

No. 15-3/ 2009-IA.III
Government of India
Ministry of Environment & Forests

Paryavaran Bhavan,
CGO Complex Lodhi Road,
New Delhi-110003.
Telefax: 24362434

Dated the 21st August 2009

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Moratorium on expansion of existing ports and initiation of new projects along the coast - Regarding.

Ministry had issued a Draft Coastal Management Zone Notification vide S.O. No. 1070(E), dated 01.05.2008 and an amendment providing for inclusion of green field airports in CMZ area issued vide S.O. No.112(E), dated 09.05.2008 inviting public suggestions and objections in accordance with Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 within a period of 60 days from the date of issue of the Notification. Further, based on the requests made by the State Government the Draft Notification was re-notified on 22.07.2008.

2. The Ministry had constituted a Committee under chairmanship of Prof. M.S. Swaminathan, go in to the public suggestions and objections on the Coastal Management Zone Notification. The Committee after consultations submitted its report, which was accepted by the Ministry.

3. One of the recommendations of the Committee is that "The Government must immediately study the cumulative impacts of the individual projects on the coast line, pending which there should be a moratorium on expansion of existing ports and initiation of new projects along the coast."

4. The Ministry will now evolve a policy for consideration of projects along the coast and particularly the activities relating to the ports, harbours, jetties and expansion of such activities etc. and till such time the policy is finalized, it has been decided as follows:-

- (a) The projects which have been recommended by Expert Appraisal Committee till July, 2009, when the Swaminathan Report was accepted by MoEF, will be processed on merit for the issue of Environmental Clearance/CRZ Clearance; and

(b) Defer the consideration till Oct 2009 of all such coastal projects particularly those relating to ports, harbours, jetties and their expansion cases, which have been received after 31st July, 2009.

(c) Not to accept new proposal till the policy is finalized.

This issues with approval of Competent Authority.

Bharat Bhushan
Director

To
All the Officers of IA-II (T) and IA- III Division

Copy to:-

1. PPSto AS(JMM)
2. Advisor(G KP)
3. Advisor(N B)