

Government of India  
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change  
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,  
Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road,  
New Delhi – 110 003  
Dated: 21st October, 2019.

To

The Principal Secretary (Forests),  
All States/ UTs,  
Government of India.

**Sub: Provisions of Compensatory Afforestation providing that the UT/States with more than 75% of forest cover of their respective geographical areas shall not be require to provide non-forest land in lieu of diversion of forest land for projects within the UT/State itself- regarding**

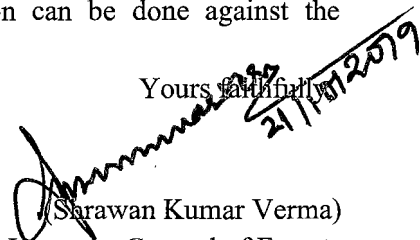
Sir,

I am directed to refer to the D.O. letter of Chief Secretary, Andaman & Nicobar Administration and Secretariat vide No. OSD (E&F)/PS/2019 (Godavarman) dated 08.08.2019 regarding "Provisions of Compensatory Afforestation providing that the UT/States with more than 75% of forest cover of their respective geographical areas shall not be require to provide non-forest land in lieu of diversion of forest land for projects within the UT/State itself.

2. A &N Islands has extreme shortage of revenue land since the forest cover is about 90%.It is informed by the Andaman & Nicobar Administration that out of a total geographical area of 8249 Sq. Km., 7565.54 Sq.Km is forest/ water bodies /inter-tidal zones, which constitutes 91.72% of total area. Out of 683.01 Sq. Km. revenue land, 162.50 Sq. Km. falls under deemed forests. Thus, major portion of effective revenue land is utilized for social and physical infrastructure and only 7.71 Sq. Km. of land is available for any development.

In view of above it is requested to all the States/UTs for consent to spare area for different developmental projects in A&N in which Compensatory Afforestation can be done against the requirement of A&N Islands.

Yours faithfully,

  
(Sarawan Kumar Verma)

Deputy Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. Shri Chetan B. Sanghai, Chief Secretary, Andaman and Nicobar Administration, Secretariat.
2. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), All State/UTs.
3. The Dy. Director General of Forest (Central), All Regional Office, MoEF&CC.
4. The Nodal Officer (FCA), O/o the PCCF All State/UTs
5. Guard File.