



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

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

1. Rules/Notifications/Policy Decisions:

- 1.1** A Guideline was issued for diversion of forest land for non-forest purpose under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 during the month of December 2019.
- 1.2** Notification for expeditious grant of Environmental Clearance for mining projects expiring by 31.3.2020 due to amendment of MMRD Act in 2015 issued.
- 1.3** Clarification on validity of prior environmental clearance granted under the provisions of para 12 of EIA Notification 2006 to the mining projects issued.
- 1.4** Release of India State of Forest Report (ISFR) -2019 by Shri Prakash Javadekar, Hon'ble Minister, EF&CC.
- 1.5** Final Cabinet Note on National Forest Policy 2019 was submitted to Cabinet Secretariat on 5.12.2019 for approval.

2. Conferences/Workshops/Seminars and other activities

- 2.1** The GEF South Asia Constituency Meeting was held at New Delhi from 11-12 December 2019. The meeting was organized by the World Bank and GEF Secretariat.
- 2.2** The 25th Session of the Conference of the Parties (CoP 25) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was held under the Presidency of Chile in Madrid, Spain on 2-15 December 2019. A 15 member Indian Delegation led by Shri Prakash Javadekar, Minister of Environment, Forest & Climate Change attended the conference.
- 2.3** A three day conference was organized on the occasion of International Mountain Day at G B Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment & Development, Kosi Katarmal, Almora (Uttarakhand).

- 2.4** National Level Consultation meeting was organized in Ministry on "National Portal for Pan India Transit System for inter-state and intra-state movement of timber, bamboo and other forest produce" on 17.12.2019.
- 2.5** Scientists of Botanical Survey of India [BSI] recorded two new species of Lichen plants from the A&N Islands. Besides, they also reported six plants as new additions. During the month, scientists of BSI undertook six botanical explorations in various parts of the country and collected 361 field numbers of plants under various research projects.
- 2.6** On the occasion of the International Mountain Day on 11 December 2019, a talk cum presentation session was organized by National Museum of Natural History [NMNH] for school students and youth on the theme – Mountains matter for Youth.

2.7 Environmental Clearances

Number of projects appraised: During the Expert Appraisal Committee meetings held in **December 2019**, total of **140 projects** pertaining to different sectors were appraised.

Number of projects cleared: During the month, **55 projects** were accorded environmental clearance and **50 projects** were prescribed ToRs. So, a total of **105 proposals** were cleared during the month. The status of environmental clearance and TOR of Projects for the month is at **Annexure-I***.

**Number of projects appraised and number of projects cleared during the month are not correlated as the appraisal and grant of clearance of a project may not necessarily occur during the same month.*

2.8 Forest Clearances

During the month, **1227.5 ha of forestland** in **61 cases** were approved under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for use for non-forest purposes. **255.33 ha of non-forest land and 971.82 ha of degraded forestland** were earmarked for Compensatory Afforestation (C.A.).

2.9 Total Expenditure

An expenditure of **Rs 2100.96 Crores (Provisional)** has been incurred until **31st December 2019** against the Net budget estimate of **Rs 3062.72 crores** for FY 2019-20.

2.10 Eco sensitive Zone

Out of **662 Protected Areas (PAs)** in the country, the Ministry has issued **ESZ Notifications for 529 PAs**, including **Draft Notifications for 157 PAs and Final Notifications for 372 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 e-auction for the movable assets of ANIFPDCL by M/s MSTC Ltd. was held on 20 th November 2019. The movable assets were divided into five lots. The bids have been approved only for two lots and bids rejected for two lots as bids quoted were lower than the reserve price. No bidders have been received for one lot. The re-tender of movable items was held on 10 th December 2019. No lot has received any eligible bid.
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
460	317

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/-
[C.K. Mishra]

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/-
[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
consultant(IT)

Geeta Menon
[Geeta Menon]
Joint Secretary

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

	Industry-(I)		Industry-(II)		Thermal		River Valley & Hydro-Electric		Mining(Coal)		Mining(Non-Coal)		Infrastructure and Miscellaneous Projects + CRZ		New Construction Projects 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	40	41	140	67	7	6	33	29	30	24	73	52	63	28	30	14	416	2
Projects received during the month/ respond	13	9	59	68	0	0	3	1	10	1	14	11	12	3	4	14	115	1
Projects cleared during the month	0	5	21	32	3	1	4	1	6	1	3	1	13	9	5	0	55	1
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	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	4	1
Projects kept in abeyance/ delisted	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
EDS raised during the month *	2	1	15	7	0	0	0	0	6	0	7	0	5	0	3	7	38	1
Projects pending at the end of the month *	49	44	150	80	4	5	33	28	26	21	77	56	68	19	24	18	431	2

* 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.