OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Sub: Consideration of proposals regarding Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg districts, Maharashtra.

This has reference to the Ministry's Office Memorandum of even No. dated 16th August, 2010 and its subsequent amendments dated 26th August, 2010 and 3rd January, 2011 regarding extension of moratorium up to 30th June, 2011 on consideration of projects from the districts of Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg, Maharashtra under the EIA Notification, 2006 received by this Ministry or by the Maharashtra State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA).

The Government of Maharashtra has informed about acute shortage of availability of sand affecting infrastructure projects and construction of affordable houses. The matter was reviewed in the Ministry and keeping in view the acute shortage of sand, the moratorium on sand mining in non-CRZ areas in Sindhudurg and Ratnagiri districts have been lifted for two years subject to:

(i) Compliance with Environmental and Forestry requirements;
(ii) Simultaneously undertaking environmental mitigation measures; and
(iii) Constitution of State Level Monitoring Committee having inter-alia independent local experts, as also representatives of concerned Departments/Institutions and NGOs for avoiding violation and to ensure compliance of environmental requirements.

This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.

( Nalini Bhat )
Adviser

To
The Chairman, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board/Maharashtra, SEIAA/SEAC
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MoEF Website/Guard File