

No. 121/4/3/2010-Cab.
 GOVERNMENT OF INDIA (BHARAT SARKAR)
 CABINET SECRETARIAT (MANTRIMANDAL SACHIVALAYA)
 RASHTRAPATI BHAVAN

New Delhi, the 3rd February, 2011

Subject: Constitution of a Group of Ministers to consider environmental and developmental issues relating to coal mining and other developmental projects.

The Cabinet Committee on Infrastructure (CCI) had, while considering the note dated 26.11.2010 and supplementary note dated 10.12.2010 from the Ministry of Coal regarding "Need for making available more coal bearing areas for enhancing coal production", in its meeting held on 13.01.2011, directed that all pertinent issues may, in the first instance, be considered by a Group of Ministers (GoM), and thereafter, the matter be brought before the Committee.

2. The composition of the GoM, as approved by the Prime Minister, will be as under:

- (1) Shri Pranab Mukherjee,
Minister of Finance;
- (2) Shri Sharad Pawar,
Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Food Processing Industries;
- (3) Shri P. Chidambaram,
Minister of Home Affairs;
- (4) Shri Sushilkumar Shinde,
Minister of Power;
- (5) Shri M. Veerappa Moily,
Minister of Law and Justice;
- (6) Shri Anand Sharma,
Minister of Commerce and Industry;
- (7) Shri C.P. Joshi,
Minister of Road Transport and Highways;
- (8) Shri Shriprakash Jaiswal,
Minister of Coal;
- (9) Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia,
Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission;
- (10) Shri Dinsha J. Patel,
Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Mines;
- (11) Shri Jairam Ramesh,
Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Environment and Forests; and
- (12) Shri Beni Prasad Verma,
Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Steel.

3. The GoM will consider all issues relating to reconciliation of environmental concerns emanating from various developmental activities including those related to infrastructure and mining, and finalize its recommendations within two months, including the following:

- (a) the efficacy and legality of existing forest clearance norms and procedures being followed;
- (b) environment clearance in respect of projects located in areas with high Comprehensive Environmental Pollution Index; and
- (c) the steps to be taken to ensure that better quality forests are regenerated in a time-bound manner after mining operations get over.

4. The GoM will also suggest changes, if any, in the existing statutes, rules, regulations, guidelines or executive instructions.