

F.No. 21-67/2010-I.A.III
Government of India
Ministry of Environment & Forests
(IA.III Division)

Paryavaran Bhawan,
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road,
New Delhi-110 003.

Dated: 1st June .2011

To
Prof. M. V. N. Murthy
Member, INO PMC
M/s.The Institute of Mathematical Sciences
C. I. T. Campus, Taramani P.O.
Chennai - 600 113

Subject: Environmental Clearance for construction of India-based Neutrino Observatory (INO) project at Bodi West Hills, Pottipuram Village, Theni District, Tamil Nadu by M/s. Institute of Mathematical Sciences - Regarding.

Sir,

This has reference to letter no. SEIAA/TN/F.No.336/2010 dated 5.5.2010 and subsequent letters dated 6.7.2010, 31.12.2010 and 1.3.2011 seeking prior Environmental Clearance for the above project under the EIA Notification, 2006. The proposal has been appraised as per prescribed procedure in the lights of provisions under the EIA Notification, 2006 on the basis of the mandatory documents enclosed with the application viz., the Form-1 & 1A, Conceptual Plans and the additional clarifications furnished in response to the observations of the Expert Appraisal Committee constituted by the competent authority in its meetings held on 18-20th January, 2011 & 5-6th April, 2011 and recommended Environmental Clearance for the project.

2. It is, interalia, noted that the India-based Neutrino Observatory (INO) project is a proposal to construct an underground laboratory for experiments at the cutting edge of neutrino physics. Its immediate goal is the creation of the underground laboratory as well as building of a large magnetized iron calorimeter detector housed in it, to study naturally-produced neutrinos in the Earth's atmosphere. In the long run, the laboratory may include experiments in other fields in Physics, Biology and Geology as well. INO is listed by the Planning Commission as one of the Mega Projects in Science under the XI five year plan. The project will be jointly funded by the Department of Atomic Energy and Department of Science and Technology.

The area covered by the underground facilities (tunnels plus caverns) will be 2.05 ha whereas the over-ground construction will cover an area of about 1.07 ha. Additional temporary areas will be used for muck storage, temporary labour quarters and project buildings. The total water requirement is 340 KLD (drinking & service water - 20 KLD + cooling system-320 KLD). The power requirement is 3 MW.



