

F. No. 11-168/2009-FC (pt.)  
Government of India  
Ministry of Environment and Forests  
(FC Division)

: Paryavaran Bhawan,  
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road,  
New Delhi - 110 510.  
Dated: 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2012

To

The Principal Secretary (Forests),  
All States / Union Territory Governments except Jammu and Kashmir

Sub: Strengthening of the office of the Nodal Officer, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

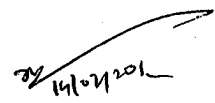
Sir,

I am directed to say that a Group of Ministers constituted by the Cabinet Secretariat vide their O.M. No. 121/4/3/2010-Cab. dated 3.2.2011 to consider the environmental and developmental issues relating to coal mining and other development projects in its fifth meeting held under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Finance Minister on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2011 *inter-alia* accepted the following recommendations made by a committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri B.K. Chaturvedi, Member, Planning Commission recommended as below:

- (i) A Nodal Agency with adequate staff should be set up in each State to ensure quick processing of forest Clearances cases, land acquisition issues and R & R measures. Decision on large number of proposals seeking prior approval of the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 have been delayed due to long time taken in processing these. This agency may also help in resolving issues on compensatory afforestation. Mining companies may be charged appropriate fee to ensure that the agencies have adequate infrastructure to process cases expeditiously;
- (ii) The Ministry of Environment & Forests needs to work out modalities to set up separate cell in each coal bearing State to oversee the type of vegetation being grown in the mined out areas and what further strengthening can be done to improve it.

Accordingly, I am directed to say that all State/UT Governments may kindly take appropriate action, under intimation to this Ministry to strengthen the office of the Nodal Officer by providing adequate staff and infrastructure support to ensure timely processing of proposals seeking prior approval of Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes and also to oversee and monitor the reclamation of the mined out areas with most appropriate species to improve the quality of mine reclamation works.

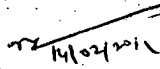
Yours faithfully,

  
(H.C. Chaudhary)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:-

1. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, all State/UT Governments except Jammu and Kashmir.
2. Nodal Officer, the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, all State/UT Governments except Jammu and Kashmir
3. All Regional Offices, Ministry of Environment & Forests.
4. All Assistant Inspector General of Forests in Forest Conservation Division, MoEF.
5. Director, Regional Office (Headquarters), Ministry of Environment & Forests, New Delhi.
6. Guard File.

  
(H.C. Chaudhary)  
Assistant Inspector General of Forests