



XI Conference of Parties
HYDERABAD INDIA 2012

तिष्यक्षित चटर्जी
Dr. Tishya Chatterjee



सत्यमेव जयते

सचिव
भारत सरकार
पर्यावरण एवं वन मंत्रालय
Secretary
Government of India
Ministry of Environment and Forests

D.O.No.Z-11012/5/2012-IA.II(T)
02nd July, 2012

Dear

This relates to setting up of Solar Power Projects within 10 km. radius of National Parks or Wildlife Sanctuaries.

2. You may be aware that vide an Order dated 04th December, 2006, in Writ Petition No.460/2004 (Goa Foundation & Ors), the Hon'ble Supreme Court had directed, inter alia, that for all activities within the eco-sensitive zones of a National Park or Wildlife Sanctuary, environmental clearance would be granted after prior clearance of the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife. Ministry has notified guidelines for declaration of eco-sensitive zones around National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries.

3. It has been brought to the notice of this Ministry by the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) that some States are not allowing setting up of solar power projects within 10 km. of National Parks or Wildlife Sanctuaries without prior clearance of Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife.

4. The matter has been examined. Ministry of Environment & Forests vide OM No.J-11013/41/2006-IA.II(I) dated 13.05.2011 and 30.06.2011 has clarified that solar photo voltaic power projects and solar thermal power projects are not covered by the provisions of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006 (copies enclosed). Solar photo voltaic power projects and solar thermal power projects do not, therefore, require environmental clearance under the provisions of EIA Notification 2006. Such projects need not, therefore, be referred to the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife for the purpose of environment clearance.



5. It is requested that you may kindly advise the Departments of Environment and Forests in your State suitably in order to ensure that the Supreme Court's Order dated 04.12.2006 and the guidelines for declaration of eco-sensitive zones around National and Wildlife Sanctuaries issued by the Ministry implemented in letter and spirit. Projects falling in such ESZs, which are not covered under the EIA Notification, and which do not require environmental clearance, would also not require "prior" approval of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,



(T. Chatterjee)

Encls.: As above.

To

Chief Secretaries as per list enclosed.