

F. No. 5-3/2007-FC
Government of India
Ministry of Environment and Forests
(FC Division)

Paryavaran Bhawan,
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road,
New Delhi - 110 510.
Dated: 17th January, 2011.

To
The Principal Secretary / Secretary (Forests),
All State / UT Governments.

Sub: Guidelines under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for black topping and bituminous work under Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) using cold mix.

Sir,

The Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India has been receiving number of representations from various Ministries and the State / UT Governments seeking black topping and bituminous work of forest management roads, constructed after 25.10.1980, and has now been covered under PMGSY using cold mix. Similar references were also made by the Empowered Group of Officers, constituted by Cabinet Secretariat to suggest measures for accelerated development of Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas.

The matter has been examined in the Ministry by the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) constituted by the Central Government under section-3 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, wherein it has been noted that forest management roads are normally katcha fair-weather roads, constructed for forest management, including protection and conservation works, without the approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act and are appearing in the Working Plan of the forest area. It was also noted that there is already a provision under the guidelines to convert forests management roads, constructed before 25.10.1980, into pucca road without attracting the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.


The Committee further noted that forest management roads, constructed after 25.10.1980, are not only used for protection, management and conservation of forests, but also often used by tribal & local forest dwellers living in & around forests. These roads act as fire lines and help in protection of forests from forest fires. During rainy season, these roads get cut off for 4 months making the movement of people difficult especially in LWE affected areas. The FAC, after taking all above factors into account, recommended the black topping and bituminous work of forests management roads under Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) using cold mix.

In view of the above, I am directed to convey the approval of the Central Government under the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for black topping and bituminous work of those forest management roads, which have been brought under Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) subject to fulfillment of the following conditions:

1. Bitumen cold mix for black topping should be prepared outside the forest or at an approved site by the DFO.
2. The project proponent shall maintain the curves of the roads inside the forest and will not straighten the same.

3. The project proponent shall install speed breakers and speed control signages at regular intervals to avoid accident with wild animals.
4. The project proponent shall try to maintain the road surface as rough as possible to act as regular speed governor, even if it means going below the standards prescribed for the particular class of roads, the intention being only to make it an all weather road.
5. The project proponent shall provide side drains for proper drainage.

Yours faithfully,


(C.D. Singh)

Deputy Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:-

1. The PMO (kind attention: Director, PMO)
2. The Member Secretary, Planning Commission, Yojana Bhawan, New delhi.
3. The Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
4. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, All States / UTs.
5. The Nodal Officer (FCA), o/o the PCCFs, All States / UTs.
6. All Regional Offices of MoEF located at Bhopal, Shillong, Bangalore, Bhubaneswar, Lucknow and Chandigarh.
7. All DIGFs / Sr. AIGFs / AIGFs / RO (HQ), MoEF, New Delhi.
8. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF, New Delhi.
9. Guard File.


(C.D. Singh)

Deputy Inspector General of Forests