

No.15-3/2009-IA-III
Government of India
Ministry of Environment & Forests
(IA-III Division)

Room No.744,
Paryavaran Bhawan,
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road
New Delhi-110 003

Dated the 3rd November, 2009

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Sub: New Policy on expansion of existing ports and initiation of new projects along the coastline - regarding.

The Ministry of Environment and Forests had constituted an Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. M. S. Swaminathan to review the comments received on the draft Coastal Management Zone 2008. The Committee in its Report* dated 16th July, 2009 at para 7.4 had recommended an immediate study to be undertaken to examine the cumulative impacts of port projects on the coastline, pending which there should be a moratorium on expansion of existing ports and initiation of new projects.

2. Accordingly, the Ministry issued an Office Memorandum (OM) dated 21st August, 2009 in which it was decided to defer consideration of proposals pertaining to development the ports and its expansion projects received in the Ministry after 31st July, 2009 and not to accept any new projects seeking environmental/CRZ clearance till a policy is finalised.

3. As a part of the above decision a study was assigned to the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) for identifying the coastal stretches with regard to erosion/accretion. Based on the discussions held with MoES, the study was initiated in two phases namely,- (a) phase-I to submit a report based on existing data/information by 15th October, 2009; (b) phase - II of the study involves micro level analysis that would be carried out for the entire country for the purpose of examining shoreline changes due to existing projects and identify suitable sites for development.

4. Ministry of Environment and Forests has now received a report from the Chennai based, Integrated Coastal and Marine Area Management (ICMAM), MoES on the phase-I of the programme. The copy of the Report is available on Ministry's website (<http://moef.nic.in/downloads/public-information/icmam-proposal.pdf>). The Report has analyzed time series satellite images of the certain stretches of the coastline where data were available.

* Report of Expert Committee (Final Frontier) on the draft Coastal Management Zone (CMZ) Notification, constituted by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, under the Chairmanship of Prof. M. S. Swaminathan dated 16th July, 2009 (available on the Ministry's website).

** <http://moef.gov.in>

5. Ministry has examined and accepted the above Report of ICMAM and accordingly stipulates the following, for undertaking development with regard to ports and harbour:-

A. Expansion of existing ports and harbours, jetties etc., within their notified port limits shall be undertaken subject to the condition that:-

- (i) The hydro-dynamic studies indicate that the expansion activities of the existing port do not have significant impact to the shoreline abutting the project; and
- (ii) has no significant impact on the ecologically sensitive areas along the stretch.

B. New projects to be located at the sites indicated in Table 1, shall be subjected to **Comprehensive Environment Impact Assessment**, based on a minimum of 3 seasons data, and Environment Impact Assessment report prepared based on actual field measurements, appropriate modelling studies etc.

C. With regard to the hotspots stretches viz. those areas which are prone for high erosion above 1 meter per year (identified by the concerned Central/State Government agencies), locations identified within 10 km on either side of the eco-sensitive areas categorized as Coastal Regulation Zone-I(i) and water bodies with high bio-diversity, shall not be considered for locating ports and harbours. However, fishing jetties/embarkation facilities for local communities could be set-up with Environment Impact Assessment as per Environment Impact Assessment, 2006.

D. With regard to Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep Islands the port and harbour projects shall be undertaken in accordance with Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991 and approved Coastal Zone Management Plans. The port projects of more than 5 Million Tones per annum in these islands which are to be located in these islands, shall be subjected to Comprehensive Environment Impact Assessment including physical and mathematical modeling and ground verification.

6. The Ministry has initiated phase-II of the project through Institute for Ocean Management (IOM), Chennai and ICMAM, to identify the shoreline changes at micro level and map them in atleast 1:25000 scale map. This study would involve analysis of time series satellite images from 1960 onwards. Based on the above study Report, further stipulations if any, shall be indicated for development of foreshore facilities along the Indian coast. A decision in this regard will be taken by 31st October, 2010.

7. Based on the above study, a National policy on setting-up of new projects pertaining to development of ports and harbours would be drawn up in consultation with concerned Ministries/Agencies.

8. Till such time, the consideration of the projects related to development of ports and harbour projects could be considered as per A to D of the para 5 above.

This issues with the approval of Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment and Forests.

(Dr. A. Senthil Vel)
Additional Director

Encl: Table 1

To,

1. PS to MEF (Independent Charge);
2. PPS to Secretary (E&F);
3. PPS to AS (JMM);
4. Chairman and Member Secretaries of State/Union territories Coastal Zone Management Authorities;
5. Joint Secretary (Ministry of Shipping);
6. All the Officers of IA Division
7. Website of Ministry of Environment and Forests

Table:1 – Sites along the coastal stretches where shoreline changes has been observed

| Sl. No. | Name of State | Districts / Division / locations of critical erosion |
|----------------|----------------------|--|
| 1 | Gujarat | Valsad, Navsari, Surat, Bharuch. |
| 2 | Maharashtra | Mumbai, Suburban, Thane, Raigad, Ratanagiri, Sindhudurg. |
| 3 | Goa | South Goa, North Goa. |
| 4 | Karnataka | Mangalore, Udupi, Kundapur, Bhaktal, Honnavar, Kumta, Ankola, Karwar. |
| 5 | Kerala | Thiruvananthapuram, Alappuzha, Thale, Manjeri, Kozhi, Kasargode. |
| 6 | Tamil Nadu | Chennai north, Kovalam, Devanampattinam, Poomuhar, Tharangambadi, Kanyakumari. |
| 7 | Andhra Pradesh | Uppada, Chinnagollapalem. |
| 8 | Orissa | Gopalpur, Rushikulya, Puri, Satbhaya, Chandabali. |
| 9 | West Bengal | Digha, Shridarnagar, Buraburirttat, Gobardhanpur Frezerganj, Shibpur, Beguakhali, Kusumtala. |
| 11 | Pondicherry | Along Gandhi Statue stretch |
| 12 | Andaman & Nicobar | - |
| 13 | Lakshadweep | Agatti, Amini, Androth, Bitra, Chetlat, Kadmat, Kiltan, Kalpeni, Kavratti, Minicoy. |