

Copy of the letter no. 11-9/98-FC dated 4.12.98 Received from Shri V.B. Kumar, Asstt. Inspector General of Forests, Government of India, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Paryavaran Bhawan, C.G.O. Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi. Addressed to PCCFs/ Chief Wildlife Wardens/ Nodal Officers of All States Union Territories. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Rajasthan, Jaipur letter No. F15()98/FP/ PCCF/247-407 dated 15.1.99

Subject : 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.

This Ministry has already circulated detailed consolidated guidelines for submission of proposals for diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Ministry has taken a decision not to permit development activities inside National Parks / Sanctuaries and Tiger Reserve areas that are not in consonance of section 29 of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

This Ministry has been receiving proposals from various States and Union Territories for permission to use forest land for non-forestry uses even in such areas. It is suggested that States and Union Territories should avoid recommending use of Forest areas inside sanctuaries, National Parks and project tiger areas for non forest purposes, wherever it is inescapable, the State Govt. is advised first to get consent of Indian Board of Wildlife for getting approval of the State Legislature for denotification of the are as sanctuary. Only after receiving the clearance from concerned Board, the proposal under (F)(C) Act 1980 may be submitted to Central Government for consideration. The proposals which are received without the approval as mentioned above shall not be considered for clearance under F(C) Act.

It has also been observed that in respect of certain proposals which do not involve sanctuary or national park areas but is reported to be rich in wildlife in the proposal or norms consider for movement/migration of wild animals. It is decided that in such cases the State Govt. should furnish specific comments of Chief Wildlife Warden on the proposal submitted under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for approval. This will avoid back reference and delay in decision can be avoided.