

Copy of letter no. 11-30/96-FC(Pt.) dated 28.6.2001 from Shri R.K. Gupta, Asstt. Inspector General of Forests, Govt. of India, Ministry of Environment and Forests, F.C. Division, Paryavaran Bhawan, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003 Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Rajasthan, Jaipur endorsement No. F.16(Circular)20/FP/PCCF/5984-6133 dated 24.7.2001

Sub.: Guidelines for diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980

Sir,

Detailed guidelines for submission of proposals for diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 were finalised and circulated to all the State Government/ Union Territories on 25.10.1992. A constant review of these guidelines has been done from time to time.

After a recent review the Ministry has observed that forest clearance proposals received from various states reveal that, more often than not, they are of piece meal nature with reference to a particular district area or particular type of industry purpose. Unless a comprehensive picture is available as to the extent of forest land diverted for non-forestry purposes in a particular district/State vis-à-vis the total forest cover of that particular district of State, the Ministry can be misguided towards avoidable decisions. Our target of attaining 33 per cent National forest cover could be possible not only by new afforestation programmes in additional non-forest areas but also by a very careful preservation of the existing forest lands. Further, it is necessary to judiciously apply the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of forest land for non forestry purposes and more so due to the fact that in the last 20 years of the Act more than 6000 proposals involving about 5.00 lakh hectare forest land has been diverted for non-forestry purposes.

In view of the above, all the proposals seeking prior approval of the Central Government in accordance with Sanction-2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 should invariably contain the following information.

- a) Extent of forest cover in the concerned district/states.
- b) Extent of forest land diverted so far under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in the concerned district/States.
- c) Extent of forest land diverted for the same/similar purpose/project so far in the concerned district/State.
- d) Progress of compensatory afforestation in the concerned district/State under earlier forest clearances.

In future no proposals without this information shall be processed. However, the States/UTs may submit the above information on a consolidated, calender year basis every year as per the proforma enclosed so as to avoid duplication/re-iteration in each proposal.

Kindly acknowledge receipt.

