

F.No.11-96/2000 - FC
Government of India
Ministry of Environment and Forests
F.C. Division

Paryavaran Bhawan, CGO Complex,
Lodhi Road, New Delhi - 110 003.

Dated: 04-02-2005

07/2/05

To

1. The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Government of Haryana,
Chandigarh.
2. The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Government of Punjab,
Chandigarh.

Sub: Guidelines for diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 - Clarification regarding charging the cost of Compensatory Afforestation thereof.

Sir,

With reference to Northern Railways letter No.56-W/237/W.Spl/Estt/Pt.IV dated: 13-1-2005 on the above-mentioned subject, I am directed to inform you that para 3.2 (vi) of the guidelines issued under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, is applicable when the land belongs to the State Forest Department. But, in the cases, where the land has been acquired by the user agency long back and part of it has been utilized for raising plantations by the State Forest Department and subsequently declared as 'Protected forests', para 2.5 (ii) shall be applicable which reads as follows:

"Such lands which were acquired by the above departments (Road/Rail/Canal) and the vacant areas were subsequently planted and notified as protected forests for management purposes will need approval from the Central Government under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The user agency will submit the proposal in the prescribed format through the State Forest Department to the concerned Regional Office of the Ministry. The Regional Offices shall be competent to finally dispose of all such proposals irrespective of the area, preferably within 30 days from the date of receipt of the proposal. While issuing the approval, in place of normal provision for compensatory afforestation, the Regional Offices will stipulate a condition that for every tree cut at least two trees should be planted."

This issues with the approval of the competent authority.

Yours faithfully,



(ANURAG BAJPAI)

Asstt. Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:-

1. All PCCFs/Nodal Officers (All States/UTs).
2. All Regional Offices, Ministry of Environment and Forests.
3. Director(FC) / AIGs(FC).
4. Chief Engineer, Const/NC (Attn. Shri M.R. Choudhary), Northern Railways, Headquarters Office, Kashmere Gate, Delhi.
5. File No. 2-1/2003-FC
6. Guard file.