

F. No. 8-64/2013-FC
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change
(FC Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Aliganj, Jorbagh Road,
New Delhi - 110003
Date: 20th August, 2014

To
The Principal Secretary (Forests),
All State/UT Governments.

Sub: Guidelines regarding de-linking of grant of forest clearance from the clearance from the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL).

Sir,

I am directed to inform that, The Ministry has come across several instances where grant of forest clearance under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is pending for want of clearance from the Standing Committee of the NBWL for the projects falling within Eco-sensitive zones of the protected areas or within 10 km distance from PA's (where Eco-Sensitive zones are not notified). Many a time, cases of forest clearance got unduly delayed for long time resulting into unwarranted pendency of forest clearance cases. Further, clearance from the Standing Committee of the NBWL, is granted under the provisions of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 which is altogether different from the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Taking cognizance of this fact, the matter was examined in this Ministry, and it is decided that approval being granted under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 will not be linked to the grant of clearance from the Standing Committee of the NBWL, except in cases where land proposed for diversion falls within protected areas for which prior approval of the Hon'ble supreme court is required.

This issues with the approval of competent authority.

Yours faithfully,


(M. Rajkumar)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:-

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, All State/UT Governments.
2. The Addl. PCCF (Central), All Regional Offices of the MoEF&CC.
3. The Nodal Officer (FCA), Office of the PCCF, All State/UT Governments.
4. Director (BKS)/Director (ROHQ)/AIGF (FC).
5. Sr. PPS to DGF&SS, PS to Addl. DGF, PS to IGF(FC)
6. Monitoring cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi.
7. Guard File.


(M. Rajkumar)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

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20/8