


F. No. 11-22/2008-FC
Government of India
Ministry of Environment & Forests
(FC Division)

Paryavaran Bhawan
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road
New Delhi - 1100 03
Dated: 13th August, 2010.

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Sub: Minutes of the meeting on road side plantation along the National Highways taken by the Minister of State (I/c) for Environment & Forests on 3rd August, 2010.

Kindly find enclosed herewith the copy of the minutes of the meeting on road side plantation along the National Highways taken by the Minister of State (I/c) for Environment & Forests on 3rd August, 2010.


(Umakant)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests
Tele-fax: 011-24363974

Distribution:

1. Shri Brijeshwar Singh, Chairman, NHAI, New Delhi.
2. Shri Rajiv Yadav, Member (Admn.), NHAI, New Delhi.
3. Shri V.K. Sharma, CGM(LA), NHAI, New Delhi.
4. Shri B. Mukhopadhyay, DGM, NHAI, New Delhi.
5. PPS to DGF&SS.
6. PPS to Addl. DGF(FC)
7. PS to Member Secretary, NTCA
8. PS to IGF(FC).
9. PS to IGF(Wildlife)
10. PS to Dr. Nalini Bhatt, Advisor (IA)

Minutes of the meeting on road side plantations along the National Highways taken by the Minister of State (I/c) for Environment & Forests on 3rd August, 2010

List of participants enclosed.

The Minister of State (I/c) for Environment & Forests (MEF) welcomed the participants and requested ADG(FC) to highlight the agenda of the meeting. ADG(FC) quoted the example of NH-1 and mentioned that old avenue plantations along the NH were first sacrificed for the purpose of widening (2 to 4 lanning) of these roads. All those plantations were historic and quite old and were done in the past in the shape of avenue plantations along the road. These old trees were first replaced by eucalyptus, Shisham, plantations during widening to 2-4 lanes. Now, the National Highways are being further widened to 6 to 8 lanes and the avenue plantations are being eliminated. He also indicated about two manuals (i) Policy guidelines for tree plantation of the NHAI; and (ii) guidelines on landscaping and tree plantation of Indian Roads Congress, 2009, according to which avenue plantation along the National Highways is a part of the design of road. ADG(FC) also quoted the meeting taken by the Cabinet Secretary, wherein, it was mentioned that the projects of the road widening should include avenue plantation invariably as a design of road widening.

The Chairman, NHAI assured that the NHAI is committed to maintain the greenery all along the National Highways wherever such widening is being taken up. He also mentioned that NHAI has developed its own policy guidelines for the purpose of tree plantation which envisages plantation of suitable indigenous trees on both sides of the road and other technical specifications for plantation, etc. The Chairman, NHAI also emphasized that the NHAI has further formulated the guidelines on landscaping and tree plantation which has been adopted by the Indian Roads Congress and is being implemented for the purpose of widening of NHAI roads for 4-6 lanes. Even for 8 lanning of NHAI roads, such plantation is being made as a part of the design of road widening. He also mentioned that out of the 14,000 km. of road widening being taken by the NHAI in recent past, more than 9,000 km. of road have been planted with avenue plantations. NHAI prefers to get the plantation done by involving the State Forest Department or Forest Development Corporation. However, in those cases where State Forest Department or Forest Development Corporation shows their inability, NHAI undertakes plantation work themselves. These avenue plantations are besides the horticulture plantations in the medians of the NHAI roads.

MEF expressed his concern about NH-6 and NH-7 road widening projects in which tree felling has been undertaken by the NHAI without obtaining necessary clearance under the Forest (Conservation) Act. National Highways Authority of India was advised to take immediate necessary action in this regard. He further expressed his concern about the wildlife areas along the NH-6 and advised NHAI to

work out a mutually agreeable solution with the Member Secretary, NTCA. MEF also mentioned that the stalemate created on NH-7 due to widening project in the wildlife corridor should be also discussed by NHAI and Member Secretary, NTCA to arrive at a mutually agreeable solution.

The meeting ended with the vote of thank to the Chair.

List of participants

NHAI		
1.	Shri Brijeshwar Singh	Chairman
2.	Shri Rajiv Yadav	Member (Admn.)
3.	Shri V.K. Sharma	CGM(LA)
4.	Shri B. Mukhopadhyay	DGM
From MoEF		
1.	Dr. P.J. Dilip Kumar	DGF&SS
2.	Dr. P.B. Gangopadhyay	ADG(FC)
3.	Dr. Rajesh Gopal	M.S., NTCA
4.	Shri Ansar Aahemd	IGF(FC)
5.	Shri A.K. Srivastava	IGF(Wildlife)
6.	Dr. Nalini Bhatt	Advisor (IA)
7.	Shri Umakant	AIGF(FC)

No.11-9/98-FC(Pt.)
Government of India
Ministry of Environment & Forests
(FC Division)

Paryavaran Bhawan,
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road,
New Delhi-110510
Dated : 17th August, 2010
25th

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject : Implementation of the Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 - Clarification to the PCCF, Tripura, Agartala regarding raising of non-forestry crops on patta land allotted under FRA 2006.

The undersigned is directed to refer to FP Division's OM No.7-1/2008-FP dated 06.04.2010 communicating the concern of the PCCF, Tripura on raising of non-forestry crops on land allotted under FRA 2006 and to inform that the Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 recognizes the rights of tribal and other traditional forest dwellers over forest land and accordingly, right over the forest land is accorded under the provisions of the Forest Right Act, 2006 after following the procedure enumerated in the Act.

The issue was discussed in the Ministry. The Ministry is of the view that once the said right over forest land is given to the tribal and other traditional forest dwellers, the right holders are free to raise any crop for his sustenance, be it agricultural or horticultural or commercial in nature including rubber/tea plantation.

(C. D. Singh)
Sr. Assistant Inspector General of Forests

To

1. Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Shastri Bhawan for information.
2. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Tripura, Agartala w.r.t. his letter No.6-400/Land/For-07/Pt.-III/1065 dated 20.03.2010.
3. All other PCCFs for information.
4. All Nodal Officers (FCA), O/o PCCFs for information.
5. Regional Offices of Ministry of Environment & Forests located at Bangalore, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Chandigarh, Lucknow and Shillong.
6. RO(HQ) Section, MoEF.
7. All DIGs/Sr.AIGs/AIGs of MoEF for information.

(C. D. Singh)
Sr. Assistant Inspector General of Forests