

F. No. 10-125/ 2013-FC (pt.-III)
Government of India
Ministry of Environment and Forests
(FC Division)

Paryavaran Bhawan,
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road,
New Delhi - 110 510
Dated: 25th February, 2014

To

: The Principal Secretary (Forests),
All State / Union Territory Governments

Sub: Guidelines for diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980- Submission of proposals for diversion of forest land for irrigation projects- *reg.*

Sir,

I am directed to say that this Ministry received suggestions to streamline the process for formulation of proposals for obtaining prior approval of Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of forest land for irrigation project.

After careful examination of the matter I am directed to say that the following shall be added after Paragraph 2.2 (iii) in guidelines issued under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980:

"To have a holistic view of the impact on flora and fauna, proposals seeking prior approval of Central Government under the Act for diversion of forest land for irrigation projects shall be processed in their entirety. However, keeping in view the long gestation period for such projects, user agency, for valid and cogent reasons, may split such projects into different phases. State Government while submitting proposal to obtain "in-principle (stage-I)" approval of Central Government under the Act for diversion of the entire forest land required for the project, may intimate extent of forest land required and time-schedule for execution of its each phase, and may request the Central Government to consider grant of "final (stage-II)" approval under the Act for diversion of forest land required for the project in the phased manner, as may be specified by them.

In such cases, at the time of submission of the proposal, scheme for compensatory afforestation for the forest land required for execution of initial phases, consisting of inter-alia the dam, reservoir and main canals originating from the reservoir, as indicated by the State Government in the proposal, may only be insisted upon. The Forest Advisory Committee after examination of such proposals, may stipulate time-schedule for transfer and mutation in favour of the State Forest Department, of the non-forest land and funds for creation of compensatory afforestation in lieu of the forest land required for execution of remaining phases, so as to ensure that expenditure

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incurred on initial phases of the project does not become infructuous. Stage-II approval under the Act for diversion of forest land required for execution of such phases will be accorded with approval of the Forest Advisory Committee".

Yours faithfully,

25/04/2017
(H.C. Chaudhary)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:-

1. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, all State/UT Governments.
2. Nodal Officer, the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, all State/UT Governments.
3. All Regional Offices, Ministry of Environment & Forests.
4. Joint Secretary in-charge, Impact Assessment Division, MoEF.
5. All Assistant Inspector General of Forests/ Directors in the Forest Conservation Division, MoEF.
6. Director, R.O. (HQ), Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India, New Delhi.
7. Sr. Director (Technical), NIC, MoEF with a request to place a copy of the letter on website of this Ministry.
8. Sr. PPS to the Secretary, Environment and Forests.
9. Sr. PPS to the Director General of Forests & Special Secretary, MoEF.
10. Sr. PPS to the Addl. Director General of Forests (Forest Conservation), MoEF.
11. PS to the Inspector General of Forests (Forest Conservation), MoEF.
12. Guard File.

25/04/2017
(H.C. Chaudhary)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests