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Government of India
Ministry of Environment & Forests

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Office Memorandum

Sub: Consideration of projects for environmental clearance based on Comprehensive Environmental Pollution Index (CEPI) – Re-imposing of Moratorium in respect of critically polluted areas namely Ghaziabad (UP), Indore (M.P.), Jharsuguda (Orissa), Ludhiana (Punjab), Panipat (Haryana), Patancheru – Bollaram (A.P.), Singrauli (UP & MP) and Vapi (Gujarat), and projects / activities to be allowed in Critically Polluted Areas under moratorium.

Ministry of Environment & Forests vide Office Memorandum of even no. dated 13.1.2010 had imposed a moratorium up to 31.8.2010 on consideration of projects for environmental clearance to be located in 43 critically polluted areas / industrial clusters identified by Central Pollution Control Board. The details of the industrial clusters / areas were further specified in the Office Memorandum dated 15.3.2010. It was envisaged that during the period of moratorium, time bound action plans will be prepared by the respective SPCBs / PCCs for improving the environmental quality in these industrial clusters / areas. The action plans so prepared would be finalized by CPCB. The period of moratorium was extended beyond 31.8.2010 from time to time.

2. The status of preparation of action plans was reviewed in the Ministry of Environment & Forests from time to time, based on the inputs received from Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). In accordance with the information received from the Central Pollution Control Board that the respective SPCBs and the local stakeholders had initiated work on implementation of the submitted action plans in respect of the industrial areas / clusters namely (i) Tarapur (Maharashtra), (ii) Pattencherru-Bollaram (Andhra Pradesh), (iii) Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu), (iv) Vapi (Gujarat) (v) Mandi-Govindgarh (Punjab), (vi) Agra (Uttar Pradesh), (vii) Aurangabad (Maharashtra), (viii) Bhavnagar (Gujarat), (ix) Cuddalore (Tamil Nadu), (x) Dombivalli (Maharashtra), (xi) Ludhiana (Punjab), (xii) Navi Mumbai (Maharashtra), (xiii) Varanasi-Mirzapur (Uttar Pradesh), (xiv) Angul Talchar (Orissa), (xv) Faridabad (Haryana), (xvi) Ghaziabad (Uttar Pradesh), (xvii) Indore (Madhya Pradesh), (xviii) Junagadh (Gujarat), (xix) Noida (Uttar Pradesh), (xx) Panipat (Haryana), (xxi) Bhadravati (Karnataka), (xxii) Mangalore (Karnataka), (xxiii) Greater Kochi (Kerala), (xxiv) Singrauli (Madhya Pradesh Part and Uttar Pradesh Part), (xxv) Ib Valley (Orissa) and (xxvi) Jharsuguda (Orissa), the Ministry of Environment & Forests lifted the moratorium on consideration of projects for environmental clearance in the above mentioned 26 industrial clusters / areas vide O.M.s of even no. dated 26th October, 2010, 15th February, 2011, 31st March 2011, 23rd May 2011 and 5th July, 2011. In the remaining 17 identified industrial clusters, the moratorium was extended up-to 31st March, 2012 and thereafter it was extended till further orders vide OM of even no. dated 30.03.2012.

3. The CPCB conducted monitoring in respect of all 43 Critically Polluted Areas (CPAs) during February-April, 2013 and re-assessed the CEPI score. The CPCB, vide its communication, dated July 24, 2013 have informed MoEF about the revised CEPI score based on the monitoring conducted during February-April, 2013. The revised CEPI scores based on the Environmental Quality Monitoring conducted during 2013 indicates that CEPI values are either still above 80 or are above 70 alongwith

increasing trend as compared to CEPI values assessed earlier by CPCB in 2011 in respect of eight critically polluted areas namely Ghaziabad (UP), Indore (M.P.), Jharsuguda (Orissa), Ludhiana (Punjab), Panipat (Haryana), Patancheru – Bollaram (A.P.), Singrauli (UP & MP) and Vapi (Gujarat) from where, the moratorium was lifted earlier vide OM of even no. dated 26.10.2010, 15.02.2011, 31.03.2011 and 05.07.2011.

4. The revised CEPI scores assessed during 2013 in respect of these eight critically polluted areas, from where moratorium was lifted earlier, are as below :-

Sl. No.	CPA	CEPI score during 2013
(i)	Ghaziabad (UP)	84.13
(ii)	Indore (M.P.)	78.75
(iii)	Jharsuguda (Orissa)	73.31
(iv)	Ludhiana (Punjab)	75.72
(v)	Panipat (Haryana)	81.27
(vi)	Patancheru-Bollaram (A.P.)	76.05
(vii)	Singrauli (UP and MP)	83.24
(viii)	Vapi (Gujarat)	85.31

The CEPI scores indicates that even after a period of 2½ years of implementation of action plans, there is no improvement in the environmental quality as is evident from the observed values of CEPI in 2013. CEPI score in Ghaziabad (U.P.), Panipat (Haryana), Singrauli (U.P. & M.P.) and Vapi (Gujarat) is still above 80. In respect of Indore, (MP), Jharsuguda (Orissa), Ludhiana (Punjab) and Patancheru-Bollaram (A.P.), the CEPI score has shown an increasing trend as compared to 2011. In view of this situation, the moratorium is hereby re-imposed with immediate effect in respect of these eight areas till further orders.

5. Para 4.1.2 of the OM of even number dated 13.1.2010 deals with the projects / activities allowed in the CPAs under moratorium. This para inter-alia provides that the projects of public interest, such as projects of national importance, pollution control, defence and security, with prior approval of the Competent Authority, MoEF / SEIAA for category 'A' & 'B' respectively, on a case to case basis, will continue to be appraised in accordance with the procedure prescribed under EIA Notification, 2006 and decision taken on merits. As all projects in CPAs are to be considered as category 'A' projects and by MoEF, the reference to SEIAA and category 'B' projects in this para is hereby deleted. It has been further decided to consider allowing the projects / activities of - modernization of existing project or activity not resulting in increase in pollution load and physical infrastructure like highways, aerial ropeways, Common Effluent Treatment Plants and Common Solid Waste Management Facility in such areas. Thus, the following projects could be considered in CPAs which are under moratorium:

- i. Modernization of existing project or activity; change of technology, fuel or product mix, not resulting in increase in pollution load of that project / activity. This would be subject to the concerned SPCB certifying that there will not be any increase in pollution load and the concerned EAC getting satisfied about the claim.
- ii. Project/activity at serial 7(f), 7(g), 7(h) and 7(i) of the Schedule under EIA Notification 2006.

This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.


(Dr. P.B. Rastogi)
Director

To:

1. All the Officers of IA Division
2. Chairpersons / Member Secretaries of all the SEIAAs/SEACs
3. Chairman, CPCB
4. Chairpersons/Member Secretaries of all SPCBs /UTPCCs.

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(Dr. P.B. Rastogi)
Director