

F.No. 22-33/2019-IA.III
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(IA Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
JorBagh Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi – 110003

Dated: 5th November, 2019

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Incidental increase in the production of ethanol due to use of B-heavy Molasses/Sugar cane Juice/ Sugar Syrup/ Sugar without any increase in the total pollution load – requiring of prior environmental clearance under the provisions of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006 - regarding.

The Ministry is in the receipt of representations for waiver of requirement of prior environmental clearance under the provisions of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006 for the incidental increase in the production of ethanol due to use of B-heavy Molasses/Sugar cane Juice/ Sugar Syrup/ Sugar **without any increase in the total pollution load** in the existing distilleries or sugar mills for which environmental clearance was already granted.

2. It has also been informed that due to incentives provided by the Government of India, sugar mills shall undertake production of ethanol from B-heavy Molasses/Sugar cane Juice/ Sugar Syrup/ Sugar, and because of the better yield of the ethanol there will be increase in the ethanol production beyond the EC granted capacity, **even without any expansion of existing plant and machinery or technology.**

3. In the above context, reference is invited to para 7(ii)(a) of EIA Notification, 2006 read with subsequent amendments expansion, which reads as follows:


“All applications seeking prior environmental clearance for expansion with increase in the production capacity beyond the capacity for which prior environmental clearance has been granted under this notification or with increase in either lease area or production capacity in the case of mining projects

or for the modernisation of an existing unit with increase in the total production capacity beyond the threshold limit prescribed in the Schedule to this notification through change in process and or technology or involving a change in the product –mix shall be made in Form I and they shall be considered by the concerned Expert Appraisal Committee or State Level Expert Appraisal Committee within sixty days, who will decide on the due diligence necessary including preparation of Environment Impact Assessment and public consultations and the application shall be appraised accordingly for grant of environmental clearance.”

4. Reference is also made to para 7(ii)(b) of the EIA Notification, 2006 that stipulates no requirement of prior environmental clearance, in case where change in the configuration of the plant involves no increase in pollution load and production capacity.

5. In light of the claim of the no increase in the pollution load, it is hereby suggested that all such proposals may be considered under para 7(ii)(a) of EIA Notification through application in Form-I. The concerned Expert Appraisal Committee or State Level Expert Appraisal Committee may exercise due diligence and consider such proposals for grant of environmental clearance.

6. This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.


(Sharath Kumar Pallerla)
Director

To

1. Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).
2. Chairman of all the Expert Appraisal Committees
3. Chairperson/Member Secretaries of all the SEIAAs/SEACs
4. All the Officers of I.A. Division
5. Chairpersons/Member Secretaries of all SPCBs/UTPCCs

Copy for information to:

1. PS to Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change
2. PS to Hon'ble MoS (EF&CC)
3. PPS to Secretary(EF&CC)

4. PPS to Secretary, MoPNG and MoF&PD
5. PPS to AS (RSP)/AS(RA)
6. PPS to JS (GM)/JS(SKB)
7. Website, MoEF&CC
8. Guard file.