

F. No. IA3-22/10/2022-IA.III [E177258]
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(IA Division)

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

Dated: 7th May, 2022

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Special dispensation for consideration of Environmental Clearance for 50% expansion in coal mining projects, within the existing premises/ mine lease area, without additional land acquisition - reg.

Reference is invited to this Ministry's Office Memorandum (OM) no. J-11015/224/2015-IA.II dated 15th September 2017 in which exemption from Public Hearing was provided, for up to 40% expansion of coal mining projects in 2-3 phases subject to certain conditions.

2. Subsequently, the Ministry superseded the above-mentioned OM and issued guidelines vide OM of even number dated 11th April 2022 for granting Environmental Clearance (EC) under para 7(ii)(a) of EIA Notification, 2006, for expansion up to 50%, within the existing premises/mine lease area, without additional land acquisition.

3. In the above-mentioned OM dated 11th April 2022, Public Hearing is exempted for expansion up to 50% in stages. Public Consultation by obtaining response in writing, as per para 7 III (ii) (b) of EIA Notification 2006, has been prescribed for expansion from 40% to 50%.

4. The Ministry is in receipt of a request from the Ministry of Coal stating that there is huge pressure on domestic coal supply in the country and all efforts are being made to meet the demand of coal for all sectors. It has been requested that existing coal blocks should be allowed for expansion of production capacity keeping in view the available reserves in the coal block and compliance of the conditions of the previous EC. Ministry of Coal has further requested for relaxing the requirement of Public Consultation and preparation of EIA/EMP report for expansion from 40% to 50%, for enhancement of production of coal without any further delay.

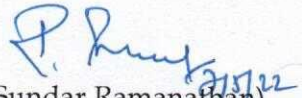
5. The matter has been examined in the Ministry. Considering the exigency that has arisen, it has been decided, as a special dispensation, that those coal mining projects which have been granted expansion of EC up to 40% of original EC capacity as per provisions of above referred OMs, shall be granted expansion EC to increase their production capacity to 50% of original EC capacity, within the same mine lease area without requiring revised EIA/ EMP report for additional capacity and public consultation.

6. The special dispensation mentioned at para 5 above shall be subject to the following conditions:

- i. An application shall be made on PARIVESH portal for expansion under Para 7(ii) of EIA Notification 2006.
- ii. In view of the exigency as detailed above and as per the provisions of Para 4(iii) of the EIA Notification 2006 as amended, all such expansion proposals, irrespective of the mine area, shall be considered by the Ministry at the Central level.
- iii. The increase in production capacity up to 50% of original EC shall be allowed within the same mine lease area, based on the available reserves in the coal block, on same terms and conditions of the existing EC granted for 40% expansion of production capacity.
- iv. Certified Compliance Report of the EC granted for 40% expansion, along with EIA/EMP report, prepared based on standard ToRs for the additional capacity of 10% shall be submitted on PARIVESH portal within six months of enhancement of production beyond 40%.
- v. Based on the documents as mentioned in Para (iv) above, Ministry shall ascertain the adequacy of the proposed environmental safeguards and stipulate necessary conditions, if required, which shall be monitored as a part of the EC compliance monitoring.

7. Further, this dispensation is provided as a special case for a period of six months from the date of issue of this OM, for submission of the application on PARIVESH portal and this shall not be treated as a precedent.

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


(Sundar Ramanathan)
Scientist 'E'

To

1. Secretary, Ministry of Coal, Govt. of India
2. Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).
3. Chairman of all the Expert Appraisal Committees
4. Chairperson/Member Secretaries of all the SEIAAs/SEACs
5. Chairpersons/Member Secretaries of all SPCBs/UTPCCs
6. All the Officers of I.A. Division

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