

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: 14th February, 2012

To,

The Chief Secretary,

All States / Union Territory Governments except Jammu and Kashmir

Sub: Guidelines for diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes under the Forest (Conservation) Act 1980- Submission of mining plans.

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 20th September 2011 inter-alia accepted the following recommendations made by a committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri B.K. Chaturvedi, Member (Energy), Planning Commission:

1. Project proponent should submit time bound plan indicating Scientific Sequential Mining, back filling and afforestation in mined out areas. The mining permission has to be for phased mining operations initiating afforestation work in the first phase while mining starts in second phase. This will ensure demonstration of sincerity of the projects proponent on the above commitments.
2. If phased mining operations are conducted, afforestation should start from 5th -7th year. Phased mining operations should be completed with a strong monitoring by third party whose reports should be published every year and put up on the website

Accordingly, I am directed to say that para 2.2.(vii) 4 of the guidelines issued by this Ministry for implementation of the Forests (Conservation) Act, 1980, which reads as "**4. Mining Plan.** Ministry of Environment and Forests is receiving a large number of proposals for grant of/renewal of mining leases. In order to take holistic view, it is essential that a copy of the mining plan duly approved by the IBM, Nagpur should be enclosed with the proposal along with map of forest area on printed original copy of Survey of India topo sheet 1:50,000 scale showing boundaries of forest areas and other mining leases of forest block within that sheet" shall read as below:

"4. Mining Plan:

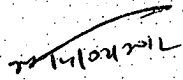
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duly approved by the IBM, Nagpur in case of minerals other than Coal and lignite and by CMPDI, Ranchi in case of coal should be enclosed with the proposal along with map of forest area on printed original copy of Survey of India topo sheet 1:50,000 scale showing boundaries of forest areas and other mining leases of forest block within that sheet.

Mining plan inter-alia shall indicate scientific sequential mining, back filling and afforestation in mined out areas, along with annual plan/ map indicating afforestation in mined out area."

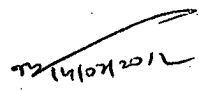
Yours faithfully,


(H.C. Chaudhary)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:-

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


(H.C. Chaudhary)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests