

I/60966/2023

Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Forest Conservation Division

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jorbagh Road, New Delhi - 3
Dated: December, 2023

To,

Addl. Chief Secretary (Forests)/Principal Secretary (Forests),
All State Governments/Union territory Administrations

Sub: Processing of the proposals under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 vis-à-vis Cumulative Impact Assessments Studies to assess the carrying capacities of the River Basin - reg.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to this Ministry's OM No. J-11013/1/2013-IA-I dated 28th May, 2023 streamlining the process of environment clearance and forest clearance cases by the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) and Forest Advisory Committee, respectively for Hydropower and River valley projects and to inform that matter has further been deliberated in the Ministry. In this connection, it is to inform that after further examination of the matter in the Ministry, specially with regards grant of prior approval of the Central Government under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 to small and medium hydel projects proposed in various river basins, the following has been decided by the Central Government:

- a. Carrying Capacity Studies and Cumulative Impact Studies are essential if more than one Hydro-power Project is to be sanctioned in a river basin.
- b. Since grant of approval under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 is a time taking process, the Forest Conservation Division of the MoEF&CC may consider grant of 'in-principle' approval under the Adhinyam following due process subject to the conditions that Carrying Capacity Studies(CCS) and Cumulative Impact Assessment Studies(CIS) as per the OM NoJ-11013/1/2013-IA-I dated 28th May,2013 shall be carried out, except for the first Hydro-electric Project in a river basin where such study CCS and CIS need not be carried as mentioned in the aforesaid OM, and based on the outcome of such study the 'final' shall be granted for taking up any hydro-power project in a basin.
- c. The provisions mentioned in the clause (a) and (b) above, shall apply prospectively for sanctioning of new projects.
- d. Detail of available River basin study reports shall be shared by the IA Division of the MoEF&CC with the concerned State Governments.

This issue with the approval of Competent Authority.

Yours Faithfully,

(Charan Jeet Singh)
Scientist 'D'

Copy to:

1. The Principal Secretary/Addl. Secretary, All States/Union Territories,
2. The PCCF, All States/Union Territories
3. The Nodal Officer, O/o PCCF, All States/Union Territories

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4. Monitoring Cell of FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi.
5. Guard file