

**No. J.21011/58/2010-IA-I**  
**Government of India**  
**Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change**

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan  
Jorbagh Road, Aliganj  
New Delhi - 110 003  
Dated: 25<sup>th</sup> July 2014

**OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

**Sub: Consideration of proposals from Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg districts, Maharashtra.**

1. This has reference to the Ministry's Office Memorandum of even number dated 17<sup>th</sup> October 2013 , wherein, the moratorium was lifted on consideration of projects from the non-Western Ghats Talukas of Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg Districts, Maharashtra except for Dodamarg Taluka, under the EIA Notification, 2006.

2. The Ministry has since issued Directions under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2013, for providing immediate protection to the Western Ghats and to maintain its environmental integrity, thereby, putting a moratorium on consideration of Environment Clearance for certain identified categories of new and/or expansion projects/activities, which have maximum interventionist and damaging impacts on ecosystems, in the proposed Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA), as identified by the High Level Working Group.

3. The Government of Maharashtra have represented that while the proposed ESA has been demarcated at the village level by the HLWG, moratorium has been continued in the Western Ghats taluks of Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg Districts by this Ministry vide aforesaid OM dated 17<sup>th</sup> October 2013. They have argued that the moratorium should be restricted only to the villages of Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg Districts in the ESA as identified by HLWG. The Ministry has examined the matter and decided to consider the matter as requested by the Government of Maharashtra.

4. Further, it is noted that the Public Interest Litigation (PIL No. 179 of 2012) is still pending before the High Court of Bombay in the matter of Awaaz Foundation Vs Union of India & Ors relating to declaration of Sawantwadi-Dodamarg Corridor in District Sindhudurg as an Ecologically Sensitive Area. The Hon'ble High Court has linked the issue

of existing moratorium in Sindhudurg District with this PIL to prevent any degradation of ecology of the Sawantwadi-Dodamarg Corridor. Thus, the moratorium would need to continue in the villages covered under this PIL till the case is decided by the Court.

5. Keeping in view that the proposed ESA in Western Ghats region of Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg Districts, demarcated at the village level, is protected from the identified projects/activities which have maximum interventionist and damaging impacts on ecosystems through the Directions issued on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2013 under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, this Ministry has decided to lift the moratorium with immediate effect from the villages falling in non-Ecologically Sensitive Area of the Taluks mentioned in OM of even number dated 17<sup>th</sup> October 2013, except for the villages covered under PIL No. 179 of 2012 pending in the High Court of Bombay. While the list of villages of Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg Districts covered in the ESA identified by HLWG (where moratorium will continue) is already annexed to Directions issued on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2013 under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, the list of villages covered in the PIL No. 179 of 2012, where also the moratorium will continue is appended as Annexure I to this OM.

This issues with the approval of Competent Authority.

  
(Lalit Kapur)  
Director

To

The Chairman, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board/Maharashtra, SEIAA/SEAC

Copy to:

PS to MEF/PPS to Secretary (E & F)/MoEF Website/ Member Secretaries of sector specific Expert Appraisal Committees and Officers of IA Division/Guard File

**Annexure I**

**List of Villages in Sindhudurg district of Maharashtra which are subject matter of further hearing of PIL no. 179/2012 filed by Awaz Foundation in High Court, Bombay\* and from where moratorium has not been lifted as per order of the Hon'ble High Court of Bombay**

**Taluka Sawantwadi**

1. Asaniye
2. PadweMajgaon
3. Bhalawal
4. Tamboli
5. Saramale
6. Nevli
7. Dabhil
8. Otawane
9. Konshi
10. Gharpi
11. Udeli
12. Kesri-Phanasawade

**Taluka Dodamarg**

1. Kumbrol
2. Panturli
3. Talkat
4. Zolambe
5. Kolzar
6. Shirwal
7. Ughade
8. Kalane
9. Bhikekonal
10. Kumbhawade
11. Khadpade

**Taluka Banda**

1. Bhekurfi
2. Phukeri

**Total 25 villages in 3 Talukas of Sindhudurg District**

**\* As per village list provided by Government of Maharashtra**