



D.O. No.2411/5/2022-GC

September 9, 2022

Dear Sir,

The following are the main activities of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change during the month of August, 2022

G20 Matters

A preparatory meeting for G20 was held on August 17, by the G20 Sherpa, with all line Ministries. I presented the themes that have been finalised for the Environment and Climate, Working Group, namely :-

- (i) Restoration of Degraded Lands and Ecosystems and Enhancement of Biodiversity with focus on water security;
- (ii) Strengthening of Circular Economy; and
- (iii) Promotion of Blue Economy along with Coastal Sustainability

The presentation included the action taken with respect to identification of the Knowledge Partners who are working with the Ministry, and the likely Outcomes of each track.

I participated in the 3rd EDM-CSWG meeting, under the Indonesian Presidency, on August 29-30 in Bali, Indonesia. During the deliberations, the draft Environment and Climate Sustainability Communique under the three priority areas were discussed. The focal themes being taken up by India in the G20 next year were presented by me in the Troika Session. I also had a bilateral meeting with Canada on the sidelines of G20, wherein further action under the MoU that was signed with Canada in June this year, was discussed in detail.

Battery Waste Management Rules 2022

The Ministry notified the Battery Waste Management Rules, 2022 on August 22 which aims to ensure environmentally sound management of waste batteries. These rules have been finalized after extensive stakeholder consultations, and cover all types of batteries, viz. Electric Vehicle batteries, portable batteries, automotive batteries and industrial batteries. The provisions apply to the entire value chain comprising producers, dealers, entities involved in collection segregation, transportation, refurbishment and recycling of waste batteries.



The Rules are based on the concept of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) where the producers (including importers) of batteries are responsible for collection and recycling/refurbishment of waste batteries and use of recovered materials in new batteries. It is envisaged that along with ensuring systematic waste management, the Rules would encourage the setting up of new industries, as also promote entrepreneurship in the collection and recycling/refurbishment of waste batteries.

Environment & Forest

An issue was flagged by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways with respect to sourcing of earth material/earthwork for construction of National Highways. Exemption from Environmental Clearance for "extraction or sourcing or borrowing of ordinary earth for linear projects such as roads, pipelines etc" is already in existence. Now, after extensive consultation a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) has been issued by MoEFCC for borrowing of ordinary earth.

Out of 143 projects appraised during the month, 45 projects were granted Environmental Clearance and 26 projects were prescribed ToRs.

During the month, 498,1894 ha. of forest land in 104 cases was approved (in principle) on stage-I clearance under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Non-forest land of 88,6655 ha. and degraded forest land of 911,1999 ha. have been earmarked and approved for carrying out Compensatory Afforestation.

Wetlands

In the 75th year of Independence, India added 11 more wetlands to the list of Ramsar sites bringing the total to 75 Ramsar sites covering an area of 13,26,677. The 11 new sites include: Tampara Lake, Hirakud Reservoir and Ansupa Lake in Odisha; Yashwant Sagar in Madhya Pradesh; Chitrangudi Bird Sanctuary, Suchindram Theeror Wetland complex, Vaduvur Bird Sanctuary and Kanjankulam Bird Sanctuary in Tamil Nadu; Thane Creek in Maharashtra; Hygam wetland conservation reserve and Shallbugh wetland conservation reserve in Jammu & Kashmir.

Regards,

Yours sincerely,



(Leena Nandan)

Shri Rajiv Gauba
Cabinet Secretary
Cabinet Secretariat
Rashtrapati Bhawan