

F. No. 11-306/ 2014-FC (pt.)
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Aliganj, Jorbagh Road
New Delhi - 110 001
Dated: 28th August, 2015

To

The Principal Secretary (Forests)
All State Governments / Union territory Administrations

Sub: Guidelines for diversion of forest land for non-forest purpose under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980- Simplified procedure for grant of permission for felling of trees standing on forest land to be diverted for execution of linear projects: *reg.*

Sir,

I am directed to refer to guidelines on the afore-mentioned subject issued by this Ministry vide letters of even number dated 7th May 2015, wherein this Ministry communicated a simplified procedure for grant of permission for tree cutting and commencement of work of linear project in forest land, and to say that after further examination of these guidelines it has been observed that having obtained the permission for tree felling and execution of work on forest land, urgency/need to obtain stage-II approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 (FC Act) reduces. It has also been apprehended in some quarters that in many such cases State Governments may not seek and obtain stage-II approval under the FC Act, and consequently many of conditions, other than those relating to payment of compensatory levies and transfer and mutation in favour of State Forest Department of land for compensatory afforestation, may remain unfulfilled.

2. Accordingly, in supersession of this Ministry's said letter/guidelines of even number dated 7th May, 2015, I am directed to say as below:

- (i) With a view to facilitate speedy execution of projects involving linear diversion of forest land such as laying of new roads, widening of existing highways, transmission lines, water supply lines, optic fiber cabling, railway lines *etc.*, in-principle approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 (FC Act) issued by the Central Government may be deemed as the working permission for tree cutting and commencement of work, if the required funds for compensatory afforestation, net present value (NPV), wildlife conservation plan, plantation of dwarf species of medicinal plants, and all such other compensatory levies specified in the in-principle approval are realised from the user

28/08/15