

W-11042/78/2022-JJM-I-DDWS  
Government of India  
Ministry of Jal Shakti  
Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation  
National Jal Jeevan Mission

4<sup>th</sup> Floor, 'Antyodaya' Bhavan,  
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road,  
New Delhi – 110 003  
Dated: 16<sup>th</sup> June, 2022

To,  
**Additional Chief Secretary/ Principal Secretary/ Secretary-in-charge**  
Rural Drinking Water Supply/ PHE Department  
All States/ UTs

**Subject:** - Record of discussions on Forest and Wild life clearance related to JJM projects in  
States/ UTs – regarding

**Madam/ Sir,**

Kindly refer to a joint meeting of MoEF&CC and DDWS with all States / UTs on 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2022, regarding expediting the forest and wild life clearances for JJM projects under the chairmanship of Secretary, MoEF&CC & Secretary, DDWS.

2. In this regard, I am directed to forward herewith the record of discussion of the meeting for information and further necessary action.

Yours faithfully,



(Avinash Kumar Sinha)

Under Secretary to the Govt. of India  
email.: avinash.sinha@gov.in

**Enclosed: As above**

**Copy for information to:**

- i.) PSO to Secretary, Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change, with request to bring to the notice Secretary, Mo EF &CC.
- ii.) PPS to Secretary, DDWS.

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**Subject:** Record of discussions on Forest Clearance related to JJM projects in States/ UTs - regarding

1. A joint meeting of MoEF&CC and DDWS with all states/ UTs to expedite the forest and wildlife clearances related to JJM projects was held virtually on 14 June 2022 at 05:00 PM under the Chairmanship of Secretary, MoEF&CC and Secretary, DDWS. The list of participants is Annexed.
2. Additional Secretary & Mission Director, NJJM extended a warm welcome to the Secretary, MoEF&CC and Secretary, DDWS and other participants.
3. Secretary, DWS detailed the importance of expeditious forest and wildlife clearances for speedy implementation of the JJM projects and invited State/ UTs officials to share their concerns related to respective forest clearances.
4. ACS/ Principal Secretary looking after the JJM from State of Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Gujarat and Jharkhand detailed the bottlenecks faced by them in obtaining the forest clearances related to JJM. Following issues were *inter alia* highlighted:
  - i.) Diameter of the rising mains pipes in some of the projects is more than 1 meter. In such cases, the currently permissible dimensions of the utility ducts/ trenches in the existing Right-of-ways {i.e. 1 meter (w) x 2 meter (d)}, is not sufficient. As a result, in all such cases, the provision for compensatory afforestation is attracted, leading to delays.
  - ii.) Even after implementation of the Parivesh portal, hard copies of applications and documents are being insisted upon.
  - iii.) In some instances, the time interval between the date of approval of the National Board and the date on which the working permission is issued by the DFO, is very high. It was requested that timelines may be prescribed for each of the stage of processing of a proposal so that delays can be minimized/ eliminated.
  - iv.) As per the current provisions, even if clearances are required at national level for only one or some of the components of a project i.e. Water Treatment Plant, Rising Mains, Distribution Mains, etc., the full project needs to be submitted for approval. Whereas, if the component-wise proposals could be considered, many of the components can be disposed at the State/ DFO level.



- v.) Specific provisions may be required in case of forest villages for speedy clearances so that tap water supplies can be facilitated to households living in forest villages.
  - vi.) The limit of 1 Hectare proves to be a limitation in tribal areas where population density is less and distances are large, both for rising mains and distribution system.
5. Secretary, MoEF&CC informed that the pipelines to be laid within the existing Right-of-Ways, don't require clearance from Government of India. Instead, in such cases, the required clearances can be issued by the respective State Government. She also added that MoEF&CC will make the forest clearance procedure simplified so that the clearances are given in more expeditiously. She also informed that an online portal (Parivesh Portal) has been created for applying for the forest clearances and going forward there is no requirement of any physical submission of applications.
6. It was decided that the following actions may be taken:
- i.) The respective State governments may send their issues and suggestions thereon along with a D.O. letter addressed to Secretary, MoEF&CC, with a copy to Secretary, DDWS, latest within one week.
  - ii.) A consolidated guidance shall be issued by the MoEF&CC on such issues, including a set of relevant documents already issued regarding forest clearances.
  - iii.) State Governments may coordinate with the Nodal Officers designated by the MoEF&CC and actively participate in the newly started Fortnightly Review Meetings (FRMs) at the State level. Any issues outstanding for resolution at the state level may be flagged to the DDWS for further tracking.
  - iv.) The JJM team should participate in the monthly meeting of agencies held at the MoEF&CC.
7. In her closing remarks, Secretary, DWS asked the State/ UTs to send details as mentioned above, and also periodically update the details of pending cases of clearances in the IMIS portal.
8. The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair and all participants.

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**List of Participants**

**Representative from DDWS**

1. Smt. Vini Mahajan, Secretary, DDWS
2. Shri Vikas Sheel, Addl. Secretary & Mission Director, JJM

**Representatives from MoEF&CC**

1. Smt. Leena Nandan, Secretary, MoEF&CC
2. DG, Forests
3. IG, Forests (HQ)

**Representative from States/ UTs in charge of JJM and Forest dept., through VC.**

