

F. No. 5-3/2007-FC
Government of India
Ministry of Environment and Forests
(FC Division)

Paryavaran Bhawan, CGO Complex,
Lodhi Road, New Delhi – 110 003.
Dated: 16th December 2008.

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

Sub: **Guidelines for diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 - for stipulating the norms for Survey and Investigation (Prospecting of ores) on forest land.**

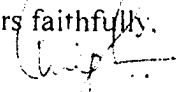
Sir,

The Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India has been receiving number of representations from various Ministries and the State / UT Governments seeking clarification in respect of norms for Survey and Investigation (Prospecting of ores) on forest land.

After careful examination of the proposal and on the basis of the recommendations of the Committee of Experts, constituted to revisit the guidelines, and on the basis of the recommendations of the Forest Advisory Committee, the Central Government hereby conveys its approval for replacing the existing provision given under 1.3 (v) under *Investigation and Survey* of the Handbook of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 - Guidelines and Clarifications (up to June 2004) guidelines with the provision as given below:

"Prospecting of any Mineral, done under prospecting license granted under MMRD Act, which requires collection/ removal of samples from the forest land, would be a stage between survey & investigation and grant of mining lease and as such permission under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 would be required. However, in case of metallic ores - test drilling up to 20-25 boreholes of maximum 4" dia per 10 sq km and in case of coal and lignite (non-metallic Ores) - (a) test drilling up to 15 boreholes of maximum 4" dia per 10 sq km for open cast mining; and (b) test drilling up to 20 boreholes of maximum 4" dia per 10 sq km for under-ground mining for prospecting exploration or reconnaissance operations, without felling of trees, shall not attract the provisions of the Act. In all other cases involving more number of drilling of bore holes, prior permission of Central Government under the Act would be required".


Yours faithfully,


(C.D. Singh)

Sr. Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:-

1. The PMO (kind attention: Director, PMO)
2. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, All States / UTs.
3. The Nodal Officer (FCA), o/o the PCCFs, All States / UTs.
4. All Regional Offices of MoEF located at Bhopal, Shillong, Bangalore, Bhubaneshwar, Lucknow and Chandigarh.
5. The RO (HQ), MoEF, New Delhi.
6. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF, New Delhi.
7. Guard File.


(C.D. Singh)

Sr. Assistant Inspector General of Forests