

Copy of letter No. 11-9/98-FC dated 4.5.2001 from Shri A.N. Prasad, Deputy Inspector General of Forests, Govt. of India, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Paryavaran Bhawan, C.G.O. Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003 to the Secretary (Forests), All States & Union Territories. Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Rajasthan, Jaipur endorsement No. F.16(Circular)96/P.II/PCCF/FP/3925-4074 dated 28 May, 2001

Sub.: Guidelines for diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 that are part of National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries.

Sir,

I am directed to invite your attention to the guidelines circulated by this Ministry vide letter of even no. dt. 4.12.98 regarding submission of proposals for diversion of forest land in Sanctuaries/National Parks and Tiger Reserve areas. You may be aware that subsequent to the issue of this guideline, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has passed two important orders relating to National Parks and Sanctuaries – one dt. 13.11.00 in W.P. No. 337/95, where they have directed that pending further orders, no de-reservation of Sanctuaries and National Parks shall be effected. In the other order dt. 14.2.00 in WP No. 202/95, the Hon'ble Supreme Court has restrained all the States from ordering even the removal of dead, diseased, dying or wind-fallen trees and grasses etc. from any National Park or Sanctuary.

2. In view of the above orders of the Supreme Court, the State Government are advised not to submit any proposal for diversion of forest land in National Parks and Sanctuaries under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 without seeking prior permission of the Supreme Court. The earlier guideline issued by the Ministry may be considered modified to this extent.