

**By Speed Post**

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**Government of India**  
**Ministry of Environment & Forests**

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Dated the 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2011

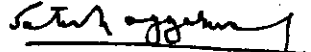
**Office Memorandum**

**Sub: Integrated Steel Plants and Sponge Iron Plants, which are linked to iron ore as raw material from mining operations in the Districts of Bellary, Tumkur and Chitradurga in Karnataka – Regarding.**

The Hon'ble Supreme Court vide its order dated 29.7.2011 and 26.8.2011 have banned mining operations in the Districts of Bellary, Tumkur and Chitradurga in the State of Karnataka. In view of the same, and to comply with the said orders of the Hon'ble Supreme court, it has been decided that all those projects received for environmental clearance in MoEF / SEIAAs relating to integrated steel plants and sponge iron plants, which are largely dependent on iron ore as raw material to be sourced from the mines located in Districts of Bellary, Tumkur and Chitradurga in Karnataka and are at different stages of consideration / processing will be delisted. Those projects which have not yet been placed before the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) / State Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC) will be returned.

Further, it has also been decided that MoEF / SEIAAs will not consider any proposal relating to integrated steel plant / sponge iron plant, which are linked to iron ore as a raw material to be obtained from these three Districts till the Hon'ble Supreme Court lifts the ban on mining in these Districts. Accordingly, the prospective project proponents are advised not to submit any such proposal for environmental clearance till such time the ban is lifted.

This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.

  
(Dr. S.K. Aggarwal)  
Director

1. All the Officers of IA Division
2. Chairpersons / Member Secretaries of all the SEIAAs/SEACs
3. Chairman, CPCB
4. Chairpersons / Member Secretaries of all SPCBs / UTPCCs

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