

No. J-11015/30/2004-IA.II (M)  
Government of India  
Ministry of Environment and Forests

Paryavaran Bhavan,  
C.G.O. Complex, Lodi Road,  
New Delhi-110 003  
Dated: 07 January, 2014

**OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

**Subject: Guidelines for granting Environment Clearance for expansion of Coal Mining Projects involving one time Production Capacity Expansion in the existing operation – reg.**

The O.M. of even number dated 19.12.2012 deals with the guidelines for granting Environment Clearance (EC) for expansion of coal mining projects involving one time capacity expansion of up to 25% in the existing operation.

2. The Ministry of Coal have been taking up with this Ministry, the case of smaller coal mining projects and have argued that the cap of capacity expansion up to 25% for such projects, as per the existing guidelines vide O.M. dated 19.12.2012, is inadequate as it results in relatively small increase in production in absolute terms for such mines. They have requested for increasing the limit of capacity expansion in respect of smaller projects.

3. The matter has been considered in the Ministry of Environment & Forests and it has been decided that for expansion proposals of existing coal mining projects having production capacity up to 8 MTPA as per the EC letter, the limit of one time capacity expansion may be considered as 50% or incremental production upto 1 MTPA, whichever is more, in the existing mining operation, within the existing mine lease area, by the EAC for exempting Public Hearing under Clause 7(ii) of the EIA Notification, 2006. All other stipulations stated in earlier O.M. of even number dated 19.12.2012 will continue to apply in such cases.

4. For coal mining projects having production capacity more than 8 MTPA, the provisions of the earlier O.M. of even number dated 19.12.2012 will continue to apply in toto.

This issues with the approval of Competent Authority.

  
(Dr. Manoranjan Hota)  
Director

To

1. PS to MEF
2. PPS to Secretary (E&F)
3. PPS to JS(AT) / PS to JS(MS)
4. All officers of IA Division
5. PMO
6. Ministry of Coal