



सी.के.मिश्रा
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सचिव
भारत सरकार
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
SECRETARY
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

D.O.No.2411/8/2019-GC

Dated: 18th October, 2019

Following are the highlights of the achievements and activities of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) during **September 2019:**

1 Rules/Notifications/Policy Decisions:

- 1.1 Two Guidelines were issued for diversion of forest land for non-forest purpose under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 during the month of September 2019.
- 1.2 Para 4.4.3 of Chapter -4 handbook of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been amended vide guideline dated 13.09.2019 which clarify the provision for raising of CA in Left wing Extremism (LWE) district.
- 1.3 Guidelines specific to hydrocarbon sector for undertaking seismic surveys and exploratory drilling in forest areas issued.

2. Conferences/Workshops/Seminars and other activities:

- 2.1 India hosted United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), Conference of Parties -14 at Greater Noida during September 2-13, 2019. 9000 delegates participated in the CoP-14 including more than 100 Ministers, Heads of United Nations and Intergovernmental bodies, Country Parties, Youth, Local governments, Business leaders and representatives of NGOs etc. Hon'ble Prime Minister of India addressed the opening of the High Level Segment on 9th September 2019.
- 2.2 The 16th meeting of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) was held on 3.9.2019 under the chairmanship of Hon'ble MEF&CC in which various issues for strengthening tiger conservation Eco development activities etc. were discussed.
- 2.3 Meeting to finalize the action plan prepared in the matter of Hon'ble NGT regarding projects cutting through the tiger corridors in Eastern Vidharbha Landscape was held on 30.9.2019.
- 2.4 Note for the Cabinet on Guidelines for Public Participation in Afforestation of Degraded Forests was circulated for inter-Ministerial consultation with intimation to PMO and Cabinet Secretariat on 9.9.2019.

- 2.5 Forest Plus 2.0 (Forest for Water and Prosperity), a Programme under bilateral agreement between India and USAID was officially launched on 25.09.2019 for its implementation in Kerala, Telangana and Bihar.
- 2.6 National Museum of Natural History (NMNH) organized "Essay Writing Competition for Youth" on 16th September 2019 to commemorate "International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer".
- 2.7 NMNH organized awareness campaign for making common masses aware of conservation of water through interaction with school and college students and in neighbourhood colonies, taking out rallies, plantation drive activities etc.
- 2.8 Regional Museum of Natural History (RMNH), Bhopal and 'Bhopal Birds' jointly organized a Group Discussion of Experts on Status of Vultures in Madhya Pradesh and Conservation Measures on 8th September 2019.
- 2.9 Scientists of Botanical Survey of India (BSI) discovered two new species of plants viz. *Impatiens tanyae* (Balsaminaceae) from the Western Ghats of India and a macro fungus *Lactigluus indovolemus* (Russulaceae) from Arunachal Pradesh in the North East India.
- 2.10 Scientists of BSI conducted nine botanical explorations in various phytogeographical regions of the Country and collected plant samples for taxonomic study in connection with various projects.

2.11 **Environmental Clearances:**

During the month of **September 2019, 122 projects** pertaining to different sectors were appraised, **33 projects were accorded environmental clearance** and **22 projects prescribed TORs. Thus a total of 55 proposals were cleared.** The status of environmental clearance and TOR of Projects for the month is at **Annexure-I.**

2.12 **Forest Clearances:**

During the month, diversion of **416.84 ha of forestland** in **59 cases** were approved under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. **188.29 ha of non-forest land and 620.82 ha of degraded forestland** were earmarked for Compensatory Afforestation (C.A.).

2.13 **Total Expenditure:**

An expenditure of **Rs 1362.06 Crores (Provisional)** has been incurred until **30th September 2019** against the Net budget estimate of **Rs 3062.72 crores** for FY 2019-20.2.14 **Eco sensitive Zone:**

Out of **662 Protected Areas (PAs)** in the country, the Ministry has issued **ESZ Notifications for 523 PAs**, including **Draft Notifications for 174 PAs and Final Notifications for 349 PAs.**

3. **Important policy matters held up because of prolonged inter-ministerial consultation: NIL**

4. **Compliance of CoS Decisions:**

No. of CoS decisions pending for compliance	Proposed action plan/time lines for compliance of CoS decisions
<p>CoS/4560/8- MoEF&CC may follow up with Ministry of Steel to resolve the matter of fixing of reserve price of movable assets of A&N Islands Forest and Plantation Development Corporation by FSNL.</p>	<p>By order of ANIFPDCL dated 16.04.2019, M/s AICH Appraisers Auctioneers and Valuers, Kolkata has been engaged to carry out the valuation of the movable assets of the Corporation with some terms and conditions. The final report has been received from the firm. The Corporation is in the process to upload price of movable items to start the auctioning process.</p>
<p>CoS/2644/7 - Andaman & Nicobar Islands Forest & Plantation Corporation Ltd Recommendation:</p> <p>(i) MoEF&CC may examine the possibility of transferring the management of the Corporation to the UT of A& N Islands.</p> <p>(ii) MoEF& CC may also consider diversifying mandate of the Corporate to bring in eco-tourism and renewable energy in consultation with M/o New and Renewable Energy and M/o Tourism.</p> <p>(iii) In case the above options do not fructify, MoEF& CC may consider closing the company by offering VRS/redeploying staff with the UT administration.</p>	<p>(i) Payment towards VRS/VSS is complete.</p> <p>(ii) Release of Payment for leave encashment to all the eligible optees has been made.</p> <p>(iii) Gratuity payment has been released to LIC, Kolkata and 765 claims has been forwarded to LIC, Kolkata for final settlement. The Gratuity claims of 765 VRS/VSS optees have been received by ANIFPDCL Gratuity Trust. 689 cases of Gratuity claims have been settled. 76 claims of those VRS/VSS optees who have not vacated the Corporation accommodation are pending for settlement.</p> <p>(iv) Payment of TE to the employees is complete except some employees working on contract basis to complete the closure plan.</p> <p>(v) Vide order of ANIFPDCL dated 16.04.2019, M/s AICH Appraisers Auctioneers and Valuers, Kolkata has been engaged to carry out the valuation of the movable assets of the Corporation with some terms and conditions. The final report has been received from the firm, which is under examination before communicating to MSTC.</p> <p>(vi) The Ministry has conveyed its decision for disposal of all immovable assets held by the Corporation. (vii) Decision has been taken to return the immovable assets standing on Reserve Forests/Tribal Reserve/License/Lease, at the book value to the A&N Forest Department and the other lands (Non-forest lands) in A&N Islands to A&N Administration on payment of book value.</p> <p>(viii) All Reserved forest land held under lease has been returned to Forest Department of Andaman and Nicobar Administration. The Forest Department has deposited book value to LMA.</p>

	(ix) A&N Administration has deposited the book value to LMA. (x) Regarding disposal of Kolkata property, with the approval of Competent Authority in the Ministry, it has been decided to transfer the above property to Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) for use it as office/guest house. The order for the same has been issued. The WCCB is in the process to deposit the book value of the property.
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5. Number of cases of 'sanction for prosecution' pending for more than three months: **NIL**

6. Particulars of cases in which there has been a departure from the Transaction of Business Rules or established policy of the Government: **NIL**

7. Details of cases in which ACC directions have not been complied with: **NIL**

8. **Status of Public Grievances:**

No. of Public Grievances redressed during the month	No. of Public Grievances pending at the end of the month including brought forward
645	659

9. Information on the specific steps taken by the Ministry/Department for utilization of the Space Technology based tools and applications in Governance and Development:

Ministry has its own Decision Support System developed by FSI based on combining GIS platform and remotely sensed imagery obtained by Indian Satellite IRS P-6 Liss-III. This system is used for Wildlife, Biodiversity and Forest Management and decision-making related with these issues.

Yours sincerely,

Encl: as above

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[C.K. Mishra]

Shri Rajiv Gauba,

Cabinet Secretary,
Cabinet Secretariat,
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Copy to: The Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, PMO, South Block, New Delhi.

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[C.K. Mishra]

Copy also to:

- i) PS to Hon'ble Minister, EF&CC
- ii) PS to Hon'ble Minister of State, EF&CC
- iii) All Ministries of Govt. of India
- iv) Consultant (IT)

Geeta Menon
(Geeta Menon)
Joint Secretary

Status of Environment Clearance and Terms of Reference of Projects for the month of September, 2019

	Industry-(I)		Industry-(II)		Thermal		River Valley & Hydro-Electric		Mining (Coal)		Mining (Non-Coal)		Infrastructure and Miscellaneous Projects + CRZ		New Construction Project and Industrial Estates		Total	
	EC	ToR	EC	FOR	EC	TOR	EC	TOR	EC	TOR	EC	ToR	EC	TOR	EC	TOR	EC	TOR
No. of projects at beginning of the month	39	27	153	15	6	7	35	27	27	27	77	67	106	14	24	10	467	194
Projects received during the month/ respond	13	12	37	43	1	0	0	0	3	3	5	11	12	10	1	2	72	81
Projects cleared during the month	8	5	16	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	2	0	0	33	22
Projects converted from EC to TOR due change of scope	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Projects exempted during the month	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Project rejected during the month (on merit)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Project closed during the month (due to non-submission of info.)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Projects withdrawn/ returned/ transferred/ duplicate	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Projects kept in abeyance/ delisted	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Projects pending at the end of the month *	38	33	160	27	7	7	35	26	26	28	67	58	96	20	25	12	454	211

* The total pending projects does not include the projects which are pending due to EDS. However, the EDS proposals have been included in the projects received during the month.