

By Fax/e-mail

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**  
**REVENUE AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT**

\*\*\*\*\*

No. RDM-MMS-POLICY-0003-2021-5958 / R&DM Dated 22 FEB 2021

From

Sri Biranchi Narayan Dash,  
Deputy Secretary to Government.

To

All Collectors.

Sub: Compliance to the conditions stipulated by State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) while giving permission for sand mining.

Madam/Sir,

In inviting a reference to the subject cited above, I am directed to enclose herewith a copy of SEIAA's letter No. 400 dated. 08.02.2021 addressed to to Addl. Chief Secretary, F&E Deptt and say that in the said letter concern has been raised for non-compliance of the conditions stipulated by SEIAA in the ECs granted for sand mining leases. As mentioned there in it is essential for any project proponent to carry out proper study with regard to (a) annual rate of replenishment of the river bed proposed for sand mining and (b) time frame for such replenishment after mining closure. Findings of such study should be placed in the District Survey Report (DSR). SEIAA is granting EC for sand mining leases with an express condition that a proper study of rate of replenishment of sand at the particular lease area has to be carried out by the project proponent within a period of one year and the result thereof shared with SEIAA. This together with some other conditions set by SEIAA in the ECs granted for sand mining leases have been discussed in the letter of SEIAA.

You are, therefore, requested to instruct the Tahasildars (Competent Authorities) to ensure full compliance of the terms and conditions set by SEIAA while granting ECs for sand mining leases by project proponents

Yours faithfully,

  
19/2/21  
Deputy Secretary to Government

P.T.O.

Memo No. 5959 /R&D.M. dated 22 FEB 2021

Copy along with copy of letter No.400 dtd. 08.02.2021 of Chairman, SEIAA, Bhubaneswar addressed to Addl. Chief Secretary, Forest & Environment Department forwarded all Sub-Collectors /Tahasildars for information and necessary action.

  
19/2/21

Deputy Secretary to Government

Memo No. 5960 /R&D.M. dated 22 FEB 2021

Copy along with copy of letter No. 400 dtd. 08.02.2021 of Chairman, SEIAA, Bhubaneswar addressed to Addl. Chief Secretary, Forest & Environment Department forwarded to Secretary, Board of Revenue, Odisha, Cuttack/ all Revenue Divisional Commissioners for information and necessary action.

  
19/2/21

Deputy Secretary to Government

Memo No. 5961 /R&D.M. dated 22 FEB 2021

Copy along with copy of letter No. 400 dtd. 08.02.2021 of Chairman, SEIAA, Bhubaneswar addressed to Addl. Chief Secretary, Forest & Environment Department forwarded to Director, Minor Minerals, Odisha for information and necessary action.

  
19/2/21

Deputy Secretary to Government

Memo No. 5962 /R&D.M. dated 22 FEB 2021

Copy along with copy of letter No. 400 dtd. 08.02.2021 of Chairman, SEIAA, Bhubaneswar addressed to Addl. Chief Secretary, Forest & Environment Department forwarded to Joint Secretary I/c of e-Governance Branch with a request to upload the same in Revenue & DM Department website.

  
19/2/21

Deputy Secretary to Government

Siba Sir



सत्यमेव जयते

M.P.S. Dr.  
DY. 4928/CSO  
10.2.21

8769  
10.2.21

# State Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Odisha, Bhubaneswar

Qr. No. 5RF-2/1, Unit - IX, Bhubaneswar - 751022, Tel: 0674-2540669

No. \_\_\_\_\_

From

Suresh Chandra Mohanty, IFS(Retd.)  
Chairman,

To

The Additional Chief Secretary to Govt,  
Forest & Environment Department  
Government of Odisha

Madam,

We stipulate a number of conditions while granting environmental clearance to a proposal for mitigation and amelioration of adverse environmental impact. However, we have very little facility in-house for monitoring the compliance of these conditions. We have therefore requested in our letter no. 10076/SEIAA dated 16.12.2020 to the State Government to sanction a few technical posts for our office and provide additional office accommodation, precisely for having a monitoring outfit.

To illustrate the need for monitoring, I would like to bring to your attention the case of hundreds of sand mining leases in the state. It is essential for any project proponent to carry out a proper study with respect to (a) annual rate of replenishment of the river bed proposed for sand mining, and (b) timeframe for such replenishment after mining closure. As a matter of fact, findings of such study should have been built up in the District Survey Report (DSR)

ACS, F&E Dept



Chief Secretary  
Odisha

DS, H&S  
Please  
Pay

Devi

while identifying the sand mining sources. But no such study has been carried out in the preparation of the DSRs for minor mineral(sairat) sources.

The NGT order implies that sand mining should not be allowed in the absence of proper study of the rate of replenishment at the site and assessment of a timeframe of full replenishment after closure of the mine.

In the absence of the above study, grant of EC needed to be declined, but we were overwhelmed by the sheer number of applications being filed from all over the state. Putting a halt to the grant of EC in all such cases would have resulted in serious dislocation of developmental programme. We therefore granted the ECs with an express condition that a proper study of rate of replenishment of sand at the particular lease area has to be carried out by the project proponent within a period of one year, and the result thereof shared with SEIAA. The quantity of sand to be allowed for extraction in a year should not be more than the quantity being replenished at the site during the rainy season of the previous year. Pending this study, adhoc clearances have been granted to carry out the operation as per the mining plan submitted, for one year only, after which the quantity to be extracted has to be determined afresh based on the findings of the study of the rate of replenishment.

By now, we have granted ECs to 741 number of sand mining proposals submitted by the respective Tahasildars, and some 400 more proposals received by us are under process. More and more proposals are being received. We are not sure if our stipulation to carry out study of the rate of replenishment is being properly carried out by the PPs under the supervision of the concerned Tahasildars. Unless we receive credible result of such studies post monsoon, we will be constrained to withdraw the clearances.

I would also like to mention some of our other stipulations in the ECs for sand mining from river bed, which are as follows:

1. The lease area and the actual working area shall be demarcated on the ground by erecting durable masonry /concrete pillars by the project proponent.
2. (a) There shall be a 'no working zone' of prescribed width to protect the embankment on both sides, road or rail bridge, dam, weir, water intake structure or drinking water project, or any cross drainage structure, if any, in the vicinity. (b) The actual area for extraction of sand shall accordingly be carved out within the leasehold. (c) Exact map of the lease area, and the 'no mining zone' shall be drawn to scale, showing the DGPS coordinates of all corner points, and

the location of the bridge, embankment, extraction route & other structures; and such map has to be submitted to SEIAA by the project proponent through the Tahasildar within three months of the date of issue of the EC.

3. The project proponent should preferably carry out river bed mining manually by engaging local labour force, as there is apprehension of over exploitation of sand if machines are deployed for extraction.
4. In the first year i.e. before the rainy season of 2021/2022, the extraction of sand shall not exceed ---Cum(prescribed production capacity as per approved mining plan), calculated by multiplying the working area in SqMtr by 1.0/1.5/2.0 meter allowable depth of excavation
5. It shall be obligatory for the project management to submit quarterly compliance reports on the status of implementation of the above stipulated environmental safeguards to the SEIAA, Odisha.

We are not sure if any of these important stipulations is being enforced in the field. Neither the Tahasildar nor any lease holder files the stipulated quarterly compliance report with us. Flagrant violation of all norms appears from press reports to be taking place in many places, notably in Baliana Tahasil close to Bhubaneswar. Violation of these conditions is liable to lead to exploitation beyond the permissible limit for sustainable mining, rampant theft and loss of revenue and may pose safety hazard to the river embankment, etc.

I would therefore, request that the concerned authorities of the Revenue Department may be impressed to enforce some mechanism to ensure that all sand mining activities are fully compliant with the environmental stipulations.

Yours faithfully,

*sd/-*

Chairman

Memo No. 401/SEIAA

Dated 08.02.2021

Copy forwarded to the Chief Secretary, Govt. of Odisha for kind information.

*S. V. Mohanty*  
Chairman 8.2.21



Sc indhanty