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Parag Munot

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Prakash Baviskar

Ref. No. MCHI/PRES/17-18/002

August 01, 2017

To,
Hon'ble Shri Devendra Fadnavis
Chief Minister
Govt of Maharashtra
Mantralaya
Mumbai


मुख्यमंत्री सचिवालय
महाराष्ट्र शासन
मंत्रालय, मुंबई - ४०० ०३२.
दिनांक २६/७/१७

Sub: To clear pending backlog of files by Expert & SEIAA Committee till formation of Environment Cell in Urban Local Bodies in MMR area.

Ref: 1) Gazette Notification issued by MoEF dtd. 9 December 2016
2) The order issued by MoEF dtd. 7 July 2017

Respected Sir,

Please refer to the Gazette Notification and Order issued by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change of Government of India issued on 9th December, 2016 & 7 July 2017.

As mentioned in the notification, the Environment Cell has to be formed by every Municipal Corporations and Councils in State of Maharashtra consisting of expert people from subject related sectors. This cell is to enable granting of environment clearances for building proposals upto 1,50,000 sq. meters by the urban local bodies. We feel that the main objective of the said Gazette Notification & order is to bring in the Ease of Doing Business concept for quick processing of pending building proposals.

The Urban Development Department has already issued the directives under section 154 to process the issuing of environmental clearance through this particular cell at corporation level. Accordingly, the standard operating process for the process of giving environmental clearance will be finalized at the earliest, from the date of formation of the respective environmental cell by concerned urban local body in MMR area.

Reportedly, till date only MCGM has formed the environment cell, but which is not yet started its working process. Also in other Municipal Corporations in MMR jurisdiction the process of formation of the cell is yet to be started. This is causing huge pending backlog of files in State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) about building proposals. After the NGT Ruling, we builders are not starting projects unless we get final Environmental Clearance.

Financial Implications:

- You would appreciate that these projects which are pending with the investment of thousands of Crores and each of such projects have hundreds of crores of buyers from Banks, HFL, HFCL, NBFC, Private lenders and are paying huge interest each day.
- Loans worth crores of rupees have been taken and now if we have to start from the beginning, the delay will cause us huge financial losses.
- Hence, it is urgent & important that the Final clearance is given by the authorities so these investments start seeing actual work at ground level and lead to thousands of employment being created.

Already such projects have taken immense pain to reach the point at which environment stage they are now. Many building projects requiring Environmental Clearances have already been recommended to State Environmental Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) after completing all other processes and the final Environment Clearance is to be granted by the SEIAA in the state of Maharashtra. Some of these projects in the state of Maharashtra were listed in the Agenda for the meeting of SEIAA which was to take place on 15th July, 2017. These projects have already taken a long time to come to this stage.

Therefore, on behalf of CREDAI-MCHI, we would like to request you that to clear the huge backlog of pending proposals, the SEIAA may take up and clear all the pending proposals (files) till formation and complete operationalization of the Environment Cell at various Municipal Corporations in MMR area which may take time period of 3 months or more.

We would be grateful for the necessary consideration of our representation to issue direction to clear pending proposal, so as to achieve the objectives of ease of Doing Business please.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,
For CREDAI-MCHI



Mayur Shah
President



Domnic Romell
Hon. Secretary



S. S. Hussain, I.A.S. (Retd.)
Chief Executive Officer