



अपर सचिव
भारत सरकार
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
ADDITIONAL SECRETARY
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & CLIMATE CHANGE

रवि एस. प्रसाद, आई.ए.एस.
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D.O.No.2411/8/2019-GC

Dated: 14th November, 2019

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

1 Rules/Notifications/Policy Decisions:

- 2.4 Four Guidelines were issued for diversion of forest land for non-forest purpose under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 during the month of October 2019.
- 2.4 Guidelines for non-applicability of provision of FC Act, 1980 for temporary use of forest land has been issued.
- 2.4 Guidelines for construction of micro hydel project, involving area upto 1 ha of forest land, may be covered under general approval by the Ministry under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been issued.
- 2.4 Provision of Compensatory Afforestation providing the UT/States with more than 75% of forest cover of their respective geographical areas shall not require to provide non-forest land in lieu of diversion of forest land for projects within the UT/States itself has been issued.

2. Conferences/Workshops/Seminars and other activities:

- 2.1 A meeting to discuss issues regarding illicit trading of captive elephants in the country held on 9.10.2019 at Indira Paryavaran Bhawan.
- 2.2 Scientists of Botanical Survey of India (BSI) recorded *Aithaloderma viride*, a fungal species from Chandoli National Park, Maharashtra for the first time from India.
- 2.3 Director, BSI signed a MoU with SIMPSON & BROWN, Scotland for creation of Roxborough Hub in the AJCBIBG, Howrah on 19.10.2019.
- 2.4 Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), Central Zone Regional Centre, Jabalpur inaugurated showcases depicting faunal diversity of Central India by Habitat Showcases like Tiger, Barasingha, Wetland, Vulture and tree and animal relationship.

- 2.5 Secretary, EF&CC attended Pre-COP 25 meeting held in San Jose, Costa Rica during 8-10 October 2019. Being the preparatory meeting of the UNCCC, strategies for a successful CoP-25 as a "Blue COP" were discussed.
- 2.6 Indian Delegation led by Hon'ble MEF&CC attended the 29th BASIC meeting held during 25th to 26th October 2019 in Beijing, China. BASIC group plays proactive and constructive role in combating global climate change.
- 2.7 National Museum of Natural History (NMNH) organized Nature Walk at Aravalli Biodiversity Park for under privileged children on 3rd October 2019 during Wildlife Week.
- 2.8 NMNH in association with MoEF&CC organized an Environment Awareness Programme for school and college students on the themes – "**Green Diwali- Healthy Diwali**" and "**Say no to Single-use Plastics**" from 18-24 October 2019 in Indira Paryavaran Bhawan.
- 2.9 A special event was held on 31.10.2019 in the Ganga Auditorium, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan to mark the Rashtriya Ekta Diwas chaired by Shri Prakash Javadekar, Hon'ble Minister, EF&CC. The event was organized to commemorate the anniversary of Sardar Valabhbhai Patel.

2.10 **Environmental Clearances:**

During the month of **October 2019, 124 projects** pertaining to different sectors were appraised, **32 projects accorded environmental clearance** and **25 projects prescribed TORs**, totalling **57 proposals** were cleared. The status of environmental clearance and TOR of Projects for the month is at **Annexure-I**.

- 2.11 It is further submitted that 'disposal rate' in the context of the appraisal of projects may not be equated with grant of Environmental Clearance or Terms of Reference alone. The remaining cases were also appraised at length by the Ministry and have been referred back to the Project Proponents for additional details which will be taken up as and when information is submitted by the Proponents.

2.12 **Forest Clearances:**

During the month, **2618.63 ha of forestland** in **90 cases** were approved under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for use for non-forest purposes. **381.10 ha of non-forest land** and **1215.78 ha of degraded forestland** were earmarked for Compensatory Afforestation (C.A.).

2.13 **Total Expenditure**

An expenditure of **Rs 1616.77 Crores (Provisional)** has been incurred until **31st October 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 524 PAs**, including **Draft Notifications for 167 PAs and Final Notifications for 357 PAs**. Further, ESZ notifications for **23 PAs** have been approved and are under process for publications.

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 |
|--|---|
| 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. | The valuation report is expected to be completed in 3 day after which list will be uploaded for e-auction. |
| 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 Corporation 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. | The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) in its meeting dated 16 th August, 2017 approved the closure of Andaman & Nicobar Islands Forest & Plantation Corporation Ltd. (ANIFPDCL), Port Blair by offering VRS/VSS to all its employees and disposal of movable/immovable assets. The Ministry is implementing the closure plan of ANIFPDCL. |

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 |
|---|--|
| 915 | 358 |

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

Sd/-
[Ravi S Prasad]

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-110001.

Sd/-
[Ravi S Prasad]

Copy also to:

- i) PS to Hon'ble Minister, MoEF & CC
- ii) PS to Hon'ble Minister of State, MoEF&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 October, 2019

* 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

| | 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 | TOR | EC | TOR | EC | TOR | EC | TOR | EC | ToR | EC | TOR | EC | TOR | EC | TOR |
| No. of projects at beginning of the month | 38 | 33 | 160 | 27 | 7 | 7 | 35 | 26 | 26 | 28 | 67 | 58 | 96 | 20 | 25 | 12 | 454 | 21 |
| Projects received during the month/ respond | 11 | 8 | 37 | 40 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 19 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 86 | 73 |
| Projects cleared during the month | 0 | 1 | 13 | 17 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 17 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 32 | 25 |
| 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 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 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 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Projects kept in abeyance/ delisted | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 12 |
| Projects pending at the end of the month * | 49 | 40 | 184 | 50 | 7 | 5 | 36 | 30 | 32 | 29 | 86 | 56 | 85 | 24 | 29 | 13 | 508 | 240 |