

F.No.5-1/1998-FC  
Government of India  
Ministry of Environment and Forests  
(F.C. Division)

Paryavaran Bhawan,  
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road,  
New Delhi – 110003.

Dated: 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2005.

To

1. The CCF (Central),  
Regional Offices of Ministry of Environment and Forests,  
Bangalore / Shillong / Bhopal / Bhubaneshwar.
2. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,  
Karnataka / Assam / Gujarat / Orissa.

Sub: Expert committee constituted under the chairpersonship of Prof. Kanchan Chopra in the Institute of Economic Growth in compliance of the order dated 26.09.2005 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in IA No. 566 in WP(C) No. 202 of 1995: charging of Net Present Value (NPV) of forest land; conduct of regional hearings by the Committee – regarding.

Sir/Madam,

With reference to the subject mentioned above, I am directed to say that the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, vide its order dated 26.09.2005 in I.A. No. 566 in WP(C) No. 202 of 1995, has constituted an Expert Committee, as mentioned above, to go, inter-alia, into the issues of exemption of projects from payment of NPV, methodology for determination of NPV of different categories of forest land and to suggest definite criteria for its calculation in monetary terms. The Committee has decided to conduct public hearings in New Delhi, as well as in **Bangalore (16<sup>th</sup> January 2006), Guwahati (28<sup>th</sup> January 2006), Ahmedabad (11<sup>th</sup> February 2006) and Bhubaneswar (26<sup>th</sup> February 2006)** to elicit views of various stakeholders to help formulate a balanced and comprehensive report on the issue. The Committee shall be visiting **Bangalore, Guwahati, Ahmedabad and Bhubaneswar** to conduct the meetings on the dates mentioned above.

2. In this connection, the CCFs (Central) in the concerned Regional Offices of this Ministry are requested to co-ordinate with the concerned State Forest Department to decide the venue of the hearing to be conducted by the Expert Committee and to make other related arrangements. Arrangements for boarding and lodging of the Committee Members and other

officials accompanying the Committee may be made, if so requested by the Committee, at the cost of the Committee.

3. The concerned Principal Chief Conservator of Forests are also requested to extend full support to the CCFs (Central) in the respective Regional Office of this Ministry, in making necessary arrangements for conduct of the meeting. Needless to mention that the Members of the Expert Committee constituted by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India deserve appropriate support and assistance.

Yours faithfully,

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(Sandeep Kumar)  
Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. Secretary (Forests), All State/Union Territory (UT) Governments.
2. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, All States/UTs.

for information and wide circulation of the programme of the Expert Committee in order to invite the views of maximum stakeholders.

3. Prof. Kanchan Chopra, Director, Institute of Economic Growth, University of Delhi Enclave, North Campus, New Delhi – 110007.

  
(Sandeep Kumar)  
Assistant Inspector General of Forests