

F. No. 11-613/2014-FC  
Government of India  
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change  
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,  
Aliganj, Jorbagh Road  
New Delhi - 110 003  
Dated: 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2014

To

1. The Principal Secretary (Forests),  
All State / Union Territory Governments
2. The Principal Secretary (Environment),  
All State / Union Territory Governments

**Sub:** Guidelines for diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes under the Forest (Conservation) Act 1980- Submission of proposals to obtain approval for diversion of entire forest land located within the mining lease and grant of environment clearance to mining projects.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to this Ministry's letter No. 11-362/2012-FC dated 1<sup>st</sup> February 2013 on the above-mentioned subject, wherein *inter-alia* the following decision of this Ministry was communicated to States and Union Territories:

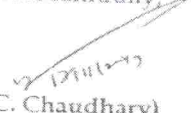
*"All State/UT Governments shall within a period of three months submit to this Ministry details of all such mines where approval under the FC Act for diversion of only a part of forest land has either been obtained or is presently under examination in the State/Central Government. The State Governments in all such cases shall request the concerned user agencies to submit application to obtain approval under the FC Act for diversion of the remaining forest land located within the mining lease. Mining in such leases after two years will be allowed only if the user agency either obtains approval under the FC Act for the entire forest land located within the mining lease or surrenders such forest land for which approval under FC Act has not been obtained and execute a revised mining lease for the reduced lease area."*

Keeping in view that the last date for obtaining prior approval of Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 (FC Act) for diversion of entire forest land located within the mining lease is fast approaching, to prevent disruption of mining activities from 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2015 due to the said guidelines and to facilitate renewal and execution of such mining leases where approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980



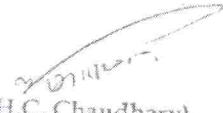
for diversion of a part of forest land has only been obtained, States and Union Territories may expedite processing of proposals seeking prior approval of Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of balance forest land located within such mining leases and submit these proposals to this Ministry at the earliest.

Yours faithfully,

  
(H.C. Chaudhary)  
Director

Copy to:-

1. Secretary, Ministry of Mines, Government of India.
2. Secretary, Ministry of Coal, Government of India.
3. Secretary, Ministry of Steel, Government of India.
4. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, all State/UT Governments.
5. Nodal Officer, the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, all State/UT.
6. All Regional Offices, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC).
7. Joint Secretary, In-charge, Impact Assessment Division, MoEFCC.
8. Chairman, State Environment Impact Assessment Authority, all State/UT Governments.
9. Member-Secretary, State Environment Impact Assessment Authority, all State/UT Governments.
10. All Advisors/ Directors/ Dy. Directors in the Impact Assessment Division, MoEFCC.
11. All Assistant Inspector General of Forests in Forest Conservation Division, MoEFCC.
12. All Directors in the Forest Conservation Division, MoEFCC.
13. Director, Regional Office (Headquarters), Ministry of Environment & Forests, New Delhi.
14. Guard File.

  
(H.C. Chaudhary)  
Director