

No. L-11011/47/2011-IA.II(M)
Government of India
Ministry of Environment & Forests

Paryavaran Bhavan,
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Dated the 18th May, 2012

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Sub: Order of Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 27.2.2012 in I.A. no. 12-13 of 2011 in SLP (C) no. 19628-19629 of 2009 in the matter of Deepak Kumar etc. Vs State of Haryana and Ors. – Implementation thereof - Regarding.

Reference is invited to the above mentioned order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court directing inter-alia as under:

"We in the meanwhile, order that leases of minor mineral including their renewal for an area of less than 5 ha be granted by the States / UTs only after getting environmental clearance from the MoEF."

2. The Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006, as amended, requires mining projects (new projects, expansion or modernization of existing projects as also at the stage of renewal of mine lease) with lease area of 5 ha and above, irrespective of the mineral (major or minor) to obtain prior environment clearance under the provisions thereof. Mining projects with lease area of 5 ha and above and less than 50 ha are categorized as category 'B' whereas projects with lease area of 50 ha and above are categorized as category 'A'. The category 'A' projects are considered at the central level in the Ministry of Environment & Forests while category 'B' projects are considered by the respective State/UT Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority, notified by MoEF under the EIA Notification, 2006.

3. In order to ensure compliance of the above referred order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 27.2.2012, it has now been decided that all mining projects of minor minerals including their renewal, irrespective of the size of the lease would henceforth require prior environment clearance. Mining projects with lease area up to less than 50 ha including projects of minor mineral with lease area less than 5 ha would be treated as category 'B' as defined in the EIA Notification, 2006 and will be considered by the respective SEIAAs notified by MoEF and following the procedure prescribed under EIA Notification, 2006.

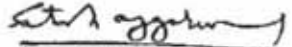
4. Further, the Hon'ble Supreme Court in its order dated 16.4.2012 in the above mentioned matter and the linked applications has observed as under:

"All the same, liberty is granted to the applicants before us to approach the Ministry of Environment and Forests for permission to carry on mining below five hectares and in the event of which Ministry will dispose of all the applications within ten days from the date of receipt of the applications in accordance with law."

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Accordingly, the respective SEIAAs in dealing with the applications of the applicants referred to in the above mentioned order shall ensure that the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court are effectively complied with and the applications of such applicants are disposed of within the time limit prescribed by the Hon'ble Court in accordance with law.

This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.


(Dr. S.K. Aggarwal)
Director

To

1. The Secretary, Ministry of Mines, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.
2. The Chief Secretaries of all the States / UTs
3. Chairpersons / Member Secretaries of all the SEIAAs/SEACs
4. Chairman, CPCB
5. Chairpersons / Member Secretaries of all SPCBs / UTPCCs

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