Dear

Following are the highlights of the achievements and activities of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) in the month of August 2019:

1. **Rules/Notifications/Policy Decisions:**

   1.1 Four Guidelines were issued for diversion of forest land for non-forest purpose under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 during the month of August 2019.

   1.2 Wind Power projects have been exempted from paying Rs 30,000 per MW, as lease rent.

   1.3 The special provision granted by Government of India under the concerned Guidelines under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, to allow the State Government for tree cutting and commencement of work involved in linear projects after payment of compensatory levies, can be extended for a further period of one more year, if the State Government is satisfied that User Agency had made serious efforts to comply with the stipulations in Stage-I approval.

2. **Conferences/Workshops/Seminars and other activities**

   2.1 Shri Prakash Javadekar, Hon’ble Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change handed over Rs.47, 436 crores to various states for more Afforestation and achieving green objectives of the country in a meeting held on 29th August 2019 in the Indira Paryavaran Bhawan in the presence of Mr. Babul Supriyo, Hon’ble Minister of State, MoEF&CC. The meeting was attended by the Forest Secretary and Principal Chief Conservator of Forests of various states and UTs.

   2.2 4th BRICS JWG Meeting on Environment and 5th BRICS Environment Ministers’ Meeting were held in Brazil from 12 to 15 August 2019. Indian Delegation led by Hon’ble Minister of Environment, Forest & Climate Change participated in the BRICS Environment Ministers meeting.

   2.3 A Global Environment Facility (GEF) Technical Mission from Washington DC visited New Delhi from 20-22 August 2019 to technically engage with the officers in this Ministry/line Ministries and the GEF Agencies in developing a strong India Project Portfolio under GEF-7 Programming.
2.4 A curtain raiser meeting for the 14th Session of CoP for United Nations Conference to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) was held on 27th Aug, 2019 at National Media Centre, New Delhi. Hon'ble Minister (EF&CC) along with HMoS (EF&CC) and other Senior Officers of the Ministry interacted with Media.

2.5 The Royal Government of Bhutan, in collaboration with UNEP, organized two workshops in Thimpu, Bhutan with a view to advance the mutual cooperation in the field of environment from 27-30 August 2019. An Indian Delegation led by Shri SPS Parihar, Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board, MoEF&CC participated in these workshops/meetings.

2.6 World Elephant Day was celebrated by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change on 12 August 2019 at Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun.

2.7 A meeting to discuss issues relating to death of elephants due to electrocution and finding urgent solution to the issues was held with the Chief Wildlife Wardens of the major elephant range states and Ministry of Power on 5 August 2019 at Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, New Delhi. Hon'ble MoS, EF&CC also attended the meeting.

2.8 A Second meeting to further discuss the development of Decision Support System (DSS) Software for Human Elephant Conflict was held on 14 August 2019 under the Chairmanship of Director General of Forests & Special Secretary at IP Bhawan, New Delhi.

2.9 Scientists of Botanical Survey of India (BSI) discovered a new species of grass *Acrachne borii* from the Seshachalam Biosphere Reserve of Eastern Ghats, Andhra Pradesh, a micro fungus in *Lactarius* sect. *Atroviridi* from the Indian Himalayan region and a new generic record of *Soliva* (*Asteraceae*) from Jharkhand.

2.10 Scientists of BSI conducted five botanical explorations in various parts of the Peninsular India and collected plant samples for taxonomic study in connection with the projects: Grasses of Telangana State, Flora of Kinnerasani WLS, Telangana, Taxonomic revision of Sub-tribe *Platantherinae* (*Orchidaceae*), Study of Diversity of Marine Macro Algae of Andhra Pradesh and Ferns and Fern allies of Dihang dibang Biosphere Reserve.

2.11 Dr. Kailash Chandra, Director, participated as Scientific Authority on Animal Committee of Indian Delegation in the CITES CoP-18 at Geneva, Switzerland from 21st to 26th August 2019 and attended the proceeding of the Proposals for the Amendment of Appendices I & II, as well as intervened the India’s position at various agenda items.
2.12 Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), organized a two day training workshop on “Comparative Osteology” from 21-22\textsuperscript{nd} August 2019 at ZSI Headquarters, Kolkata for the staff, researchers and young faculties all over the country.

2.13 Environmental Clearances

During the month of August 2019, 130 projects pertaining to different sectors were appraised, 17 projects accorded environmental clearance and 32 projects prescribed TORs, totaling 49 proposals were cleared. The status of environmental clearance and TOR of Projects for the month is at Annexure-I.

2.14 Forest Clearances

During the month, 1410.39 ha of forestland in 67 cases were approved under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. 605.37 ha of non-forest land and 1658.83 ha of degraded forestland were earmarked for Compensatory Afforestation (C.A.).

2.15 Total Expenditure

An expenditure of Rs 1132.91 Crores (Provisional) has been incurred until 31\textsuperscript{st} August 2019 against the Net budget estimate of Rs 3062.72 crores for FY 2019-20.

2.16 Eco sensitive Zone

Out of 651 Protected Areas (PAs) in the country, the Ministry has issued ESZ Notifications for 520 PAs, including Draft Notifications for 178 PAs and Final Notifications for 342 PAs.

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

4. Compliance of CoS Decisions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. of CoS decisions pending for compliance</th>
<th>Proposed action plan/time lines for compliance of CoS decisions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CoS/4560/8- MoEF&amp;CC may follow up with Ministry of Steel to resolve the matter of fixing of reserve price of movable assets of A&amp;N Islands Forest and Plantation Development Corporation by FSNL.</td>
<td>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, which is under examination before communicating to MSTC.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CoS/2644/7 – Andaman & Nicobar Islands Forest & Plantation Corporation Ltd Recommendation:

(i) MoEF&CC may examine the possibility of transferring the management of the Corporation to the UT of A&N Islands. (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. (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.

(i) Payment towards VRS/VSS is complete. (ii) Release of Payment for leave encashment to all the eligible optees has been made. (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. (iv) Payment of TE to the employees is complete except some employees working on contract basis to complete the closure plan. (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. (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. (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. (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 as office/guest house. The order for the same has been issued.

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:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. of Public Grievances redressed during the month</th>
<th>No. of Public Grievances pending at the end of the month including brought forward</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>623</td>
<td>544</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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,

Sd/-

(Anil Kumar Jain)

Encl: as above

Shri Rajiv Gauba,
Cabinet Secretary,
Cabinet Secretariat,
Rashtrapati Bhawan,
New Delhi-110001

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

Sd/-

(Anil Kumar Jain)

Copy also to: 1) PS to Hon’ble Minister, EF&CC

2) PS to Hon’ble Minister of State, EF&CC

3) All Ministries of Govt. of India

4) Consultant (IT)

(Geeta Menon)
Joint Secretary
### Status of Environment Clearance and Terms of Reference of Projects for the month of August, 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry-(I)</th>
<th>Industry-(II)</th>
<th>Thermal</th>
<th>River Valley &amp; Hydro-Electric</th>
<th>Mining (Coal)</th>
<th>Mining (Non-Coal)</th>
<th>Infrastructure and Miscellaneous Projects + CRZ</th>
<th>New Construction Project and Industrial Estates</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EC</td>
<td>ToR</td>
<td>EC</td>
<td>TOR</td>
<td>EC</td>
<td>TOR</td>
<td>EC</td>
<td>TOR</td>
<td>EC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of projects at beginning of the month</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projects received during the month/respond</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Projects cleared during the month</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Projects converted from EC to TOR due change of scope</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projects exempted during the month</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project rejected during the month (on merit)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project closed during the month (due to non-submission of info.)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projects withdrawn/ returned/ transferred/ duplicate</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projects kept in abeyance/ delisted</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projects pending at the end of the month *</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*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.