



another suitable building. In the interim the existing building may be got repaired with necessary plumbing works.

**Item No. 53.03**                    **SEIAA – Petitions on Environmental Clearance and general complaints on illegal quarries and other environmentally degrading activities (individual cases consolidated)**

General decision in such complaints to apply. Such complaints should be forwarded to District Collector for action.

**Item No. 53.04**                    **Removal of Ordinary earth/Brick earth/ laterite building stone Environmental Clearance issued-Applications for extension of period of validity of Environmental Clearance.**

It was decided to extend the period of validity of the E.Cs in the cases by six months, if it is only a one time extension.

**Item No. 53.05**                    **Application for obtaining environmental clearance for the proposed quarry project in Sy. Nos. 79/1-127, 79/1-128, 79/1-129, 79/1-130, 79/1-131 and 79/1-132 at Manjallor Village and Panchayath, Muvattupuzha Taluk, Ernakulam District, Kerala by M/s St. Mary's Aggregates(File No. 118/SEIAA/KL/2184/2013)**

The proposal was considered in the 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting of SEAC held on 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2013 and it was decided to call for Field Measurement Plan defining the exact quarry project site. The proponent was also called upon to submit the mining plan vide letter no.118/EC3/2184/SEIAA/2013 dated 07.07.2015. The proponent has not submitted the above documents till date. Hence the 54<sup>th</sup> meeting of SEAC held on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> April 2016 recommended to delist the proposal.

Authority decided to accept the recommendation and to delist the proposal.

**Item No.53.06**                    **Environmental clearance for quarry projects-Decision on deffective pending applications – reg (File No. 423/SEIAA/KL/2979/2014)**

The fifteen applications for ECs are pending with SEIAA, for non-submission of approved Mining Plan. These cannot be appraised or considered for issue of E.C. The 49<sup>th</sup> meeting of SEIAA held on 5-2-2016 decided to reject 32 such applications not having approved Mining Plan. The defect has already been communicated to the proponents. But there is no response from them till date. The applications were placed in the 54<sup>th</sup> SEAC held

on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> April 2016. The Committee observed that these 15 cases were not pending with SEAC. Hence the committee decided to refer back cases to SEIAA to take action on the matter. As these cases are pending for fault of the applicants, and contribute to the list of long pending cases, these cases may also be rejected in the lines of the decision in the 49<sup>th</sup> meeting of SEIAA. Applicants to be informed.

**Item No. 53.07**                      **EC application for removal of ordinary earth from Sy.No. 2 at Thycaud Village, Thiruvananthapuram Corporation, Thiruvananthapuram Taluk, Thiruvananthapuram District, Kerala by Sri.RavindraNath K. (File No. 460/SEIAA/KL/3191/2014)**

The proposal was considered by SEAC in its 54<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 6-7/4/2016. The Committee found that the proponent has not so far produced the documents called for earlier. Moreover as per the notification of MoEF & CC No.S.O. 141 (E) earth work in connection with the foundation of buildings having approved building plan does not require Environmental Clearance. Therefore the Committee decided to recommend to delist the proposal.

The Authority decided to accept the proposal and to delist the case.

**Item No. 53.08**                      **Environmental clearance for the granite building stone quarry project in Survey No. 726/1-69 (p) at Kallorkad Village, Muvattupuzha Taluk, Ernakulam District, Kerala by M/s Sri Krishna Quarry (File No. 471/SEIAA/KL/3215/2014)**

The proposal was put up in the 34<sup>th</sup> SEAC meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> September 2014 and it was decided to defer the case for field inspection and also to call for additional details. The proponent was also instructed to submit mining plan as per KMMC Rule, 2015, vide Lr. No. 471/EC3/3215SEIAA/2014 dtd. 22.07.2015. The proponent has not submitted the above documents till date. The 54<sup>th</sup> meeting of SEAC held on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> April recommended to delist the proposal.

Proposal delisted

**Item No. 53.9**                      **Environmental clearance for removal of ordinary earth in Sy.Nos.427/2A2B at Ambalavayal Village, SulthanBatheri Taluk, Wayanad District, Kerala by Sri. A. C. Poulouse. (File No. 589/SEIAA/KL/4505/2014)**

The eight applications for getting Environmental Clearance for removal of ordinary earth at Ambalavayal Village, Sulthan Batheri Taluk, Wayanad District had been placed in the 37<sup>th</sup> meeting of SEAC. The applications were deferred for production of certificates from the revenue official, who recommended the application, exempting the land from the purview of Kerala Conservation of Paddy Land and Wetland Act – 2008. But the proponents have not submitted the document till date. So the proposals were again placed in the 54<sup>th</sup> meeting of SEAC held on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> April 2016. The Committee observed that in spite of having given sufficient time, the proponents have not submitted the documents to prove that the land is exempted from the purview of Kerala Conservation of Paddy Land & Wetland Act, 2008. The Committee recommended to delist the eight applications.

The Authority decided to accept the proposal. The applications are delisted.

**Item No. 53.10**                      **Environmental clearance for removal of Brick earth in Sy.no.525/2 at Annallor Village Mala Panchayath, Chalakkudy Taluk, Thrissur District, Kerala by Sri.K.C.Thomas (File No.631 /SEIAA/KL/4857/2014)**

The proposal was considered by SEAC in its 54<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 6-7/4/2016. The Committee appraised the proposal based on the documents submitted by the proponent. The Committee decided to recommend to issue EC, based on the certificate of the revenue official with the condition that the land shall be restored for agriculture purpose. Authority accepted the recommendation and decided to grant E.C with the above special condition.

**Item No. 53.11**                      **Environmental Clearance for removal of ordinary earth in Sy.nos. 712, 713, 714, 716/2 at PadinjareChalaky Village and Chalaky Panchayath, Chalaky Taluk, Thrissur District, Kerala by Sri. E.T. Devassy (File No. 650/SEIAA/KL/5165/2014)**

The proponent has not submitted the documents called for in the 38<sup>th</sup> meeting of SEAC till date. SEAC in its 54<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 6-7/4/2016 found that in spite of giving sufficient time, the proponent has not submitted necessary documents to prove that the land is exempted from the purview of Kerala Conservation of Paddy Land & Wetland Act, 2008. Hence the Committee decided to recommend to delist the proposal.

**Item No. 53.12**                      **Environmental Clearance for removal of ordinary earth in Sy. No. BL-5/179/8 at Vazhayoor Village, Kondotty, Malappuram, Kerala by Sri. M.P. Gangadharan. (File No. 682/SEIAA/KL/5386/2014)**

The 38<sup>th</sup> meeting of SEAC held on 28-30 April 2015 found that the application is to remove brick earth from a fairly large area being Nilam. The Committee deferred the item for production of exemption under *Kerala Conservation of Paddy Land and Wetland Act, 2008*, or recommendation from the Local Level Monitoring Committee. The proponent has submitted the certificate from village officer instead of recommendation from the Local Level Monitoring Committee. The proponent has failed to submit the documents in compliance of the decision of SEAC. The proposal was considered by SEAC in its 54<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 6-7/4/2016. The committee found that in spite of giving sufficient time, the proponent has not submitted necessary documents to prove that the land is exempted from the purview of Kerala Conservation of Paddy Land & Wetland Act, 2008. Hence the Committee decided to recommend to delist the proposal.

The Authority assessed that the application is defective and hence to delist the same.

**Item No. 53.13**                      **Environmental Clearance for removal of ordinary earth in Sy. No. 134/1A1 and 134/1-1 at Ayiroor Village, Varkala, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala by George Koshi (File No. 689/SEIAA/KL/5641/2014)**

The 38<sup>th</sup> Committee appraised the proposal and found that the applicant has not submitted building permit and therefore deferred the application for the production of copy of the Building Permit, which the proponent has not submitted till date. The proposal was again considered by SEAC in its 54<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 6-7/4/2016. The Committee found that in spite of giving sufficient time, the proponent has not submitted the documents called for. Further, earth work in connection with the foundation of a building having built up area less than 20,000 m<sup>3</sup> does not require EC. Hence the Committee decided to recommend to delist the proposal.

Authority decided to accept the recommendation and to delist the proposal

**Item No. 53.14**                      **Environmental Clearance for removal of Brick earth in Sy.no. 127/1,2,3 at Puthenchira Village and Panchayath, Mukundapuram Taluk, Thrissur District, Kerala by Smt.SabiraLathif (File No.725/SEIAA/KL/6075/2014)**

The 38<sup>th</sup> meeting of SEAC appraised the proposal based on the details provided by the applicant and found that the applicant has proposed to remove brick earth from a fairly large area being Nilam. Hence the committee deferred the item for the production of exemption under *Kerala Conservation of Paddy Land and Wetland Act, 2008*, or

recommendation from the Local Level Monitoring Committee. The proponent has not submitted the documents till date. The proposal was again considered by SEAC in its 54<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 6-7/4/2016 and found that in spite of giving sufficient time, the proponent has not submitted necessary documents to prove that the land is exempted from the purview of Kerala Conservation of Paddy Land & Wetland Act, 2008. The Committee decided to recommend to delist the proposal.

The Authority accepted the recommendation. The proposal will be delisted.

**Item No. 53.15**                      **Environmental clearance for the quarry project in Sy.Nos. 34/1 A at Kariavattom Village, Perinthalmanna Taluk, Malappuram District, Kerala by Sri. N. Muhammed Ali for M/s. Pathippara Granite Quarry (File No. 757/SEIAA/KL/332/2015).**

The proposal was finally considered by SEAC in its 54<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 6-7/4/2016 and recommended to issue EC with the general conditions along with the following specific conditions.

1. Benching method should be strictly practiced
2. Quarrying should be strictly limited to the proposed land only
3. Proper fencing and sign boards must be placed all around
4. Retaining wall should be maintained at the lower slope to avoid leaching.

Authority decided to grant E.C with all the suggestions in the Inspection Report and general conditions on mining.

**Item No. 53.16**                      **Environmental clearance for the quarry project in Sy.Nos. 215/1 A at Thazhekode Village, Perinthalmanna Taluk, Malappuram District, Kerala by Sri.Mohammed Haneefa Jailabdeen for M/s. VMR Granite Quarry.(File No. 758/SEIAA/KL/333/2015).**

On receipt of the inspection report and more realistic social responsibility schemes, the proposal was considered by SEAC in its 54<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 6-7/4/2016. The Committee appraised the proposal based on Form I, Pre-Feasibility Report, Mining Plan & Field Inspection Report and to recommend issuance of EC with the general conditions along with following specific conditions.

1. Benching method should be strictly practiced

2. Quarrying should be strictly limited to proposed land only
3. Proper fencing and sign boards must be placed all around
4. Entry of large vehicles may be restricted.
5. Retaining wall should be maintained at the lower slope to avoid leaching.

Authority found that the CSR undertakings are insufficient. It was decided to grant E.C after obtaining proper CSR undertakings from the proponent.

**Item No. 53.17**                      **Environmental Clearance for removal of ordinary earth in Sy. Nos. 4/2B, 146/1 and 146/7 at Pathaykkara Village, Eravimangalam P.O., Perinthalmanna, Malappuram, Kerala by Abdul Azees. (File No. 778/SEIAA/KL/907/2015)**

On receipt of the inspection report of the subcommittee of SEAC, the proposal was considered by the Committee in its 54<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 6-7/4/2016. The committee found that as per the latest notification of MoEF, Environmental Clearance is not required for earth work in connection with foundation works of buildings having necessary building permits. The Subcommittee had inspected the site and was convinced of the necessity for levelling the area for construction of the building. However, it is estimated that only 20,000 m<sup>3</sup> earth need be removed. Hence the committee decided to recommend for issuance of EC to remove 20,000 m<sup>3</sup> earth for levelling the area.

The Authority considered the recommendation and decided to accept the same and to issue E.C.

**Item No. 53.18**                      **Environmental clearance for removal of ordinary earth in Sy. No. 170/17-1, 18-2, 17-2, 3-1, 1,2,5,6,7, 11, 10A, 9, 8-B2, 10B, 7-2 at Thodupuzha Village, Thodupuzha Panchayath, Thodupuzha Taluk, Idukki District, Kerala by Sri. P.J. Leons (File No. 791/SEIAA/EC3/1624/2015)**

The application is for construction of School building, the removed earth to be used for reclamation of Nilam or already reclaimed land at Kumaranalloor village owned by the applicant.

The proposal was placed in the 46<sup>th</sup> meeting of SEAC held on 29<sup>th</sup>& 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015. The Committee found that the removed earth is proposed to be used for reclamation of land which is classified as Nilam. The Committee deferred the item for production of permission from the concerned authorities for the reclamation of "Nilam". The proponent has not submitted the documents till date. The proposal was again placed in the 54<sup>th</sup> meeting of

SEAC held on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> April 2016. Since the proponent has not so far produced necessary permission for filling up “nilam”, the Committee decided to recommend to reject the proposal.

Authority accepted the recommendation. Proposal rejected.

**Item No. 53.19**                      **Environmental clearance for the building stone quarry project in Sy.No.496/1,496/2-1,498/11, 498/1, 498/2, 498/9(part), 498/9-3, 498/9-4 and 498/10 at Mallapally Village, Mallapally Taluk, Pathanamthitta District- by Sri. A.D. John. (File No. 796/SEIAA/EC4/1957/2015)**

The proposal was placed in the 49<sup>th</sup> meeting of SEAC held on 7/12/2015. The Committee found that the proponent has not submitted the cadastral map of the lease area clearly indicating the area proposed to be quarried ensuring a minimum 100m buffer distance from the dwelling units as suggested by the sub-committee at the time of field inspection. The Committee deferred the item for the production of cadastral map.

The proponent submitted the scanned copy of cadastral map. The proposal was finally considered in the 54<sup>th</sup> meeting SEAC held on 6/7-4-2016. The Committee appraised the proposal based on Form I, Pre-Feasibility Report, Mining Plan & Field Inspection Report. The Committee decided to recommend for issuance of EC with the general conditions and the following specific conditions.

1. Fencing should be provided all around the lease area.
2. The already worked area with very steep cliff like feature may be demarcated and fenced as danger zones with sign boards. Future quarrying must be done with benches in a planned manner.
3. Storm water drainage from the quarry must be let out to the valley only after clarification.
4. The deep pit seen on the SW side with piped overflow must be maintained as a RWH structure with sufficient depth.
5. Ultimate depth of mine must be limited to the floor level of Parathodu which is at about 40 m amsl.
6. Approach roads to the quarry and the main haulage road need to be developed with a minimum width of 6 m.

Authority examined the recommendation. It is seen that there are dwelling units within the immediate vicinity. It was decided to issue E.C in this case after obtaining an affidavit from the proponent to the effect that a minimum distance of 100 meters from the periphery of the mining area to the nearest dwelling units will be left.



**Item No. 53.20**

**Environmental clearance for the quarry project in Sy. Nos. 375/7, 385/1, 385/2-1, 385/2-2, 385/3, 385/4-1, 385/4-2, 385/5-2, 385/6, 385/7, 385/8, 385/9, 385/10, 385/11, 385/12, 385/13, 385/14, 385/15, 385/16-2, 385/16-3, 385/17, 386/4, 386/5-2, 386/5-2-1, 386/5-3, 386/5-4, 386/11, 386/12, 386/13, 386/14, 386/15, 386/15-2, 386/15-3, 386/16, 386/17-2, 387/4, 387/5, 387/7-1, 387/8, 387/9, 387/10, 387/11, 387/14-1, 387/14-2, 387/15, 387/16, 387/17, 388/15-2-2, 388/15-2-3, 388/15-3-3, 388/15-6, 388/15-7, 388/15-10, 389/16 2 and 389/17 at Mankode Village, Kottarakkara Taluk, Kollam District, Kerala by Sri. R. Madhoosudanan Nair for M/s. Chithara Crushers Metals (File No. 812/EC3/2477/SEIAA/2015)**

The 48<sup>th</sup> meeting of SEIAA held on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2016, has appraised the proposal and the Authority noted that the mining area is 10.3134 hectares. Certificate of no cluster situation has not been produced. The nearest human settlement is stated to be at more than 100 m by the Village Officer but several buildings are seen existing within that range as per the maps. Question of violation of EIA notification also arises as it is working without environmental clearance in more than 5 ha. Authority therefore decided to refer the matter to SEAC to look in to the above aspects as well and to make recommendations.

The proposal was placed before 54<sup>th</sup> SEAC held on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> April. The Committee decided to provide the following clarifications:

- 1) Whether there is a cluster situation in the area?

The members of the sub-committee which inspected the site are of the opinion that cluster criterion is not applicable to the area

- 2) Are there residential buildings within 100m distance?

No residential structures were noted within 100m of the quarrying area. It is pertinent to that the distance specification is not from the lease area but from the quarrying area.

- 3) Is there not a violation as the area is more than 5ha?

The quarrying was carried out on the basis of permits issued by the Govt. for much smaller areas. Hence it cannot be considered as violations.

Authority assessed that mining in more than 5ha without E.C in the same location though under several permits invites violation proceedings. It was decided to initiate violation proceedings and to inform the District Collector. Stop Memo to be issued.

**Item No. 53.21                      Application for Environmental Clearance for the removal of ordinary earth in Sy.No. 139 at Irinjalakkuda Village, Mukundapuram Taluk, Thrissur District by Sri. K. V. Balakrishnan. (File No. 1041/SEIAA/EC1/626/2016)**

In the view of exemption provided in appendix IX of MoEF notification dated 15-01-2016, O.E removal for the construction of foundation of approved buildings does not require prior E.C.

The 52<sup>nd</sup> meeting of SEAC held on 8/9-02-2016 also pointed out the matter and hence recommended to delist the application of Sri. Titto Varghese, (File No. 787/SEIAA/EC1/1301/15) a similar case. The 51<sup>st</sup> SEIAA approved the decision (51.06) in respect of Sri. Titto Varghese.

Authority decided to inform the applicant that E.C is not necessary in this case.

**Item No.53.22                      Environmental Clearance for removal of ordinary earth in Sy.No. 530/1 at Annallur Village, Mala Panchayat, Chalakkudi Taluk, Thrissur District, Kerala by Sri. K.C. Thomas (File No. 633/SEIAA/KL/4860/2014)**

The proposal was taken up in the 44<sup>th</sup> meeting of SEIAA held on 13-11-2016 in which the Authority accepted the recommendations of SEAC to delist the application. On 28-12-2015 the proponent submitted the original report of the Agricultural Officer, KrishiBhavan, Mala proving that the proposed land is exempted from the preview of Kerala Conservation of Paddy Land and Wetland Act – 2008. They also requested to reconsider their application for the removal of ordinary clay.

Since the proposal was delisted in the 44<sup>th</sup> meeting of SEIAA as recommended by 46<sup>th</sup> meeting of SEAC, the proponent has to submit fresh proposal for E.C.

**Item No.53.23                      Extraction of river sand from 5 Kadavus in Idukki district – Judgment in W.P. No. 16091/16 (File No. 986.A/EC3/2015/SEIAA)**

As per E.C No. 268/SEIAA/1221/2014 dated 01/08/2014, the Authority granted E.C for river sand mining from 5 kadavus in Idukki district up to 31/12/2014. It was extended up

to 30/09/2015 vide order 282/SEIAA/1389/2014 dated 20/04/2015. The District Collector Idukki vide letter No. E9-4832/2014 dated 28/11/2015 submitted fresh application for sand removal from 5 Kadavus in Adimali Grama panchayat and 2 kadavus from Konnathady Grama Panchayat. The application is based on a 2014 sand audit report of NCESS. It is categorically stated as under.

*But in the case of the present study, the drainage network generally lies in the production zone (Schumm, 1977) of the Periyar river. Except the case of Adimali Grama panchayat, all the other local bodies of the Periyar river falling within the jurisdiction of Idukki district contain only discrete bodies of sand deposits on the bed rocks or pools. It is important to highlight that the sand deposit in the channel environment of the Periyar river draining through Idukki district is almost exhausted because of the extraction of sand over the years. Now sand deposits (if any) are confined to the channel segment close to the reservoir confluences only.*

Though total quantity to be extracted is computed, the methodology of calculation is not given. Also the quantity so far extracted as per E.C issued is not reported. The general issue of mining of river sand is the context of Deepak Kumar Judgment of Supreme Court and latest orders of NGT (SZ) have been considered by SEIAA in its 51<sup>st</sup> meeting held on 29/03/2016.

The Authority resolved that hereafter the general norm of 3m or water level whichever is less may be adopted for computation of mineable quantity of river sand. Where this ecological condition cannot be adopted there shall be no sand removal. The Kerala Protection of Riverbanks and Regulation of Removal of Sand Act (Act 18 of 2001) and the rules there under the norms and guidelines to be followed for mining of river sand in Kerala, subject also to the additional condition that the depth of mining shall be 3 m or water level whichever is less w.r.t the lowest level in summer. SEIAA has already decided that application submitted with sand audit reports without complying with the above condition on removal of river sand or where such compliance is not possible rejected outright.

The Authority considered the Judgment dated 29/04/2016 of the Hon. High Court of Kerala in W.P. 16091/2016 filed by the President, Adimali Grama Panchayat . In the light of the report of NCESS and the decision of the Hon. Supreme Court in Deepak Kumar's Case, it is impossible to extract sand complying the statutory provisions and guidelines propounded by the Hon. Supreme Court. Authority resolved that E.C cannot be given based on the report

now submitted, and wanted to have a scientific sand audit report in accordance with the Judgment of the Hon. Supreme Court and the provisions of the Kerala Protection of Riverbanks and Regulation of Removal of Sand Act (Act 18 of 2001) to consider the application for river sand mining.

**Item No. 53.24            54<sup>th</sup> meeting of SEAC- General discussions on decisions of SEIAA involving SEAC- Remarks of SEAC**

The 54<sup>th</sup> meeting of SEAC held on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> April 2016 made certain remarks on the earlier decisions of SEIAA pertaining to grant of Environmental Clearance in the case of applications for extraction of ordinary earth for Government works.

The issue of delay in grant of E.C for extraction of Ordinary Earth for various purposes especially house construction; public works, Railway works etc. were considered by SEIAA in earlier meetings and requested SEAC to curtail the delay in making recommendations in such cases, which usually do not require site inspection or presentation by proponent. The Southern Railway Authorities have been representing for some time, for facilitating quarrying of red earth (Ordinary Earth) for the track doubling works in the State. They have even made a proposal to the State Government (Industry Department) to exempt Railway works from the ambit of E.C. as was done in favour of Kochi Metro Rail works.

157000 m<sup>3</sup> of O.E was needed for doubling works in Haripad-Ambalapuzha sector alonge. Railway Authorities have reported that this work is to be completed by the financial year 2015-'16 , and it is very difficult to achieve the target without earth work. Also to avoid lapse of funds it was urged that preference may be given to the applications to facilities quarrying of earth for Railways. Though the application was sent to SEAC with recommendation of the Chairman SEIAA to appraise the case on out of turn priority, it was returned to be placed for appraisal in the next meeting. That means the E.C. could not have been issued enabling the works before the close of the financial year. Authority in its 44<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 13-11-2015 decided to request SEAC to consider the pending applications for removal of O.E. for Railway works in a special meeting to be held that month and recommendation made before 30/11/2015. It was also decided that applications for E.C for removal of O.E for Government works may be given priority with the quantity applied for to be granted if the requisitioning Government authority has certified that the quantity applied for is actually required for the particular work. Later the applications for E.C for O.E for the

site levelling and bund for compound wall of the Integrated Petrochemical Complex project of BPCL at their Cochin Refinery was considered on out of turn priority as the applications were not considered by SEAC on out of turn priority though the importance and urgency of the mega petrochemical project was brought to notice.

In his letter dated 15/12/2015, the Executive Director, BPCL (Kochi Refinery) has informed as follows:

‘Vide their letter cited 2 above BPCL approached The Director, Dept. of Environment & Forest, for getting Environmental Clearance for bringing earth from outside the premises of BPCL-KR. It is understood that there is a delay of two to three months for getting the approval from the above committee for commencing the earth filling activity which will delay the entire project by another Six (6) months. BPCL is planning to utilize the full dry period till May 2016 for commencing the construction of plants after that. If the permission is delayed the earth filling during the dry spell is not possible and the completion of the project as per the schedule time will get affected.’

The Authority considered the application and resolved to grant E.C on the usual specific conditions for mining of ordinary earth stipulated in O.M No. L.11011/47/2011-IA.II(M) dated 24-6-2013 of the Ministry of Environment & Forests. A national level mega petrochemical project in the state could not have been delayed for adhering to the seniority norms of SEAC. The reason adduced by SEAC for deferring the applications were not serious or relevant enough to have deferred the import applications, seriously affecting the mega project. There is no decision in the 47<sup>th</sup> meeting of SEIAA regarding seniority of applications as stated in the minutes of SEAC. Maintenance of seniority of applications is no ground to delay government projects involving hundreds of crores of rupees like the petrochemical complex. The SEIAA in its 51<sup>st</sup> meeting held on 29-3-2016 while assessing the delay in grant of E.C has decided interalia that:

‘51.44.4. SEAC may consider constituting subcommittees to examine the applications for extraction of OE/BE/laterite, especially as a simplified application form is there, but there is no solution to the delay.’ Authority resolved to convey the position clearly to SEAC. There is undue delay in getting the recommendations of SEAC despite bringing the need to give priority to important Government projects including the mega Petrochemical Project to the Committees’ Notice. Hence the remarks made in the minute of SEIAA is not in furtherance of the objective if the EIA notification 2006 in the matter of facilitating sustainable development.

