MINUTES OF THE 3RD MEETING OF STATE LEVEL ENVIRONMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY (SEIAA) HELD ON 22ND JUNE, 2020 AT PRANI SAMPAD BHAVAN

The third meeting of the State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) was held on 22nd June, 2020 in the Conference Room of Environment Department, Prani Sampad Bhavan, 5th Floor, LB – Block, Sector – III, Salt Lake, Kolkata – 700106. Following cases were discussed:

Miscellaneous

1. Discussion on draft of EIA Notification.

MoEF&CC Draft EIA Notification vide No. S.O.1199(E) dated 11.04.2020 was discussed.

a) It is noted that all the cases for mining of minor minerals projects ≤5 Ha. of mining lease area for which Environmental Permission (EP) to be considered by SEIAA. EC applications for mining lease area between 2 to 5 Ha. shall be referred to District Level Expert Appraisal Committee (DEAC). SEIAA would be required to notify the DEACs in all districts. Therefore, it is decided that all the District Magistrates would be requested to send a draft notification for formation of DEAC as below:

1. Representative of DL & LRO – Chairperson.
2. Representative of Regional Office of State Pollution Control Board – Secretary.
3. Representative of Divisional Forest Officer
4. An expert in the sector of Mining / Geology – Member.
5. 3 experts to be nominated by the District Magistrate in the field of Natural Resource Management / Irrigation / Social Impact Assessment.

b) The draft EIA Notification stipulates that all projects falling under B2 category including Building and Construction projects with total built up area upto 50000 sqm. and upto 150000 sqm. in case of Green Building certification will have to be processed directly by SEIAA without any appraisal by SEAC. Moreover, all the cases for mining of minor minerals projects ≤2 Ha. shall also be dealt directly by SEIAA without any appraisal by DEAC. It will result in exponential increase in work load for SEIAA. Hence, there is an urgent need to create a dedicated secretariat of SEIAA with adequate infrastructure and technical as well as secretarial support staff. Member Secretary, SEIAA will submit a proposal to Environment Department in this regard.
2. Discussion on issues related to DEIAA.

Application for all proposals for extraction of minor minerals from 0 to 5 Ha. were being submitted off line to DEIAA. However, DEIAA are non functional due to Hon’ble NGT Order dated 04.09.2018 and 13.09.2018 in O.A. No. 173 of 2018 & O.A. No. 186 of 2016 and MoEF&CC O.M. No. L-11011/175/2018-IA-II(M) dated 12.12.2018. Thereafter all District Magistrates were requested to send a status report regarding such pending applications for EC. As per the reports received from 17 Districts there are a total of 912 cases pending with them.

The matter was discussed and the following decisions are taken:

1) All District Magistrates would be requested to inform all project proponents that all such applications for extraction of minor minerals from 0 to 5 Ha. should be submitted afresh online on PARIYESH Portal of MoEF&CC in the required format along with all supporting documents prescribed therein.

2) All related associations would also be intimated accordingly.

3) Initially three experts should be engaged to help and advise SEIAA in dealing with such applications.


The format of inspection report for Building and Construction projects was finalised.

(Ujjwal Kumar Bhattacharya)  
Chairman

(Prof. Madhumita Roy)  
Member

(Niraj Singh)  
Member Secretary