



Federation of
Indian Chambers
of Commerce and Industry

Federation House
Tansen Marg
New Delhi 110001
T +91 11 23357364
F +91 11 23329369
E didar.singh@ficci.com
www.ficci.com

Dr A. Didar Singh
Secretary General

15 April 2014

Mr. V S Sampath
Chief Election Commissioner
Government of India
New Delhi

Dear Sir,

Subject: - Environment & Forest Clearances

As you are aware, environment and forest clearances for the projects are given by Ministry of Environment and Forest after the recommendations of Expert Appraisal Committee or Forest Advisory Committee respectively under different statutes (Forest Conservation Act and EIA Notification 2006) of Government of India. These Committees include sectoral experts who make appropriate recommendations to the Ministry based on which Ministry of Environment and Forest either grants or rejects environment/forest clearance. In number of projects, the Expert Appraisal Committee/Forest Advisory Committee have already given their recommendations for granting the environment/forest clearance, and Ministry's approval is awaited.

However, ever since the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) has been implemented from 5th March 2014, we are given to understand that Ministry of Environment & Forest has kept these permissions for the projects in abeyance pending opinion about the on-going clearance process under different statutes. This is further delaying the implementation of these projects and affecting the viability as it has taken many months for these projects to reach at this stage of clearance.

We shall be grateful if Election Commission of India could issue clarification regarding the continuation of the routine clearance process for environment and forest clearances for projects. All the aforesaid clearances are ongoing regulatory activities of Ministry of Environment and Forests.

I do hope you would kindly consider our request and suggestion.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,


A Didar Singh