

Ref. No. MCHI/PRES/14-15/064

October 14, 2014

To,
Hon'ble Shri Prakash Javadekar
Minister of State (Independent Charge)
of Environment & Forest,
Pariyavaran Bhavan,
Government of India,
New Delhi.

Respected Sir,

Greetings of the Season from MCHI-CREDAI

It is to bring to your kind notice that, the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), Government of India (GoI), through issuance of EIA notification S.O. 1533 dated 14.09.2006, has restructured the Environmental Clearance procedure in suppression of the earlier environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification of January 1994 and its subsequent amendments. Through this notification forty-one (41) activities (predominantly industrial in nature), have been scheduled for mandatory Environmental Clearance. Part of these activities require Environmental Clearance from Central Level Impact Assessment Authority at MoEF, New Delhi whereas others require Environmental Clearance from state level Environmental Clearance authority i.e., State Environment Impact Assessment Authority. West Bengal is the first state in the country to constitute two types of Environment Clearance authority consisting of the State Environment Impact Assessment authority (SEIAA) and State Level Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC) as per the provision of this new Notification.

Environmental Clearance is now granted by MoEF, New Delhi at central level and also by the state environment clearance authority at state level. In West Bengal, SEIAA and SEAC are comprised of experts from the field of Industrial Engineering, Environmental Management, Public Health Engineering, Town and Country Planning, Economics and other related fields. The SEIAA and SEAC are functioning in the state of West Bengal from May 2007. The success of State level clearance authority has set up an example in the country and several other states are soliciting advice from the state of West Bengal for introducing new Environmental Clearance mechanisms in respective states for effective environment impact management.

That environment cannot be protected by putting efforts on issuing NOC or clearances only. That as of today, there are two dimensions on environment

protection. First, ensuring no new industry is set up without adequate precaution. This function is being taken care of by issuing NOC or clearances. Second and most important issue which needs to be addressed is to clean the present polluted rivers, land, sea and the affected Coastal Zones! Unfortunately, not much effort is being put into that. CRZ norms are fixed so that every project comes for NOC, but no steps are being taken to clean up rivers and sea at all. There are no steps taken to ensure that solid waste management at city and town levels are planned in a positive and meaningful ways.

The only thing, which MoEF of central and state level are now busy with, are only issue of clearances to be given. This does not seem to have the desired effect on saving the Environment or Balancing Development with protecting the Environment.

The concentration of MoEF is on issues which are least polluting, like clearances to residential and commercial project. On the other hand it should have concentrated on ensuring that every city and every town concentrate and implement, water treatment plants, sewerage treatment plants, solid waste management & processing plants, and industries are set up with the highest environment standards. The issues which generate 75% of pollution and environment hazards should be attacked and concentrated on and residential projects and commercial projects, which not only generate only 15% of the environment issues, but are also a necessity of the population is regulated through standards which are laid down, and direct local bodies to implement it, through various Development Control Regulations.

Thanking you,

Yours Sincerely
For MCHI-CREDAI

Vimal Shah
President

CC to :
Shri T. S. R. Subramanian (I.A.S, Retd.)
Chairman for High Level Committee of MoEF &
Former Cabinet Secretary
Government of India
New Delhi