

Shastri Bhawan
New Delhi,

26th July, 2012

Order

Subject:- Setting up of an Inter-Ministerial Committee to accord all necessary clearances for exploration and production activities in oil and natural gas blocks.

With reference to Cabinet Secretary's O.M.No. 491/2/1/2012-Cab.III dated 4th May, 2012, Government of India hereby constitutes an Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) to accord all necessary clearances for blocks in which exploration, development and production activities have to be carried out.

2. The composition of the IMC will be as under:

i.	Cabinet Secretary	: Chairman
ii.	Home Secretary	: Member
iii.	Foreign Secretary	: Member
iv.	Defence Secretary	: Member
v.	Secretary, D/o Research & Development (MoD)	: Member
vi.	Secretary, Dept. of Space	: Member
vii.	Secretary M/o Forests & Environment	: Member
viii.	Secretary Department of Legal Affairs	: Member
ix.	Secretary M/o Coal	: Member Convenor
x.	Secretary, M/o Petroleum & Natural	
xi.	Director General, Directorate General of Hydro-carbons	: Special Invitee

3. The IMC may co-opt any other functionary, if considered necessary:

4. The IMC may consider the following issues with respect to various clearances required for exploration and production activities:-

One time all inclusive clearance from MHA, MEA, MOEF, M/o Defence (DRDO, Army, Navy, Air Force), M/o Coal, M/o Mines and other agencies like D/o Space, DGCA, R & AW&SOI prior to the offer of blocks as well as later E. & P activity related to Oil, Natural Gas, CBM/ Shale gas or oil/ Oil Shale/ Gas hydrate on onshore and offshore areas which may include:

- a. Air borne gravity-Magnetic surveys
b. Land & Marine survey

- i. 2D seismic survey
- ii. 3D seismic survey
- iii. Bathymetry
- iv. Controlled Source Electro Magnetic (CSEM) survey
- v. Exploratory, appraisal & development drilling
- vi. Development and establishment of production related facilities

- II. All issues with respect to clearances by State Governments including urban land, SEZ, Forests land, Environmental, Agricultural land, Tribal land, State Pollution Control Board, law & order etc. prior to offer of blocks as well as to stoppage of work during exploration, development or production phases by State & Local Governments and their agencies.
- III. Framing of detailed guidelines for deployment of foreign vessels, nationals etc.
- IV. MHA clearances for foreign nationals deployed for E&P activities which need to be issued which are specific to blocks and operations.
- V. International boundary issues (Land & Maritime).
- VI. Exploration licences across more than one state.
- VII. Framing of guidelines for simultaneous exploration and exploitation in the same surface/subsurface area for:
 - a. Oil & Natural gas with CBM,
 - b. CBM with Shale gas / oil
 - c. CBM with coal without or with shale gas/oil
 - d. Oil & Natural gas with Shale gas / oil

5. IMC may examine all the issues either by circulation or in a meeting and make comprehensive recommendations so that there are no delays in actual execution of work on account of clearances by Government agencies.

6. IMC shall also consider denial of clearances by any Ministry/Department/Agency subsequent to the award of blocks and make suitable recommendations to Administrative Ministry, which shall be treated as final decision of Government of India.

7. The decisions taken by Inter-Ministerial Committee shall have the finality as far as all the Ministries/Agencies represented on Inter-Ministerial Committee are concerned. The clearances shall not be denied to those blocks which have been considered favourably by IMC.

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8. IMC will be serviced by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas which will function as its Secretariat and will convene its meetings from time to time as per requirements.

9. This issues with the approval of Minister (Petroleum & Natural Gas).

S.K. Chitkara
(S.K. Chitkara)

Under Secretary to the Government of India
Tele. No. 23385557

To,
All concerned officers.

Copy to: PS to Minister (P&NG) / PS to MOS (P&NG) / PPS to Secretary (P&NG) /
PS to JS (E)

Copy also to: (i) Shri Sanjay Lohiya, Director, PMO, South Block, New Delhi
(ii) Shri Bhaskar Jyoti Sarma, Deputy Secretary, Cabinet Sectt. Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi.