

F. No. 11-179/2012-FC  
Government of India  
Ministry of Environment and Forests  
(FC Division)

Paryavaran Bhawan,  
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road,  
New Delhi - 110 510.  
Dated: 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2013

To:

The Principal Secretary (Forests),  
All States / Union Territory Governments except Jammu and Kashmir

Sub: Diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980  
- ensuring compliance of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers  
(Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to this Ministry's letter No. 11-9/1998-FC (pt.) dated 03.08.2009 and to clarify that to ensure compliance with the above letter in its letter and spirit, in case of proposals from States/UTs where the process for settlement of rights under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 has been initiated, stage-I approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 will be considered by this Ministry only after receipt of documentary evidences, as stipulated in this Ministry's said letter, of having initiated and completed the above process. Similarly, in case of the proposals from States/ UTs where the process for settlement of rights under FRA has not been initiated, grant of stage-I approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 to the proposal will be considered only if a certificate from a competent authority in the State/UT Government concerned, clearly stating that process for settlement of rights under the afore-mentioned Act has not been initiated along with evidences supporting that settlement of rights under FRA 2006 will be initiated and completed before the final approval, is enclosed with the proposal. Submission of the above evidence/certificates will be part of the check-list to assess completeness of the proposals seeking prior approval of Central Government under the afore-mentioned Act.

Yours faithfully,

(H.C. Chaudhary)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:-

1. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, all State/UT Governments except Jammu and Kashmir.
2. Nodal Officer, the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, all State/UT Governments except Jammu and Kashmir.
3. All Regional Offices, Ministry of Environment & Forests.
4. All Directors/Assistant Inspector General of Forests in Forest Conservation Division, MoEF.
5. Director, Regional Office (Headquarters), Ministry of Environment & Forests, New Delhi.
6. Monitoring Cell, Forest Conservation Division, MoEF with a request to place a copy of the letter on website of this Ministry.
7. Guard File.

(H.C. Chaudhary)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests