

FAQs for PARIVESH website

Q.1 What does PARIVESH stand for?

Ans. PARIVESH stands for Pro Active and Responsive facilitation by Interactive, Virtuous and Environmental Singlewindow Hub.

Q.2 What is the scope of PARIVESH

Ans. The PARIVESH is a single window system for appraisal and granting Environmental Clearances and Forest Clearances

Q.3 What is the benefit of PARIVESH

Ans. This innovative initiative will drastically improve the entire process of appraisal and environmental clearance in the Ministry. It will ensure transparency and expedite the process of granting clearance. The important features are that the Project Proponent gets a confirmation on mail about acceptance of his application or can receive objections raised on the application online and can file his reply to such objections online. The Project Proponent can also track the movement of their application at different stages and can see the findings of the Expert Appraisal Committee on their project proposal. This online system has also provided access to previous Environment Impact Assessment Reports, which is a valuable reservoir of information.

Q.4 What is environment impact assessment?

Ans. Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) is a planning tool to integrate the environmental concerns into developmental process right at the initial stage of planning and suggest necessary mitigation measures. EIA essentially refers to the assessment of environmental impacts likely to arise from a project.

Q.5 Who is the competent authority for notifying the EIA notification and under which act the EIA notification is issued alongwith the provisions of the act?

Ans. The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change is the nodal Ministry for notifying the EIA Notification under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. Section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act 1986 (EPA) gives power to the Central Government to take all measures that it deems necessary or expedient for the purpose of protecting and improving the quality of the environment and preventing and controlling abating environmental pollution. To meet this objective, the Central Government can restrict areas in which any industries, operations or processes or class of industries, operations or processes shall not

be carried out or shall be carried out subject to certain safeguards [Section 3 (2)(v)]

Q.6 When was the first EIA notification issued?

Ans. EIA Notification first time came into existence on 27th January, 1994 requiring prior environmental clearance for 29 categories of projects/processes listed there under. It was subsequently made applicable to 32 categories.

Q.7 What was the criteria adopted in the EIA notification, 1994?

Ans. EIA Notification, 1994 required projects to obtain environmental clearance based on investment criteria (originally it was Rs. 50 crores, which was enhanced to Rs. 100 crores), except for mining project, where the lease area and nature of mineral were the criteria for applicability of the Notification.

Q.8 What was the basis of review of EIA Notification, 1994?

Ans. Review of EIA Notification, 1994 was undertaken based on recommendations of a project by World Bank as well as by Govindrajan Committee on Disinvestment.

Q.9 When was the present EIA notification issued?

Ans. The present EIA Notification was issued on 14th September, 2006.

Q.10 What are the developmental activities requiring environmental clearance under the EIA notification, 2006?

Ans. All new projects or activities listed in the Schedule to this notification; expansion and modernization of existing projects or activities listed in the Schedule to this notification with addition of capacity beyond the limits specified for the concerned sector, that is, projects or activities which cross the threshold limits given in the Schedule, after expansion or modernization; any change in product – mix in an existing manufacturing unit included in Schedule beyond the specified range.

Q.11 What are the objectives of EIA notification, 2006?

Ans. The objectives of EIA Notification, 2006 inter alia include: (i) to formulate a transparent, decentralized and efficient regulatory mechanism to integrate environmental concerns into developmental process with a view to facilitating sustainable development. (ii) to ensure incorporation of necessary environmental safeguards at planning stage in the project cycle, so as to ensure minimal impact on different components of environment. (iii) to ensure

involvement of stakeholders in public consultation process through public hearing and to ascertain the views of the public on the proposed project or activity.

Q.12 What are the salient features of EIA notification, 2006?

Ans. The salient features of EIA Notification, 2006 inter alia include: (i) The EIA Notification, 2006 has categorized the projects into two categories namely; Category 'A' and Category 'B' based on their impact potential.

(ii) Category 'A' projects will be appraised at the Central level while Category 'B' project at the State level.

(iii) State level Environment Impact Assessment Authorities and Committees (SEIAAs and SEACs) have been constituted for the purpose of appraisal of Category 'B' projects.

(iv) The stage of scoping for prescribing terms of reference by the Regulatory Agency for the EIA studies has been incorporated in accordance with the International practice. It is expected to improve the quality of EIA thereby improving the quality of decision making and minimizing the delays.

(v) The public consultation process has been made more structured. It has two components i.e. comments through correspondence and by public hearing at site. Provision to videograph the proceedings of the public hearing has been made.

(vi) NOCs from other regulatory agencies such as SPCB etc. are not a pre-requisite for considering application for environmental clearance.

Q.13 What are the stages of Environmental Clearance?

Ans. The environmental clearance process comprises of four stages, namely, Stage (1) Screening; Stage (2) Scoping; Stage (3) Public Consultation and Stage (4) Appraisal.

Q.14 What is Screening?

Ans. Screening refers scrutiny of category 'B' projects seeking prior environmental clearance made in Form-1 by the concerned State Level Expert Appraisal Committee for determining whether or not the project requires further environmental studies for preparation of EIA for its appraisal depending upon the nature and location specificity of the project.

Q.15. What is Scoping?

Ans. Scoping refers to the process by which the EAC in the case of Category 'A' projects or activities, and SEAC in the case of Category 'B1' projects or activities determine detailed and comprehensive TORs addressing all the relevant environmental concerns for the preparation of EIA report.

Q.16 What is Public Consultation?

Ans. Public Consultation refers to the process by which the concerns of local affected persons and others who have plausible stake in the environmental impacts of the project or activity are ascertained.

Q. 17 What is Appraisal?

Ans. Appraisal means the detailed scrutiny by the Expert Appraisal Committee or State Level Expert Appraisal Committee of the application and other documents submitted by the applicant for grant of environmental clearance.

Q.18 What is Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC)?

Ans. The EAC is a multi disciplinary sectoral appraisal committee comprising of various subject matter experts for appraisal of sector specific projects. The EAC is the recommendatory body. Based on the recommendations of the Expert Appraisal Committee, environmental clearance is accorded or rejected to the project by MoEF&CC.

Q.19 What are the sector specific Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) currently functional?

Ans. At present the following sector specific Environmental Expert Appraisal Committees are functional.

- Industry Sector (Industry-I and Industry-II)
- Mining Sector: (Coal mining & Non- Coal mining)
- Thermal Power Projects
- Building Construction, Coastal Regulation Zone, Infrastructure Development and Miscellaneous projects (two committees)
- Nuclear Power Projects and Strategic Defense projects
- River Valley projects

Q.20 What are the timelines stipulated in eia notification, 2006 for various stages of environmental clearance?

Ans. The timelines prescribed in the Notification for various stages of EC are: 60 days specified for prescribing the TORs; 45 days for public consultation; 60 days for appraisal; and 45 days thereafter for communicating the decision to project proponent.

Q.21 How to make an application for seeking Environmental Clearance?

Ans. An application seeking prior environmental clearance in all cases has to be made in the prescribed Form 1 and Form 1A(if applicable), as provided in the EIA Notification, 2006, alongwith a copy of pre-feasibility project report. In case of construction projects or activities (item 8 of the Schedule), in addition to Form 1 and the Supplementary Form 1A, a copy of the Conceptual Plan is to be provided in place of pre-feasibility project report. The entire process has to be done online.

Q.22 When was the system of online application for environmental clearance has been first introduced?

Ans. The MoEF&CC has mandated online submission of applications for Terms of Reference (TORs) and Environment Clearance (EC) w.e.f. 1st July, 2014, with the objective to increase transparency in system and reduce delays.

Q.23 Do the projects attracting both EIA, and CRZ notifications need to obtain two separate clearances?

Ans. The projects attracting both EIA Notification, 2006 and CRZ Notification, 2011, need not undergo two separate appraisal processes and do not require two separate clearances. Such projects will require only environmental clearance under the EIA Notification that will be considered based on the recommendations of the concerned State Coastal Zone Management Authority.

Q.24 What is the monitoring mechanism for ensuring compliance with environment clearance conditions?

Ans. Project Proponent is required to submit a half yearly compliance report, twice in a year i.e. 1st June and 1st December, to MoEF/SEIAA and Regional offices of MoEF in hard and soft copies for monitoring of the project both during construction and operation phases. The Regional Offices of the Ministry monitor the compliance of environmental clearance conditions of various projects located in their jurisdiction.