

11/259/2019-FC
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Aliganj, Jorbagh Road,
New Delhi-110003
Dated: 14th January, 2020

To

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
All State/UT Governments

Sub: Amendment of Para 2.3 (iv) and (v) of the Chapter -2 of the Handbook of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 – regarding.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to this Ministry's letter no. 5-2/2017-FC dated 28.03.2019 wherein consolidated guidelines were issued by the Ministry in the form of Handbook of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and to inform that representations are being received from the various State Governments to include modified guidelines issued subsequently by the Ministry in the said Handbook. PrI. Chief Conservator of Forests, Goa vide his letter no. 6-853-2019-FD/3896 dated 13.11.2019 has requested to modify para 2.3 (iv) & (v) of the Chapter-2 of the Handbook to include the amended provisions of guidelines with respect to raising of compensatory afforestation in other states.

Representations have also been received from many states seeking clarifications on the date of applicability of point (b) of the guideline no 11-423/2011-FC dated 22nd May 2019 providing for raising of CA in minimum compact patch of 5 ha.

Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) considered the issues in its meeting held on 28.11.2019. Minutes of the meeting of the FAC may kindly be seen at <http://parivesh.nic.in/>.

Based on the recommendation of the FAC, and approval of the same by the competent authority in the Ministry, para 2.3 (iv) & (v) of the Chapter-2 of the Handbook of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 stands amended as under:

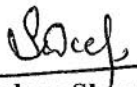
2.3 (iv) In case, non-forest land/Degraded forest land, as the case may be for CA is not available in the same district, it should be identified anywhere else in the concerned/State/Union Territory near to the site of diversion as far as possible, so as to minimize adverse impact on the micro-ecology of the area.

2.3 (v) In exceptional cases where non-forest land/Degraded forest land, as the case may be, for CA is not available in the same State/UT in which the diversion of forest land is proposed, land for CA can be identified in any other State/UTs, preferably in neighboring State/UTs. The corresponding amount for carrying out CA shall be deposited in the CAMPA account of the State/UT in which the CA is proposed.

It is also clarified that provision given under para (b) of the guidelines dated 22nd May, 2019 shall be applicable for all proposals which are submitted for approval for non forest use of forest land under FCA 1980 to MoEF&CC by the state government after 22nd May 2019.

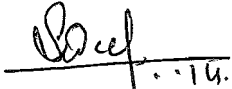
This issues with the approval of competent authority.

Yours faithfully,


(Sandeep Sharma) 14.1.2020
Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, All State/UT Governments
2. The Dy Director General of Forests (Central), All Regional Offices of the MoEF&CC
3. The Addl. PCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Office of the PCCF, All State/UT Governments
4. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF, New Delhi
5. Guard File


(Sandeep Sharma)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests