, which are as follows:

“4.0 ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 Definition of Minor Mineral:

The term minor mineral is defined in clause (e) of Section 3 of MMDR Act, 1957 as “minor mineral means building stones, gravel, ordinary clay, ordinary sand other than sand used for prescribed purposes and any other material which the Central Government may, by Notification in the Gazette of India declare to be a minor mineral”. The term ‘ordinary sand’ used in clause (e) of Section 3 of the MMDR Act, 1957 has been further clarified in rule 70 of the MCR, 1960 as “sand shall not be treated as minor mineral when used for any of the following purposes namely: (i) purposes of refractory and manufacture of ceramic, (ii) metallurgical purposes, (iii) optical purposes, (iv) purposes of stowing in coal mines, (v) for manufacture of silvicrete cement, (vi) manufacture of sodium silicate and (vii) manufacture of pottery and glass.

Additionally, the Central Government has declared the following minerals as minor minerals: (i) boulder, (ii) shingle, (iii) chalcedony pebbles used for ball mill purposes only, (iv) limeshell, kankar and limestone used in kilns for manufacture of lime used as building material, (v) murrum, (vi) brick-earth, (vii) fuller’s earth, (viii) bentonite,

(ix) road metal, (x) reh-matti, (xi) slate and shale when used for building material, (xii) marble, (xiii) stone used for making household utensils, (xiv) quartzite and sandstone when used for purposes of building or for making road metal and household utensils, (xv) saltpeter and (xvi) ordinary earth (used or filling or levelling purposes in construction or embankments, roads, railways building).

It may thus be observed that minerals have been classified into major and minor minerals based on their end use rather than level of production, level of mechanization, export and import etc. There do exist some minor mineral mines of silica sand and limestone where the scale of mechanization and level of production is much higher than those of industrial mineral mines. Further, in terms of the economic cost and revenue, it has been estimated that the total value of minor minerals constitutes about 10% of the total value of mineral production whereas the value of non metallic minerals comprises only 3%. It is, therefore, evident that the operation of mines of minor minerals need to be subject to some regulatory parameters as that of mines of major minerals.

Further, unlike India there does not exist any such system based on end usage in other countries for classifying minerals into major and minor categories. Thus, there is a need to re-look at the definition of "minor" minerals per se.

It is, therefore, recommended that Ministry of Mines along with Indian Bureau of Mines, in consultation with the State Governments may re-examine the classification of minerals into major and minor categories so that the regulatory

aspects and environment mitigation measures are appropriately integrated for ensuring sustainable and scientific mining with least impacts on environment.

4.2 Size of the Mine Lease:

Area for grant of mine lease varies from State to State. Maximum area which can be held under one or more mine lease is 2590 ha or 25.90 sq.miles in Jammu & Kashmir. Rajasthan prescribed a minimum limit of 1 ha for a lease. Maximum area prescribed for permit is 50x50 m. In most of the States area of permit is not specified in the rules. It has recently been observed by Punjab and Haryana High Court in its order dated 15.5.2009 that State Government are apparently granting short term permits by dividing the mining area into small zones in effect avoids environmental norms.

There is, thus a need to bring uniformity in the extent of area to be granted for mine lease so as to ensure that eco friendly scientific mining practices can be adopted. **It is recommended that the minimum size of mine lease should be 5 ha. Further, preparation of comprehensive mine plan for contiguous stretches of mineral deposits by the respective State Governments may also be encouraged. This may suitably be incorporated in the Mineral Concession Rules, 1960 by Ministry of Mines.**

4.3 Period of Mine Lease:

The period of lease varies from State to State depending on type of concessions, minerals and its end use. The minimum lease period is one year and maximum 30 years. Minerals like granite where huge investments

are required, a period of 20 years is generally given with the provisions of renewal. Permits are generally granting for short periods which vary from one month to a maximum one year. In States like Haryana, minor mineral leases are auctioned for a particular time period. Mining is considered to be capital intensive industry and considerable time is lost for developing the mine before it attains the status of fully developed mine. If the tenure of the mine lease is short, it would encourage the lessee to concentrate more on rapid exploitation of mineral without really undertaking adequate measures for reclamation and rehabilitation of mined out area, posing thereby a serious threat to the environment and health of the workers and public at large.

There is thus, a need to bring uniformity in the period of lease. **It is recommended that a minimum period of mine lease should be 5 years, so that eco friendly scientific and sustainable mining practices are adopted. However, under exceptional circumstances arising due to judicial interventions, short term mining leases / contracts could be granted to the State Agencies to meet the situation arising there from.**

4.4 Cluster of Mine Approach for Small Sized Mines:

Considering the nature of occurrence of minor mineral, economic condition of the lessee and the likely difficulties to be faced by Regulatory Authorities in monitoring the environmental impacts and implementation of necessary mitigation measures, **it may be desirable to adopt cluster approach in case of smaller mine leases being operated**

presently. Further, these clusters need be provided with processing/crusher zones for forward integration and minimizing excessive pressure on road infrastructure. The respective State Governments / Mine Owners Associations may facilitate implementation of Environment Management Plans in such cluster of mines.

4.5 Requirement of Mine Plan for Minor Minerals:

At present, most of the State Governments have not made it mandatory for preparation of mining plan in respect of minor minerals. In some States like Rajasthan, eco friendly mining plans are prepared, which are approved by the State Mining Department. The eco friendly mining plans so prepared, though conceptually welcome, are observed to be deficient and need to be made comprehensive in a manner as is being done for major minerals. Besides, the aspects of reclamation and rehabilitation of mined out areas, progressive mine closure plan, as in vogue for major minerals could be introduced for minor minerals as well.

It is recommended that provision for preparation and approval of mine plan, as in the case of major minerals may appropriately be provided in the Rules governing the mining of minor minerals by the respective State Governments. These should specifically include the provision for reclamation and rehabilitation of mined out area, progressive mine closure plan and post mine land use.

4.6 Creation of Separate Corpus for Reclamation / Rehabilitation of Mines of Minor Minerals:

Mining of minor minerals, in our country, is by and large unorganized sector and is practiced in haphazard and unscientific manner. At times, the size of the leasehold is also too small to address the issue of reclamation and rehabilitation of mined out areas. It may, therefore, be desirable that before the concept of mine closure plan for minor minerals is adopted, the existing abandoned mines may be reclaimed and rehabilitated with the involvement of the State Government. **There is thus, a need to create a separate corpus, which may be utilized for reclamation and rehabilitation of mined out areas. The respective State Governments may work out a suitable mechanism for creation of such corpus on the 'polluter pays' principle. An organizational structure may also need to be created for undertaking and monitoring these activities.**

4.7 Depth of Mining:

Mining of minerals, whether major or minor have a direct bearing on the hydrological regime of the area. Besides, affecting the availability of water as a resource, it also affects the quality of water through direct run of going into the surface water bodies and infiltration / leaching into groundwater. Further, groundwater withdrawal, dewatering of water from mine pit and diversion of surface water may cause surface and sub surface hydrologic systems to dry up. An ideal situation would require that quarrying should be restricted to unsaturated zone only above the phreatic water table and should not intersect the groundwater table at

any point of time. However, from the point of view of mineral conservation, it may not be desirable to impose blanket ban on mining operation below groundwater table.

It is, therefore, recommended that detailed hydro-geological report should be prepared in respect of any mining operation for minor minerals to be undertaken below groundwater table. Based on the findings of the study so undertaken and the comments / recommendations of Central Ground Water Authority / State Ground Water Board, a decision regarding restriction on depth of mining for any area should be taken on case to case basis.

4.8 Uniform Minor Mineral Concession Rules:

The economic value of the minor minerals excavated in the country is estimated to contribute to about 9% of the total value of the minerals whereas the non metallic minerals contribute to about 2.8%. Keeping in view the large extent of mining of minor minerals and its significant potential to adversely affect the environment, it is **recommended that Model Mineral Concession rules may be framed for minor minerals as well and the minor minerals may be subjected to a simpler regulatory regime, which is, however, similar to major minerals regime.**

4.9 River Bed Mining:

4.9.1 Environment damage being caused by unregulated river bed mining of sand, bazari and boulders is attracting considerable attention including in the courts. The following

recommendations are therefore made for the river bed mining.

(a) In the case of mining leases for riverbed sand mining, specific river stretches should be identified and mining permits/lease should be granted stretch wise, so that the requisite safeguard measures are duly implemented and are effectively monitored by the respective Regulatory Authorities.

(b) The depth of mining may be restricted to 3m/water level, whichever is less.

(c) For carrying out mining in proximity to any bridge and/or embankment, appropriate safety zone should be worked out on case to case basis, taking into account the structural parameters, locational aspects, flow rate etc. and no mining should be carried out in the safety zone so worked out.

5.0 **Conclusion:**

Mining of minor minerals, though individually, because of smaller size of mine leases is perceived to have lesser impact as compared to mining of major minerals.

However, the activity as a whole is seen to have significant adverse impacts on environment. It is, therefore, necessary that the mining of minor minerals is subjected to simpler but strict regulatory regime and carried out only under an approved framework of mining plan, which should provide for reclamation and rehabilitation of the mined out areas. Further, while granting mining leases by the respective State Governments "location of any eco-fragile zone(s) within the impact zone of the proposed mining area, the linked Rules/Notifications governing such zones and the judicial pronouncements, if any, need be duly noted. The Union Ministry of Mines along with Indian Bureau of Mines and respective State Governments should therefore make necessary provisions in this regard under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, Mineral Concession Rules, 1960 and adopt model guidelines to be followed by all States. " (emphasis supplied)

The report clearly indicates that operation of mines of minor minerals needs to be subjected to strict regulatory parameters as that of mines of major minerals. It was also felt necessary to have a re-look to the definition of "minor" minerals *per se*. The necessity of the preparation of "comprehensive mines plan" for contiguous stretches of mineral deposits by the respective State Governments may also be encouraged and the same be suitably incorporated in the Mineral Concession Rules, 1960 by the Ministry of Mines. Further, it was also recommended that States, Union

Territories would see that mining of minor minerals is subjected to simpler but strict regulatory regime and carried out only under an approved framework of mining plan, which should provide for reclamation and rehabilitation of mined out areas. Mining Plan should take note of the level of production, level of mechanisation, type of machinery used in the mining of minor minerals, quantity of diesel consumption, number of trees uprooted, export and import of mining minerals, environmental impact, restoration of flora and host of other matters referred to in 2010 rules. A proper framework has also to be evolved on cluster of mining of minor mineral for which there must be a Regional Environmental Management Plan. Another important decision taken was that while granting of mining leases by the respective State Governments, location of any eco-fragile zone(s) within the impact zone of the proposed mining area, the linked Rules/Notifications governing such zones and the judicial pronouncements, if any, need to be duly noted.

12. The Minister for (E & F) wrote DO letter dated 1st June, 2010 to all the Chief Ministers of the States to examine the report and to issue necessary instructions for incorporating

the recommendations made in the report in the Mineral Concession Rules for mining of minor minerals under Section 15 of Mines and Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957. Following are the key recommendations re-iterated in the letter:

- (1) Minimum size of mine lease should be 5 ha.
- (2) Minimum period of mine lease should be 5 years.
- (3) A cluster approach to mines should be taken in case of smaller mines leases operating currently.
- (4) Mine plans should be made mandatory for minor minerals as well.
- (5) A separate corpus should be created for reclamation and rehabilitation of mined out areas.
- (6) Hydro-geological reports should be prepared for mining proposed below groundwater table.
- (7) For river bed mining, leases should be granted stretch wise, depth may be restricted to 3m/water level, whichever is less, and safety zones should be worked out.
- (8) The present classification of minerals into major and minor categories should be re-examined by the Ministry of Mines in consultation with the States."

13. The Ministry of Mines, Govt. of India sent a communication No.296/7/2000/MRC dated 16.05.2011 called "Environmental aspects of quarrying and of minor minerals - Evolving of Model Guidelines" along with a draft model guidelines calling for inputs before 30.06.2011. Draft rules called Minor Minerals Conservation and Development

Rules, 2010 were also put on the website. Further, it may be noted Section 15(1A)(i) of the Act specifies the manner in which rehabilitation of flora and other vegetation, such as trees, shrubs and the like destroyed by reasons of any quarrying or mining operations shall be made in the same area or in any other area once selected by the State Government, whether by way of reimbursement of the cost of rehabilitation or otherwise by the persons holding the quarrying or mining lease.

14. We are of the view that all State Governments / Union Territories have to give due weight to the above mentioned recommendations of the MoEF which are made in consultation with all the State Governments and Union Territories. Model Rules of 2010 issued by the Ministry of Mines are very vital from the environmental, ecological and bio-diversity point of view and therefore the State Governments have to frame proper rules in accordance with the recommendations, under Section 15 of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957.

15. Quarrying of river sand, it is true, is an important economic activity in the country with river sand forming a

crucial raw material for the infrastructural development and for the construction industry but excessive in-stream sand and gravel mining causes the degradation of rivers. In-stream mining lowers the stream bottom of rivers which may lead to bank erosion. Depletion of sand in the streambed and along coastal areas causes the deepening of rivers which may result in destruction of aquatic and riparian habitats as well. Extraction of alluvial material as already mentioned from within or near a streambed has a direct impact on the stream's physical habitat characteristics.

16. We are of the considered view that it is highly necessary to have an effective framework of mining plan which will take care of all environmental issues and also evolve a long term rational and sustainable use of natural resource base and also the bio-assessment protocol. Sand mining, it may be noted, may have an adverse effect on bio-diversity as loss of habitat caused by sand mining will effect various species, flora and fauna and it may also destabilize the soil structure of river banks and often leaves isolated islands. We find that, taking note of those technical, scientific and environmental matters, MoEF, Government of India, issued

various recommendations in March 2010 followed by the Model Rules, 2010 framed by the Ministry of Mines which have to be given effect to, inculcating the spirit of Article 48A, Article 51A(g) read with Article 21 of the Constitution.

17. The State of Haryana and various other States have not so far implemented the above recommendations of the MoEF or the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Mines before issuing auction notices granting short term permits by way of auction of minor mineral boulders, gravel, sand etc., in the river beds and elsewhere of less than 5 hectares. We, therefore, direct to all the States, Union Territories, MoEF and the Ministry of Mines to give effect to the recommendations made by MoEF in its report of March 2010 and the model guidelines framed by the Ministry of Mines, within a period of six months from today and submit their compliance reports.

18. Central Government also should take steps to bring into force the Minor Minerals Conservation and Development Rules 2010 at the earliest. State Governments and UTs also should take immediate steps to frame necessary rules under

Section, 15 of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 taking into consideration the recommendations of MoEF in its Report of March 2010 and model guidelines framed by the Ministry of Mines, Govt. of India. Communicate the copy of this order to the MoEF, Secretary, Ministry of Mines, New Delhi, Ministry of Water Resources, Central Government Water Authority, the Chief Secretaries of the respective States and Union Territories, who would circulate this order to the concerned Departments.

19. We, in the meanwhile, order that leases of minor mineral including their renewal for an area of less than five hectares be granted by the States/Union Territories only after getting environmental clearance from the MoEF.

Ordered accordingly.

.....J.
(K.S. Radhakrishnan)

.....J.
(Chandramauli Kr. Prasad)

New Delhi

1964

February 27, 2012

1965

Annexure R1/2

रजिस्ट्री सं. डी.एल.- 33004/99

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पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय

अधिसूचना

नई दिल्ली, 28 मार्च, 2020

का.आ. 1224(अ).—खनिज विधि (संशोधन) अधिनियम 2020 (2020 का 2), खान और खनिज (विकास और विनियमन) अधिनियम, 1957 (1957 का 67) (जिसे इसमें इसके पश्चात् एमएमडीआर अधिनियम कहा गया है) द्वारा 10 जनवरी, 2020 से प्रभावी संशोधन किया गया है और अन्य बातों के साथ कानूनी निर्वाधन के अंतरण के लिए उपबंधों से संबंधित नई धारा 8ख का अंतःस्थापन किया गया है;

और, एमएमडीआर अधिनियम की धारा 8ख की उप-धारा (2) यह उपबंध करता है कि इस अधिनियम में या तत्समय प्रवृत्त किसी अन्य विधि में अंतर्विष्ट किसी बात के होते हुए भी, धारा 8क की उप-धारा (5) और उप-धारा (6) के उपबंधों के अधीन अवसान होने वाले खनन पट्टे का सफल बोली लगाने वाला और उस अधिनियम के अधीन या तद्वीन बनाए गए नियमों के अधीन उपबंधित प्रक्रिया के अनुसार नीलामी के माध्यम से अर्जित सभी विधिमान्य अधिकार, अनुमोदन, निकासी, अनुज्ञप्ति और इसी प्रकार दो वर्ष की अवधि के लिए पूर्ववर्ती पट्टेदार पर निहित होना समझा जाएगा;

और, एमएमडीआर अधिनियम की धारा 8ख की उप-धारा (3) यह उपबंध करता है कि तत्समय प्रवृत्त अन्य विधि में अंतर्विष्ट किसी बात के होते हुए भी, यह उस भूमि पर जिसमें नया पट्टा के प्रारंभ से दो वर्ष की अवधि के लिए पूर्ववर्ती पट्टेदार द्वारा खनन संक्रियाएं कार्यान्वित किए जा रहे थे, निरंतर खनन संक्रियाओं को नए पट्टेदार के लिए विधिपूर्ण किया जाएगा;

और, एमएमडीआर अधिनियम को पूर्वोक्त संशोधन के प्रयोजन के लिए केंद्रीय सरकार, भारत सरकार के तत्कालीन पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय की अधिसूचना सं. का. आ. 1533 (अ), तारीख 14 सितंबर, 2006 (जिसे इसमें इसके पश्चात् ईआईए अधिसूचना, 2006 कहा गया है) के सुसंगत उपबंधों को सम्मिलित करने के लिए आवश्यक समझती है।

और, पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय में सड़कों के लिए साधारण पृथ्वी का उपयोग करने के लिए पूर्व पर्यावरणीय अनापत्ति की अपेक्षा के अधित्याग के लिए अभ्यावेदनों की प्राप्ति पर; और पारंपरिक समुदाय द्वारा अंतर ज्वारीय क्षेत्र के भीतर चूने के गोले (मृत भू-पटल), पवित्र स्थानों, आदि के मैनुअल निकासी;

अतः, अब, केंद्रीय सरकार, पर्यावरण (संरक्षण) नियम, 1986 के नियम 5 के उप-नियम (4) के साथ पठित पर्यावरण (संरक्षण) अधिनियम, 1986 (1986 का 29) की धारा 3 की उप-धारा (1) और उप-धारा (2) के खंड (v) द्वारा प्रदत्त शक्तियों का प्रयोग करते हुए, लोकहित में, उक्त नियमों के नियम 5 के उप-नियम (3) के खंड (क) के अधीन सूचना की अपेक्षा से अभिमुक्ति के पश्चात् और अधिसूचना सं. का. आ. 4307 (अ), तारीख 29 नवंबर, 2019 को अधिकांत करते हुए, ईआईए अधिसूचना, 2006 में निम्नलिखित संशोधन करती है, अर्थात् :-

उक्त अधिसूचना में, -

(i) पैरा 11 में, उप-पैरा (2) के पश्चात् निम्नलिखित उप-पैरा अंतःस्थापित किया जाएगा, अर्थात् :-

“(3) खान और खनिज (विकास और विनियमन) अधिनियम, 1957 (1957 का 67) की धारा 8क की उप-धारा (5) और उप-धारा (6) के उपबंधों के अधीन अवसान होने वाले खनन पट्टे का सफल बोली लगाने वाला और उस अधिनियम के अधीन और तद्दीन बनाए गए नियमों के अधीन उपबंधित प्रक्रिया के अनुसार नीलामी के माध्यम से चयनित नया पट्टा के प्रारंभ की तारीख से दो वर्ष की अवधि के लिए पूर्ववर्ती पट्टेदार पर निहित पूर्व पर्यावरणीय अनापत्ति विधिमान्य अर्जित किया गया समझा जाएगा और यह नया पट्टा प्रारंभ की तारीख से दो वर्ष की अवधि के लिए या उसमें उल्लिखित निबंधनों शर्तों के अनुसार नया पर्यावरणीय अनापत्ति, नया निकासी अभिप्राप्त होने तक, इसमें से जो भी पूर्वतर हो, उक्त पट्टा क्षेत्र पर पूर्ववर्ती पट्टेदार का स्वीकृत पर्यावरणीय अनापत्ति के निबंधनों और शर्तों के अनुसार निरंतर खनन संक्रिया नया पट्टेदार के लिए विधिपूर्ण होंगी;

परन्तु, सफल बोली लगाने वाला नया पट्टा मंजूर करने की तारीख से दो वर्ष की अवधि के भीतर विनियामक प्राधिकरण से पूर्व पर्यावरणीय अनापत्ति के लिए आवेदन करेगा और अभिप्राप्त करेगा।”;

(ii) अनुसूची के मद 1 (क) के सामने, स्तंभ (5) के खंड (2) के टिप्पण के पश्चात् निम्नलिखित खंड अंतःस्थापित किया जाएगा, अर्थात् :-

“(3) उक्त पट्टा के अवसान के पश्चात् पूर्ववर्ती पट्टेदार द्वारा खनन और खनिज (विकास और विनियमन) अधिनियम, 1957 (1957 का 67) के उपबंधों के अधीन खनन पट्टे के अवसान होने तक भीतर पड़ी पहले से ही खनिज वाह्य सामग्री का निष्क्रमण या निष्कासन और परिवहन उस अधिनियम के अधीन और तद्दीन बनाए गए नियमों के अधीन उपबंधित प्रक्रिया के अनुसार नीलामी के माध्यम से चयनित सफल बोली लगाने की इस प्रकार अनुज्ञात खनन हैसियत के भाग के रूप में नहीं होगा।”

(iii) परिशिष्ट - IX के लिए, निम्नलिखित परिशिष्ट प्रतिस्थापित किया जाएगा, अर्थात् :-

“परिशिष्ट - 9

कतिपय मामलों के पर्यावरणीय अनापत्ति की अपेक्षा से छूट

निम्नलिखित मामलों को पूर्व पर्यावरणीय अनापत्ति की अपेक्षा नहीं होगी, अर्थात् :-

1. मैनुअल खनन द्वारा साधारण मिट्टी या बालू की कुम्हारों द्वारा मिट्टी के घड़े, लैम्प, खिलौने, आदि बनाने के लिए उनकी प्रथाओं के अनुसार निकासी।
2. मैनुअल खनन द्वारा मिट्टी की टाइलें बनाने द्वारा जो मिट्टी की टाइलें बनाते हैं, के लिए साधारण मिट्टी या बालू की निकासी।
3. किसानों द्वारा बाढ़ के पश्चात् कृषि भूमि से बालू के जमाव को हटाना।

4. ग्राम पंचायत में अवस्थित स्रोतों से बालू और साधारण मिट्टी को वैयक्तिक उपयोग या ग्राम में समुदाय कार्य के लिए प्रथा के अनुसार खनन।
5. सामुदायिक कार्य जैसे ग्रामीण तालाबों या टैंकों से गाद हटाना, महात्मा गांधी राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण रोजगार और गारंटी स्कीमों, अन्य सरकारी स्कीमों, प्रायोजित तथा सामुदायिक प्रयासों द्वारा ग्रामीण सड़कों, तालाबों या बांधों का संनिर्माण।
6. सड़क, पाइपलाइन, आदि जैसे रेखीय परियोजनाओं के लिए साधारण मिट्टी की निकासी, निष्कासन या प्रयोग करना।
7. बांधों, तालाबों, मेड़ों, बैराजों, नदी और नहरों की उनके अनुरक्षित तथा आपदा प्रबंधन के प्रयोजन के लिए तलमार्जन और गाद निकालना।
8. गुजरात में गुजरात सरकार की तारीख 14 फरवरी, 1990 की अधिसूचना सं. जीयू / 90 (16)/ एमसीआर-2189 (68) / 5 - सीएचएच द्वारा बंजारा और ओड द्वारा बालू के पारंपरिक उपजीविका कार्य।
9. पारंपरिक समुदाय द्वारा अंतर ज्वारीय क्षेत्र के भीतर चूने के गोलों (मृत भू-पटल), पवित्र स्थानों, आदि के मैनुअल निकासी।
10. सिंचाई या पेयजल के लिए कुओं की खुदाई।
11. यथास्थिति, ऐसे भवनों की नींव के लिए खुदाई जिनके लिए पूर्व पर्यावरणीय अनापत्ति अपेक्षित नहीं है।
12. जिला कलेक्टर या जिला मजिस्ट्रेट या किसी अन्य सक्षम प्राधिकारी के आदेश पर किसी नहर, नाला, ड्रेन, जल निकाय, आदि में होने वाली दरार को भरने के लिए साधारण मिट्टी या बालू का उत्खनन ताकि किसी आपदा या बाढ़ जैसी स्थिति से निपटा जा सके।
13. ऐसे क्रियाकलाप, जिन्हें राज्य सरकार द्वारा विधान या नियमों के अधीन गैर खननकारी क्रियाकलाप के रूप में घोषित किया गया है।”

[फा. सं. जेड-11013 / 47 / 2018-आई. ए. II (एम)]

गीता मेनन, संयुक्त सचिव

टिप्पण : मूल अधिसूचना भारत के राजपत्र, असाधारण, भाग II, खंड 3, उप-खंड (ii) में सं. का. आ. 1533 (अ), तारीख 14 सितंबर 2006 द्वारा प्रकाशित की गई थी और निम्नलिखित सं. द्वारा पश्चात्कर्ती संशोधन किया गया :-

1. का. आ. 1949 (अ), तारीख 13 नवंबर, 2006;
2. का. आ. 1737 (अ), तारीख 11 अक्टूबर, 2007;
3. का. आ. 3067 (अ), तारीख 1 दिसंबर, 2009;
4. का. आ. 695 (अ), तारीख 4 अप्रैल, 2011;
5. का. आ. 156 (अ), तारीख 25 जनवरी, 2012;
6. का. आ. 2896 (अ), तारीख 13 दिसंबर, 2012;
7. का. आ. 674 (अ), तारीख 13 मार्च, 2013;
8. का. आ. 2204 (अ), तारीख 19 जुलाई, 2013;
9. का. आ. 2555 (अ), तारीख 21 अगस्त, 2013;
10. का. आ. 2559 (अ), तारीख 22 अगस्त, 2013;
11. का. आ. 2731 (अ), तारीख 9 सितंबर, 2013;

12. का. आ. 562 (अ), तारीख 26 फरवरी, 2014;
13. का. आ. 637 (अ), तारीख 28 फरवरी, 2014;
14. का. आ. 1599 (अ), तारीख 25 जून, 2014;
15. का. आ. 2601 (अ), तारीख 7 अक्टूबर, 2014;
16. का. आ. 2600 (अ), तारीख 9 अक्टूबर, 2014;
17. का. आ. 3252 (अ), तारीख 22 दिसंबर, 2014;
18. का. आ. 382 (अ), तारीख 3 फरवरी, 2015;
19. का. आ. 811 (अ), तारीख 23 मार्च, 2015;
20. का. आ. 996 (अ), तारीख 10 अप्रैल, 2015;
21. का. आ. 1142 (अ), तारीख 17 अप्रैल, 2015;
22. का. आ. 1141 (अ), तारीख 29 अप्रैल, 2015;
23. का. आ. 1834 (अ), तारीख 6 जुलाई, 2015;
24. का. आ. 2571 (अ), तारीख 31 अगस्त, 2015;
25. का. आ. 2572 (अ), तारीख 14 सितंबर, 2015;
26. का. आ. 141 (अ), तारीख 15 जनवरी, 2016;
27. का. आ. 648 (अ), तारीख 3 मार्च, 2016;
28. का. आ. 2269 (अ), तारीख 1 जुलाई, 2016;
29. का. आ. 2944 (अ), तारीख 14 सितंबर, 2016;
30. का. आ. 3518 (अ), तारीख 23 नवंबर, 2016;
31. का. आ. 3999 (अ), तारीख 9 दिसंबर, 2016;
32. का. आ. 4241 (अ), तारीख 30 दिसंबर, 2016;
33. का. आ. 3611 (अ), तारीख 25 जुलाई, 2018;
34. का. आ. 3977 (अ), तारीख 14 अगस्त, 2018;
35. का. आ. 5733 (अ), तारीख 14 नवंबर, 2018;
36. का. आ. 5736 (अ), तारीख 15 नवंबर, 2018;
37. का. आ. 5845 (अ), तारीख 26 नवंबर, 2018;
38. का. आ. 345 (अ), तारीख 17 जनवरी, 2019;
39. का. आ. 1960 (अ), तारीख 13 जून, 2019;
40. का. आ. 236 (अ), तारीख 16 जनवरी, 2020;
41. का. आ. 751 (अ), तारीख 17 फरवरी, 2020; और
42. का. आ. 1223 (अ), तारीख 27 मार्च, 2020।

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MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 28th March, 2020

S.O. 1224(E).—WHEREAS, *vide* the Mineral Laws (Amendment) Act, 2020 (2 of 2020), the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (67 of 1957) (hereinafter referred to as MMDR Act) has been amended with effect from the 10th day of January, 2020 and, *inter alia*, new section 8B relating to the provisions for transfer of statutory clearances has been inserted;

AND WHEREAS, sub-section (2) of section 8B of the MMDR Act provides that notwithstanding anything contained in this Act or any other law for the time being in force, the successful bidder of mining leases expiring under the provisions of sub-sections (5) and (6) of section 8A and selected through auction as per the procedure provided under this Act and the rules made thereunder, shall be deemed to have acquired all valid rights, approvals, clearances, licences and the like vested with the previous lessee for a period of two years;

AND WHEREAS, sub-section (3) of section 8B of the MMDR Act provides that notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, it shall be lawful for the new lessee to continue mining operations on the land, in which mining operations were being carried out by the previous lessee, for a period of two years from the date of commencement of the new lease;

AND WHEREAS, in pursuance of the aforesaid amendment to the MMDR Act, the Central Government deems it necessary to align the relevant provisions of the notification of the Government of India in the erstwhile Ministry of Environment and Forests number S.O. 1533 (E), dated the 14th September, 2006 (hereinafter referred to as the EIA Notification, 2006);

AND WHEREAS, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is in the receipt of representations for waiver of requirement of prior environmental clearance for borrowing of ordinary earth for roads; and manual extraction of lime shells (dead shell), shrines, etc., within inter tidal zone by the traditional community;

Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) and clause (v) of sub-section (2) of section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (29 of 1986), read with sub-rule (4) of rule 5 of the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986, the Central Government, after having dispensed with the requirement of notice under clause (a) of sub-rule (3) of the rule 5 of the said rules, in public interest, and in supersession of the notification number S.O. 4307(E), dated the 29th November, 2019, hereby makes the following further amendments in the EIA Notification, 2006, namely:-

In the said notification,-

(i) in paragraph 11, after sub-paragraph (2), the following sub-paragraph shall be inserted, namely:-

“(3) The successful bidder of the mining leases, expiring under the provisions of sub-sections (5) and (6) of section 8A of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (67 of 1957) and selected through auction as per the procedure provided under that Act and the rules made thereunder, shall be deemed to have acquired valid prior environmental clearance vested with the previous lessee for a period of two years, from the date of commencement of new lease and it shall be lawful for the new lessee to continue mining operations as per the same terms and conditions of environmental clearance granted to the previous lessee on the said lease area for a period of two years from the date of commencement of new lease or till the new lessee obtains a fresh environmental clearance with the terms and conditions mentioned therein, whichever is earlier:

Provided that the successful bidder shall apply and obtain prior environmental clearance from the regulatory authority within a period of two years from the date of grant of new lease.”;

(ii) in the Schedule, against the item 1(a), in the column (5), after clause (2) of the Note, the following clause shall be inserted, namely:-

“(3) The evacuation or removal and transportation of already mined out material lying within the mining leases expiring under the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (67 of 1957), by the previous lessee, after the expiry of the said lease, shall not form the part of the mining capacity so permitted to the successful bidder, selected through auction as per the procedure provided under that Act and the rules made thereunder.”;

(iii) for Appendix-IX, the following Appendix shall be substituted, namely:-

“APPENDIX-IX

EXEMPTION OF CERTAIN CASES FROM REQUIREMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE

The following cases shall not require Prior Environmental Clearance, namely:-

1. Extraction of ordinary clay or sand by manual mining, by the Kumhars (Potter) to prepare earthen pots, lamp, toys, etc. as per their customs.
2. Extraction of ordinary clay or sand by manual mining, by earthen tile makers who prepare earthen tiles.
3. Removal of sand deposits on agricultural field after flood by farmers.
4. Customary extraction of sand and ordinary earth from sources situated in Gram Panchayat for personal use or community work in village.
5. Community works, like, de-silting of village ponds or tanks, construction of village roads, ponds or bunds undertaken in Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment and Guarantee Schemes, other Government sponsored schemes and community efforts.
6. Extraction or sourcing or borrowing of ordinary earth for the linear projects such as roads, pipelines, etc.
7. Dredging and de-silting of dams, reservoirs, weirs, barrages, river and canals for the purpose of their maintenance, upkeep and disaster management.
8. Traditional occupational work of sand by Vanjara and Oads in Gujarat vide notification number GU/90(16)/MCR-2189(68)/5-CHH, dated the 14th February, 1990 of the Government of Gujarat.
9. Manual extraction of lime shells (dead shell), shrines, etc., within inter tidal zone by the traditional community.
10. Digging of wells for irrigation or drinking water purpose.
11. Digging of foundation for buildings, not requiring prior environmental clearance, as the case may be.
12. Excavation of ordinary earth or clay for plugging of any breach caused in canal, nallah, drain, water body, etc., to deal with any disaster or flood like situation upon orders of the District Collector or District Magistrate or any other Competent Authority.
13. Activities declared by the State Government under legislations or rules as non-mining activity.”

[F. No. Z-11013/47/2018-IA.II (M)]

GEETA MENON, Jt. Secy.

Note: The principal notification was published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (ii) vide number S.O. 1533 (E), dated the 14th September, 2006 and subsequently amended vide the following numbers:-

1. S.O. 1949 (E), dated the 13th November, 2006;
2. S.O. 1737 (E), dated the 11th October, 2007;
3. S.O. 3067 (E), dated the 1st December, 2009;
4. S.O. 695 (E), dated the 4th April, 2011;
5. S.O. 156 (E), dated the 25th January, 2012;
6. S.O. 2896 (E), dated the 13th December, 2012;
7. S.O. 674 (E), dated the 13th March, 2013;
8. S.O. 2204 (E), dated the 19th July, 2013;
9. S.O. 2555 (E), dated the 21st August, 2013;
10. S.O. 2559 (E), dated the 22nd August, 2013;
11. S.O. 2731 (E), dated the 9th September, 2013;
12. S.O. 562 (E), dated the 26th February, 2014;
13. S.O. 637 (E), dated the 28th February, 2014;

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14. S.O. 1599 (E), dated the 25th June, 2014;
15. S.O. 2601 (E), dated the 7th October, 2014;
16. S.O. 2600 (E), dated the 9th October, 2014;
17. S.O. 3252 (E), dated the 22nd December, 2014;
18. S.O. 382 (E), dated the 3rd February, 2015;
19. S.O. 811 (E), dated the 23rd March, 2015;
20. S.O. 996 (E), dated the 10th April, 2015;
21. S.O. 1142 (E), dated the 17th April, 2015;
22. S.O. 1141 (E), dated the 29th April, 2015;
23. S.O. 1834 (E), dated the 6th July, 2015;
24. S.O. 2571 (E), dated the 31st August, 2015;
25. S.O. 2572 (E), dated the 14th September, 2015;
26. S.O. 141 (E), dated the 15th January, 2016;
27. S.O. 648 (E), dated the 3rd March, 2016;
28. S.O. 2269(E), dated the 1st July, 2016;
29. S.O. 2944(E), dated the 14th September, 2016;
30. S.O. 3518 (E), dated 23rd November 2016;
31. S.O. 3999 (E), dated the 9th December, 2016;
32. S.O. 4241(E), dated the 30th December, 2016;
33. S.O. 3611(E), dated the 25th July, 2018;
34. S.O. 3977 (E), dated the 14th August, 2018;
35. S.O. 5733 (E), dated the 14th November, 2018;
36. S.O. 5736 (E), dated the 15th November, 2018;
37. S.O. 5845(E), dated the 26th November, 2018;
38. S.O. 345(E), dated the 17th January, 2019;
39. S.O. 1960(E), dated the 13th June, 2019;
40. S.O. 236(E), dated the 16th January, 2020;
41. S.O. 751(E), dated the 17th February, 2020; and
42. S.O. 1223(E), dated the 27th March, 2020.

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Annexure R1/3

F. No. 3-70/2020-1A.III [141127]
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(IA Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi - 110003

Dated: 8th August, 2022

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Clarification on the applicability of EIA Notification 2006 for excavation of Ordinary Earth from borrow area for linear projects - reg.

The Ministry, vide Notification S.O. 1224 (E) dated 28.03.2020, amended the appendix IX of EIA Notification to inter-alia provide exemption from Environmental Clearance (EC) for "extraction or sourcing or borrowing of ordinary earth for linear projects such as roads, pipelines etc."

2. Subsequently, the above mentioned Notification was challenged before the National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench in Original Application No. 190/2020 in the matter of Noble M. Paikada Vs. Union of India & Ors., wherein the Hon'ble Tribunal while disposing of the application vide order dated 28/10/2020, *inter-alia* held that ".....the exemption should strike balance and instead of being blanket exemption, it needs to be hedged by appropriate safeguards such as the process of excavation and quantum..." and directed to revisit the impugned notification dated 28.03.2020.

3. Subsequently vide order dated 31/05/2022, the Hon'ble NGT in M.A. No. 07/2022(WZ) & M.A. No. 08/2022(WZ) in Original Application No. 68/2020(WZ) titled Shri Rajiv Babasaheb Waman & Ors. vs. Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change & Ors inter-alia held that "... that excavation of earth and mining of sand and other minor minerals being hazardous activity having serious adverse impact on environment in view of 'Precautionary' and 'Sustainable Development' principles, such activity cannot be left unregulated by statutory enforceable mechanism. Blanket exemption is against ecologically sustainable development norms and judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court..."

4. The matter was referred to the concerned Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) for deliberation. After due deliberation, the EAC was of the opinion that if such linear project has obtained EC based on EIA studies incorporating such sourcing of construction material or other activities, necessary safeguards are already incorporated in the EC appraisal process. However, if such sourcing of material is not considered in the EIA or such linear project does not attract provisions of EC, then

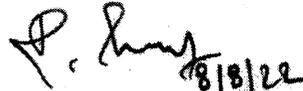
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such individual activities will be subject to extant environmental regulations as per EIA Notification 2006, as amended and/or applicable environmental safeguard related directions issued by the State Government /SPCB which need to be observed while sourcing construction material.

5. Based on the recommendations of the EAC and keeping in view the direction of Hon'ble NGT, the matter has been examined by the Ministry in detail and it has been decided that the exemption from EC provided vide S.O. 1224 (E) dated 28.03.2020 for "extraction or sourcing or borrowing of ordinary earth for linear projects such as roads, pipelines etc." shall be subject to Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) as enclosed to this Office Memorandum.

6. This is issued with the approval of the Competent Authority.

Encl: as above.


(Sundar Ramanathan)
Scientist 'E'

To

1. Chairman and Member Secretaries of SEIAA/ SEACs.
2. Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).
3. Chairpersons/ Member Secretaries of all SPCBs/UTPCCs
4. All the Officers of I.A. Division

Copy for information to:

1. PS to Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change
2. PS to Hon'ble MoS (EF&CC)
3. PPS to Secretary (EF&CC)
4. PPS to DGF&SS (EF&CC)
5. PPS to AS(TK)/PPS to JS (SKB)
6. Website, MoEF&CC/Guard file

ANNEXURESOP for Borrow Area Identification; its operation, safety and redevelopment

The activity relates to identification of borrow areas to obtain earth/soil materials; its operation, safety and redevelopment shall be carried out as per the following criteria:

1. Selection of site, operation and site-specific measures to adopt

- i. Environmental issues like siting borrow pit location, soil erosion aspects, accumulation of run-off and associated problems, disposal of debris by local community in open borrow area, transport of borrow earth to construction site, preservation of top soil of 15m depth and reuse for plantation, reinstatement of borrow pits and sites shall be considered before selection of site.
- ii. Guidelines, Manuals, Notifications etc issued by various agencies from time to time like IRC, MoRTH, MoEFCC etc shall be followed.
- iii. For selection of the site for the borrow area, agricultural land, cut material available from other road construction projects, dredging material from dredging operations of ponds, lakes, rivers and canals, material from barren land or land without tree cover outside the road RoW, material from excavation of proposed culverts can be considered. Provided further that, highly productive top-soil shall be stored separately and used for plantation activity.
- iv. Borrowing shall be avoided on the lands close to toe line, irrigated agricultural lands, grazing land, lands within settlements, 1 Km from environmentally sensitive areas such as Reserve Forests, Protected Forests, Sanctuary, National Parks, Conservation Reserve, Wetlands etc, unstable and fragile side-hills, streams and seepage areas, areas supporting rare plants/ animal species. It should be ensured that unsuitable soft rock is not prominent within the proposed depth of excavation which will render rehabilitation difficult.

2. The General Guidelines

- i. The preservation of topsoil will be carried out in stockpile.
- ii. A 15 cm topsoil will be stripped off from the borrow pit and this will be stored in stockpiles in a designated area for height not exceeding 2m and side slopes not steeper than 1:2 (Vertical: Horizontal).
- iii. Preservation of Top Soil of 15cm depth and its reuse for plantation
- iv. Validation of the work of re-use of Top Soil by the AE/IE. Competent authority to check the re-use anytime if warranted.
- v. Borrowing of earth will be carried out up to a depth of 2m from the existing ground level.
- vi. Borrowing of earth will not be done continuously throughout the stretch.
- vii. Ridges of not less than 8m widths will be left at intervals not exceeding 300m.
- viii. Small drains will be cut through the ridges, if necessary, to facilitate drainage.
- ix. Depends upon the location of borrow areas, the safeguard measures & management specific treatment as a particular borrow area depending upon its

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location viz Agriculture Land, Elevated Land, Waterbody, near Settlement and along the alignment.

3. Re-development of Borrow Areas

The objective of the rehabilitation programme is to return the borrow pit sites to a safe and secure area, which the general public should be able to use safely. Securing borrow pits in a stable condition is fundamental requirement of the rehabilitation process. This could be achieved by filling the borrow pit approximately to the road level. Following measures shall be taken for Rehabilitation:

- i. Borrow pits shall be backfilled with rejected construction wastes (unserviceable materials) including fly ash, compacted and will be given a turving or vegetative cover on the surface. If this is not possible, then excavation slope should be smoothed, and depression is filled in such a way that it looks more or less like the original ground surface.
- ii. During works execution, the Contractor shall ensure preservation of trees during piling of materials; spreading of stripping material to facilitate water percolation and allow natural vegetation growth; re-establishment of previous natural drainage flows; improvement of site appearance; digging of ditches to collect runoff; and plantation may be carried out wherever feasible or pit may be developed for water storage as per Amrit Sarovar Scheme of MoRTH.

4. Development of Amrit Sarovar

Under Amrit Sarovar Programme, water bodies are being developed by MoRT&H/NHAI/other road development agencies and the desilting of existing water body is also being taken up for water harvesting and re-charge of ground water. The earth available from development of such water bodies is to be utilised for road works and plantations as per suitability of soil. The State Authorities have already been advised not to levy any royalty for borrowing of earth for development of water bodies under Amrit Sarovar Programme.

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Annexure R1/4

रजिस्ट्री सं. डी.एल.- 33004/99

REGD. No. D. L.-33004/99


सत्यमेव जयते

भारत का राजपत्र

The Gazette of India

सी.जी.-डी.एल.-अ.-20042022-235241
CG-DL-E-20042022-235241

असाधारण
EXTRAORDINARY

भाग II—खण्ड 3—उप-खण्ड (ii)
PART II—Section 3—Sub-section (ii)

प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

सं. 1795]
No. 1795]

नई दिल्ली, बुधवार, अप्रैल 20, 2022/चैत्र 30, 1944
NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 2022/CHAITRA 30, 1944

पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय

अधिसूचना

नई दिल्ली, 20 अप्रैल, 2022

का.आ. 1886(अ).—केंद्रीय सरकार पर्यावरण और वन विभाग के पूर्ववर्ती मंत्रालय में पर्यावरण (संरक्षण) अधिनियम, 1986 की धारा (3) की उप-धारा (1) और उप-धारा (2) के खंड (v) के अधीन प्रदत्त शक्तियों का प्रयोग करते हुए, पर्यावरण समाघात निर्धारण अधिसूचना, 2006 (जिसे इसमें इसके पश्चात ईआईए अधिसूचना, 2006 कहा गया है), परियोजनाओं की कतिपय प्रवर्ग के लिए पूर्व पर्यावरणीय मंजूरी आज्ञापक बनाने के लिए, संख्या का.आ.1533(अ), तारीख 14 सितंबर, 2006 द्वारा प्रकाशित की है।

और राज्य पर्यावरण समाघात निर्धारण प्राधिकरण (एसईआईए) का गठन प्रवर्ग ख के अधीन सभी प्रस्तावों के लिए पर्यावरण मंजूरी (ईसी) पर विचार और अनुदान के लिए प्रत्यायोजित शक्तियों का प्रयोग करने हेतु राज्य स्तर पर ईआईए अधिसूचना, 2006 के कार्यान्वयन के लिए पर्यावरण (संरक्षण) अधिनियम, 1986 की धारा 3 की उप-धारा (3) के अधीन किया गया है;

और राज्य पर्यावरण समाघात निर्धारण प्राधिकरण ने पर्यावरण मंजूरी मूल्यांकन प्रक्रिया में पिछले पंद्रह वर्षों में पर्याप्त अनुभव प्राप्त किया है और राज्य स्तर पर पर्यावरण मंजूरी प्रस्तावों के कुशल और पारदर्शी निपटान के लिए परिवेश पोर्टल के माध्यम से पूरी तरह से ऑनलाइन कर दिया गया है;

और केंद्रीय सरकार राज्य स्तर पर मंजूरी की प्रसुविधा के लिए पर्यावरण मंजूरी प्रक्रिया को और विकेंद्रीकृत करना आवश्यक समझती है;

और आज की तारीख में, सुरक्षा भागीदारी के महत्वपूर्ण तत्वों के साथ राष्ट्रीय रक्षा और सामरिक महत्व से संबंधित प्रवर्ग ख की परियोजनाओं का राज्य स्तर पर भी मूल्यांकन किया जा रहा है, जिसे केंद्रीय सरकार राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा चिंताओं को ध्यान में रखते हुए केंद्रीय रूप से मूल्यांकन करना आवश्यक समझती है;

अतः अब, केंद्रीय सरकार, पर्यावरण (संरक्षण) नियम, 1986 के नियम 5 के उप-नियम (4) के साथ पठित पर्यावरण (संरक्षण) अधिनियम, 1986 (1986 का 29) की धारा 3 की उप-धारा (1) और उप-धारा (2) के खंड (v) द्वारा प्रदत्त शक्तियों का प्रयोग करते हुए उक्त नियमों के नियम 5 के उप-नियम (3) के खंड (क) के अधीन नोटिस की अपेक्षा को समाप्त करने के पश्चात्, लोकहित में भारत सरकार की तत्कालीन पर्यावरण एवं वन मंत्रालय की अधिसूचना संख्यांक का.आ. 1533(अ), तारीख 14 सितम्बर, 2006, की अधिसूचना में निम्नलिखित और संशोधन करती है अर्थात्:-

उक्त अधिसूचना में-

(1) पैरा 4 में, उप-पैरा (iii) क) के स्थान पर, निम्नलिखित रखा जाएगा, अर्थात्: -

(iii) क) राष्ट्रीय रक्षा या सामरिक या सुरक्षा महत्व से संबंधित हैं या जिन्हें केंद्रीय सरकार द्वारा संकटकाल जैसे महामारी, प्राकृतिक आपदाओं जैसी अत्यावश्यकताओं के कारण ऐसी प्रवर्ग 'ख' परियोजनाओं को अधिसूचित किया गया है या राष्ट्रीय कार्यक्रमों या स्कीमों या मिशन या ऐसी परियोजनाओं के अधीन पर्यावरण के अनुकूल क्रियाकलापों का संवर्धन करने के लिए जो इस अधिसूचना में यथा अधिकथित समय-सीमा से अधिक विलंबित हैं और समय-समय पर इस संबंध में यथा-अधिकथित मानदंडों को पूरा करती हैं, उन्हें केंद्रीय स्तर पर प्रवर्ग 'ख' परियोजनाओं के रूप में विचार किया जाएगा;

(2) अनुसूची में, -

(i) मद 1(क) के सामने,-

(क) स्तंभ (3) में, -

(क) गैर-कोयला खनन पट्टे के संबंध में "> 100 हेक्टेयर खनन पट्टा क्षेत्र" के स्थान पर, निम्नलिखित रखा जाएगा, अर्थात्: -

"कोयले के अलावा अन्य प्रमुख खनिज खनन पट्टे के संबंध में >250 हेक्टेयर खनन पट्टा क्षेत्र";

(ख) ">150 हेक्टेयर" प्रतीक, अंक और अक्षर के स्थान पर, "> 500 हेक्टेयर" प्रतीक, आंकड़े और अक्षर रखे जाएंगे;

(ख) स्तंभ (4) में, -

(क) गैर-कोयला खनन के संबंध में <100 हेक्टेयर खनन पट्टा क्षेत्र के स्थान पर,

पट्टा", निम्नलिखित रखा जाएगा, अर्थात्: -

"लघु खनिज खनन पट्टों के संबंध में सभी खनन पट्टा क्षेत्र और कोयले के अलावा अन्य प्रमुख खनिज खनन पट्टे के संबंध में <250 हेक्टेयर खनन पट्टा क्षेत्र";

(ख) "<150 हेक्टेयर" के प्रतीकों, अंकों और अक्षरों के स्थान पर "<500 हेक्टेयर" के प्रतीक, अंक और अक्षर रखे जाएंगे;

(ii) मद 1(ग) के सामने, -

(क) स्तंभ (3) में, -

(क) क्रम संख्या (i) में, "> 50 मेगावाट, प्रतीकों, अंकों और अक्षरों के स्थान पर "> 100 मेगावाट" प्रतीक, आंकड़े और अक्षर रखे जाएंगे;

(ख) क्रम संख्या (ii) और उससे संबंधित प्रविष्टियों का लोप किया जाएगा;

(ख) स्तंभ (4) में, -

(क) क्रम संख्या (i) में, "<50 मेगावाट" प्रतीक, अंक और अक्षर के स्थान पर, "<100 मेगावाट" प्रतीक, आंकड़े और अक्षर रखे जाएंगे;

(ख) क्रम संख्या (ii) में, -

(I) "और <50,000 हेक्टेयर" शब्द, प्रतीक और अंक का लोप किया जाएगा;

(II) बिंदु (ग) में सारणी में, "से <50,000" शब्द, प्रतीक और अंक का लोप किया जाएगा; ।

(ग) स्तंभ (5) में, क्रम संख्या (ii) के पश्चात, निम्नलिखित क्रम संख्या अंतःस्थापित किया जाएगा, अर्थात् :-

"(iii) अंतर-राज्यीय मुद्दों से संबंधित सिंचाई परियोजनाओं का मूल्यांकन केंद्रीय स्तर पर श्रेणी में परिवर्तन के बिना किया जाएगा।";

(iii) मद 1(घ) के सामने,-

(क) स्तंभ (3) में, "> 50 मेगावाट" प्रतीकों, अंकों और अक्षरों के स्थान पर, "> 100 मेगावाट" प्रतीकों, अंकों और अक्षरों को रखा जाएगा;

(ख) स्तंभ (4) में, "<50 मेगावाट" प्रतीक, अंक और अक्षर के स्थान पर, "<100 मेगावाट" प्रतीक, आंकड़े और अक्षर रखे जाएंगे;

(iv) मद 2(क) के सामने, -

(क) स्तंभ (3) में, ">1" प्रतीकों और अंक के स्थान पर, ">2.5" प्रतीकों और अंक को रखा जाएगा;

(ख) स्तंभ (4) में, "<1" प्रतीकों और अंक के स्थान पर, "< 2.5" प्रतीक और अंक रखे जाएंगे;

(ग) स्तंभ (5) में, विद्यमान पैरा के पश्चात, निम्नलिखित पैरा अंतःस्थापित किया जाएगा, अर्थात् :-

"खनन पट्टा क्षेत्र के भीतर स्थित धुलाई मशीनों के साथ एकीकृत कोयला खनन परियोजनाओं को कोयला खनन परियोजनाओं के लिए विद्यमान सीमा के अनुसार केंद्रीय स्तर या राज्य स्तर पर, यथास्थिति, विचार किया जाना जारी रहेगा।";

(v) मद 2 (ख) के सामने, -

(क) स्तंभ (3) में, विद्यमान प्रविष्टियों का लोप किया जाएगा;

(ख) स्तंभ (4) में, "<0.5 मिलियन टीपीए का उत्पादन" प्रतीक, अंक, शब्द और अक्षर के स्थान पर, "सभी खनिज परिष्करण परियोजना, परिष्करण की प्रक्रिया पर ध्यान दिए बिना" शब्द रखे जाएंगे;

(ग) स्तंभ (5) में, विद्यमान पैरा के पश्चात, निम्नलिखित पैरा रखा जाएगा,

अर्थात् :-

"भीतर स्थित लाभकारी संयंत्रों के साथ एकीकृत खनन परियोजनाएं खनन पट्टा क्षेत्र पर केन्द्रीय स्तर पर विचार किया जाता रहेगा या यथास्थिति, राज्य स्तर, खनन परियोजनाओं के लिए विद्यमान सीमा के अनुसार।";

(vi) मद 7 (क) के सामने,-

(क) स्तंभ (3) में, "सभी परियोजनाओं" शब्दों के स्थान पर "सभी नई परियोजनाएं" शब्द रखे जाएंगे;

(ख) स्तंभ (4) में, निम्नलिखित अंतःस्थापित किया जाएगा, अर्थात् :-

"सभी विस्तार परियोजनाएं, जिनमें हवाई पट्टियां भी सम्मिलित हैं, जो वाणिज्यिक उपयोग के लिए हैं।"

[फा. सं. आईए 3-22/10/2022-आईए. III]

डॉ. सुजीत कुमार बाजपेयी, संयुक्त सचिव

टिप्पण : मूल अधिसूचना भारत के राजपत्र, असाधारण, भाग II, खंड III, उप-खंड (ii), संख्या का.आ. 1533(अ), तारीख 14 सितंबर, 2006 द्वारा प्रकाशित की गई थी और अधिसूचना संख्या का.आ. 1807(अ), तारीख 12 अप्रैल, 2022 द्वारा अंतिम संशोधन किया गया था।

1979

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 20th April, 2022

S.O. 1886(E).—WHEREAS, the Central Government in the erstwhile Ministry of Environment and Forests, in exercise of its powers under sub-section (1) and clause (v) of sub-section (2) of section (3) of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 has published the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 (hereinafter referred to as the EIA Notification, 2006), vide number S.O.1533 (E), dated the 14th September, 2006 for mandating prior environmental clearance for certain category of projects;

And whereas, the State Environment Impact Assessment Authorities (SEIAAs) have been constituted under sub-section (3) of section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for implementation of the EIA Notification, 2006 at State level for exercising delegated powers to consider and grant Environmental Clearance (EC) for all proposals under Category B;

And whereas, the SEIAAs have gained substantial experience over the past fifteen years in the EC appraisal process and the process at the State level has also been made completely online through the PARIVESH portal for efficient and transparent disposal of EC proposals;

And whereas, the Central Government deems it necessary to further decentralise the EC process for facilitating clearances at State level;

And whereas, as on date, category 'B' projects, relating to national defence and strategic importance with significant element of security involvement are also being appraised at the State level which, the Central Government deems it necessary to be appraised centrally taking into account national security concerns;

Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) and clause (v) of sub-section (2) of section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (29 of 1986), read with sub-rule(4) of rule 5 of the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986, the Central Government, after having dispensed with the requirement of notice under clause (a) of sub-rule (3) of rule 5 of the said rules, in public interest, hereby makes the following further amendments in the notification of the Government of India, in the erstwhile Ministry of Environment and Forests, number S.O. 1533 (E), dated the 14th September, 2006, namely:-

In the said notification,-

(1) in paragraph 4, for sub-paragraph (iii a), the following shall be substituted, namely:-

(iii a) Such Category 'B' projects, relating to the National defence or strategic or security importance or those as notified by the Central Government on account of exigencies such as pandemics, natural disasters or to promote environmentally friendly activities under National Programmes or Schemes or Missions or such projects which are inordinately delayed beyond the stipulated timeline as laid down in this notification and also meet the criteria as laid down in this regard from time to time, shall be considered at the Central level as Category 'B' projects;

(2) in the Schedule,-

(i) against item 1(a),-

(a) in column (3),-

(A) for ">100 ha. of mining lease area in respect of non-coal mining lease", the following shall be substituted, namely:-

">250 ha mining lease area in respect of major mineral mining lease other than coal";

(B) for the symbol, figures and letters "> 150 ha", the symbol, figures and letters "> 500 ha" shall be substituted;

(b) in column (4),-

(A) for "≤ 100 ha of mining lease area in respect of non-coal mine lease", the following shall be substituted, namely:-

"All mining lease area in respect of minor mineral mining leases and ≤ 250 ha mining lease area in respect of major mineral mining lease other than coal";

- (B) for the symbols, figures and letters " ≤ 150 ha", the symbols, figures and letters " ≤ 500 ha" shall be substituted;
- (ii) against item 1(c),—
- (a) in column (3),—
- (A) in serial number (i), for the symbols, figures and letters " ≥ 50 MW", the symbols, figures and letters " ≥ 100 MW" shall be substituted;
- (B) serial number (ii) and the entries relating thereto shall be omitted;
- (b) in column (4),—
- (A) in serial number (i), for the symbol, figures and letters "< 50 MW", the symbol, figures and letters "< 100 MW" shall be substituted;
- (B) in serial number (ii),—
- (I) the word, symbol and figures "and < 50,000 ha." shall be omitted;
- (II) in point (c) in the table, the word, symbol and figures "to < 50,000" shall be omitted;
- (c) in column (5), after serial number (ii), the following serial number shall be inserted, namely:—
- "(iii) Irrigation projects involving Inter-State issues shall be appraised at Central level without change in category.";
- (iii) against item 1(d),—
- (a) in column (3), for the symbols, figures and letters " ≥ 50 MW", the symbols, figures and letters " ≥ 100 MW" shall be substituted;
- (b) in column (4), for the symbol, figures and letters "< 50 MW", the symbol, figures and letters "< 100 MW" shall be substituted;
- (iv) against item 2(a),—
- (a) in column (3), for the symbols and figure " ≥ 1 ", the symbols and figures " ≥ 2.5 " shall be substituted;
- (b) in column (4), for the symbols and figure "< 1", the symbols and figures "< 2.5" shall be substituted;
- (c) in column (5), after the existing paragraph, the following paragraph shall be inserted, namely:—
- "Integrated coal mining projects with washeries located within mining lease area shall continue to be considered at Central level or State level, as the case may be, as per the extant threshold for coal mining projects.";
- (v) against item 2 (b),—
- (a) in column (3), the existing entries shall be omitted;
- (b) in column (4), for the symbol, figures, words and letters "< 0.5 million TPA throughput", the words "All mineral beneficiation projects irrespective of the procedure for beneficiation" shall be substituted;
- (c) in column (5), after the existing paragraph, the following paragraph shall be inserted, namely:—
- "Integrated mining projects with beneficiation plants located within mining lease area shall continue to be considered at Central level or State level, as the case may be, as per the extant threshold for mining projects.";
- (vi) against item 7 (a),—
- (a) in column (3), for the words "All projects", the words "All new projects" shall be substituted;

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(b) in column (4), the following shall be inserted, namely:—

“All expansions projects, including airstrips, which are for commercial use.”.

[F. No. IA3-22/10/2022-IA.III]

Dr. SUJIT KUMAR BAJPAYEE, Jt. Secy.

Note : The principal notification was published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section III, sub-section (ii), vide, number S.O. 1533(E), dated the 14th September, 2006 and was last amended, vide, the notification number S.O. 1807(E), dated the 12th April, 2022.