

**F. No. 11-306/ 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: 7<sup>th</sup> October, 2014

To

1. All Members of the Forest Advisory Committee
2. The Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Central)  
All Regional Offices of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change

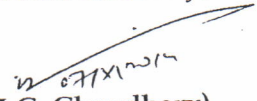
**Sub:** Guidelines for diversion of forest land for non-forest purpose under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980- Providing opportunity to the project proponent to be present and to place their case before the Forest Advisory Committee and Regional Offices- *reg.*

Sir,

I am directed to say that this Ministry has received representations that the project proponents seeking prior approval of Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 (FC Act) may be allowed to be present and to place their case before the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) and the Regional Offices while their proposals are examined by them.

After examination of the matter, I am directed to say that the FAC and Regional Offices of this Ministry may allow the project proponents seeking prior approval of Central Government under the FC Act to be present and to place their case before the FAC and the Regional Offices while their proposals are examined by them. It is however, clarified that presence of the project proponent before the FAC or Regional Office is not a mandatory requirement for consideration of the proposal. In case, a project proponent is not present during examination of the proposal, the FAC or the Regional Office may take decision on merit of the proposal and shall not defer decisions on such proposal merely on the ground of the absence of the project proponent.

Yours faithfully,

  
(H.C. Chaudhary)  
Director

Copy to:-

1. Prime Minister's Office (*Kind attn.:* Shri Santosh D. Vaidya, Director), North Block, New Delhi.
2. All Regional Offices, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India (GoI).

3. Joint Secretary, Impact Assessment Division, MoEFCC, GoI.
4. All Assistant Inspector General of Forests/ Directors in the Forest Conservation Division, MoEFCC, GoI.
5. Director, Regional Offices Headquarters Division, MoEFCC, GoI.
6. Sr. Director (Technical), NIC, MoEFCC, GoI with a request to place a copy of this letter on website of this Ministry.
7. Sr. PPS to the Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, GoI.
8. Sr. PPS to the Director General of Forests & Special Secretary, MoEFCC, GoI.
9. Sr. PPS to the Addl. Director General of Forests (Forest Conservation), MoEFCC, GoI.
10. PS to the Inspector General of Forests (Forest Conservation), MoEFCC, GoI.
11. Guard File.

07/12/21  
(H.C. Chaudhary)  
Director