

ASSIGNMENT NO.7

TOPIC 7: ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

- Write about the procedure of getting the Environmental Clearance from Ministry of Environment & Forest.

I (a) Any person who desires to undertake any new project in any part of India or the expansion or modernization of any existing industry or project listed in the Schedule-I shall submit an application to the Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests, New Delhi.

The application shall be made in the proforma specified in Schedule-II of this notification and shall be accompanied by a project report which shall, inter alia, include an Environmental Impact Assessment Report, Environment Management Plan and details of public hearing as specified in Schedule-IV prepared in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Central Government in the Ministry of Environment and Forests from time to time. However, Public Hearing is not required in respect of (i) small scale industrial undertakings located in (a) notified/designated industrial areas/industrial estates or (b) areas earmarked for industries under the jurisdiction of industrial development authorities; (ii) widening and strengthening of highways; (iii) mining projects (major minerals) with lease area up to twenty five hectares, (iv) units located in Export Processing Zones, Special Economic Zones and (v) modernization of existing irrigation projects.

Provided that for pipeline projects, Environmental Impact Assessment report will not be required:

Provided further, that for pipeline and highway projects, public hearing shall be conducted in each district through which the pipeline or highway passes through.

(b) Cases rejected due to submission of insufficient or inadequate data and Plan may be reviewed as and when submitted with complete data and Plan. Submission of incomplete data or plans for the second time would itself be a sufficient reason for the Impact assessment Agency to reject the case summarily.

II. In case of the following site specific projects:

- a. mining;
- b. pit-head thermal power stations;
- c. hydro-power, major irrigation projects and/or their combination including flood control;
- d. ports and harbours (excluding minor ports);
- e. prospecting and exploration of major minerals in areas above 500 hectares;

The project authorities will intimate the location of the project site to the Central Government in the Ministry of Environment and Forests while initiating any investigation and surveys. The Central Government in the Ministry of Environment and Forests will convey a decision regarding suitability or otherwise of the proposed site within a maximum period of thirty days. The said site clearance shall be granted for a sanctioned capacity and shall be valid for a period of five years for commencing the construction, operation or mining.

- III. (a) The reports submitted with the application shall be evaluated and assessed by the Impact Assessment Agency, and if deemed necessary it may consult a committee of Experts, having a composition as specified in Schedule-III of this Notification. The Impact Assessment Agency (IAA) would be the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests. The Committee of Experts mentioned above shall be constituted by the Impact Assessment Agency or such other body under the Central Government authorised by the Impact Assessment Agency in this regard.
- (b) The said Committee of Experts shall have full right of entry and inspection of the site or, as the case may be, factory premises at any time prior to, during or after the commencement of the operations relating to the project.
- (c) The Impact Assessment Agency shall prepare a set of recommendations based on technical assessment of documents and data, furnished by the project authorities supplemented by data collected during visits to sites or factories, if undertaken and details of the public hearing.

The assessment shall be completed within a period of ninety days from receipt of the requisite documents and data from the project authorities and completion of public hearing and decision conveyed within thirty days thereafter.

The clearance granted shall be valid for a period of five years for commencement of the construction or operation of the project.

- IV. In order to enable the Impact Assessment Agency to monitor effectively the implementation of the recommendations and conditions subject to which the environmental clearance has been given, the project authorities concerned shall submit a half yearly report to the Impact Assessment Agency. Subject to the public interest, the Impact Assessment Agency shall make compliance reports publicly available.
- V. If no comments from the Impact Assessment Agency are received within the time limit, the project would be deemed to have been approved as proposed by project authorities.

- Write an essay on "Environment Protection Act".

From time to time various legislations relating to protection of environment from specific types of pollution have been passed by the Indian legislature. However, the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 is the most comprehensive act on the Indian statute book relating to environment protection. It is a general legislation for the protection of environment. It was enacted under Article 253 of the Constitution.

The Environment (Protection) Act was enacted in 1986 with the objective of providing for the protection and improvement of the environment. It empowers the Central Government to establish authorities [under section 3(3)] charged with the mandate of preventing environmental pollution in all its forms and to tackle specific environmental problems that are peculiar to different parts of the country. The Act was last amended in 1991.

Following are the objectives of EPA, 1986:

- ✓ To implement the decisions made at the U.N. Conference on the Human Environment held at Stockholm in June, 1972.
- ✓ To co-ordinate activities of the various regulatory agencies under the existing laws and creation of an authority or authorities for environment protection.
- ✓ To provide for deterrent punishment to those who endanger human environment, safety and health.
- ✓ To ensure sustainable development is also one of the goals of the EPA, 1986. If the act is not armed with the powers to ensure sustainable development, it will become a barren shell.
- ✓ To enact general law on environmental protection which could cover uncovered gaps in the areas of major environmental hazards as the existing laws generally focused on specific types of pollution or on specific categories of hazardous substances and some major areas of environmental were not covered.

In short, the EPA, 1986 aims at protecting and improving the environment and prevention of hazards to human beings, other living creatures, plant and property.