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Government of India
Ministry of Environment & Forests

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Dated the 17th September, 2013

Office Memorandum

Sub: Consideration of projects for environmental clearance based on Comprehensive Environmental Pollution Index (CEPI) – Lifting of Moratorium in respect of industrial clusters/areas of Ahmedabad (Gujarat) , Asansole (West Bengal) , Bhiwadi (Rajasthan), Dhanbad (Jharkhand), Haldia (West Bengal), Howrah (West Bengal), Korba (Chhattisgarh), Kanpur (U.P.), Manali (Tamilnadu) and Vishakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh) – reg.

Ministry of Environment & Forests vide Office Memorandum of even no. dated 13.1.2010 had imposed a moratorium up to 31.8.2010 on consideration of projects for environmental clearance to be located in 43 critically polluted areas / industrial clusters identified by Central Pollution Control Board. The details of the industrial clusters /areas were further specified in the Office Memorandum dated 15.3.2010. It was envisaged that during the period of moratorium, time bound action plans will be prepared by the respective SPCBs / PCCs for improving the environmental quality in these industrial clusters / areas. The action plans so prepared would be finalized by CPCB. The period of moratorium was extended beyond 31.8.2010 from time to time.

2. The status of preparation of action plans was reviewed in the Ministry of Environment & Forests from time to time, based on the inputs received from Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). In accordance with the information received from the Central Pollution Control Board that the respective SPCBs and the local stakeholders had initiated work on implementation of the submitted action plans in respect of the industrial areas / clusters namely (i) Tarapur (Maharashtra), (ii) Pattencherru-Bollaram (Andhra Pradesh), (iii) Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu), (iv) Vapi (Gujarat) (v) Mandi- Govindgarh (Punjab), (vi) Agra (Uttar Pradesh), (vii) Aurangabad (Maharashtra), (viii) Bhavnagar (Gujarat), (ix) Cuddalore (Tamil Nadu), (x) Dombivalli (Maharashtra), (xi) Ludhiana (Punjab), (xii) Navi Mumbai (Maharashtra), (xiii) Varanasi-Mirzapur (Uttar Pradesh), (xiv) Angul Talchar (Orissa), (xv) Faridabad (Haryana), (xvi) Ghaziabad (Uttar Pradesh), (xvii) Indore (Madhya Pradesh), (xviii) Junagadh (Gujarat), (xix) Noida (Uttar Pradesh), (xx) Panipat (Haryana), (xxi) Bhadravati (Karnataka), (xxii) Mangalore (Karnataka), (xxiii) Greater Kochi (Kerala), (xxiv) Singrauli (Madhya Pradesh Part and Uttar Pradesh Part), (xxv) Ib Valley (Orissa) and (xxvi) Jharsuguda (Orissa), the Ministry of Environment & Forests lifted the moratorium on consideration of projects for environmental clearance in the above mentioned 26 industrial clusters / areas vide O.M.s of even no. dated 26th October, 2010, 15th February, 2011, 31st March 2011, 23rd May 2011 and 5th July, 2011. In the remaining 17 identified industrial clusters, the moratorium was extended upto 31st March, 2012 and thereafter it was extended till further orders vide OM of even no. dated 30.03.2012.

3. The CPCB conducted monitoring in the Critically Polluted Areas (CPAs) during February-April, 2013 and re-assessed the CEPI score. The CPCB, vide its communication, dated July 24, 2013 have informed MoEF about the revised CEPI score based on the monitoring conducted during February-April, 2013.

4. The evaluation of the CEPI score in the 17 areas where moratorium is still in place indicates that the CEPI score in 10 areas namely Bhiwadi (Rajasthan), Dhanbad (Jharkhand), Manali (Tamilnadu), Ahmedabad (Gujarat), Korba (Chhattisgarh), Asansole

(West Bengal), Haldia (West Bengal), Howrah (West Bengal), Vishakapatnam (Andhra Pradesh) and Kanpur (UP) is below 80 and has shown a decreasing trend as compared to the CEPI score assessed by CPCB in 2011. In rest of the seven areas namely Ankleshwar (Maharashtra), Chandrapur (Maharashtra), Pali (Rajasthan), Vatva (Gujarat), Vellore (Tamil Nadu), Najafgarh Drain Basin (UT Delhi) and Jodhpur (Rajasthan), the CEPI score is either above 80 or is above 70 and showing either increasing trend or no change as compared to values observed in 2011.

5. In view of the re-assessment of CEPI score and taking into consideration that action plans for improving environment quality take time to yield results, it has been decided to lift the moratorium on consideration of projects for environmental clearance in respect of projects to be located in the above mentioned 10 clusters/areas namely Bhiwadi (Rajasthan), Dhanbad (Jharkhand), Manali (Tamilnadu), Ahmedabad (Gujarat), Korba (Chhattisgarh), Asansole (West Bengal), Haldia (West Bengal), Howrah (West Bengal), Vishakapatnam (Andhra Pradesh) and Kanpur (U.P.) where CEPI score is below 80 and has shown a decreasing trend as compared to the CEPI score of 2011, subject to the following conditions :

- i. The concerned SPCB to ensure that any new project / activity or any expansion or modernization of existing project or activity or any change in product mix is in line with the overall approved action plan of the concerned CPA.
- ii. The implementation of action plan of every CPA to be reviewed by the concerned Chairman, SPCB on quarterly basis and report sent to CPCB by the 7th day of the month succeeding the end of quarter.
- iii. Monitoring in CPAs be got done by SPCB through a third party on annual basis for computing CEPI. The monitoring be done during December-February and the report sent to CPCB by April. CPCB, in turn, to submit its report to MoEF.
- iv. Monitoring in CPAs be got done by CPCB through a third party on biennial basis for computing CEPI and report submitted to MoEF for taking an appropriate view.

If at any time it comes to the notice of CPCB that action plan in any CPA is not being implemented properly or the CEPI index in CPA is showing an increasing trend, it will immediately bring the factual position to the notice of MoEF and MoEF would consider taking an appropriate view in the matter which may include re-imposition of moratorium.

6. In respect of seven remaining CPAs namely Ankaleshwar (Maharashtra), Chandrapur (Maharashtra), Pali (Rajasthan), Vatva (Gujarat), Vellore (Tamilnadu), Najafgarh Drain Basin (UT Delhi) and Jodhpur (Rajasthan) the moratorium will continue till further orders.

This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.

(Dr. P.B. Rastogi)
Director

To:

1. All the Officers of IA Division
2. Chairpersons / Member Secretaries of all the SEIAAs/SEACs
3. Chairman, CPCB
4. Chairpersons/Member Secretaries of all SPCBs /UTPCCs.

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