

F. No. 11-306/2014-FC  
Government of India  
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change  
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan  
Jorbagh Road  
New Delhi - 110 002  
Dated: 7<sup>th</sup> October, 2014

To

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

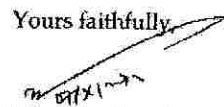
**Sub:** Guidelines for diversion of forest land for non-forest purpose under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980- Completion of procedural formalities for felling and extraction of timber and other forest produce from forest land diverted for non-forest purpose- reg.

Sir,

I am directed to say that it has been brought to notice of this Ministry that in some of the States/ Union Territories procedural formalities such as, enumeration/ valuation; preparation of estimates/schemes for extraction; inviting and finalization of bids, wherever required, for selection of agencies to be engaged for extraction of timber and other forest produce from the forest land to be diverted for non-forest purpose; and raising of demand note for realization of extraction cost from the user agency etc., are initiated only after final approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 (FC Act) for diversion of such forest land is accorded by the Central Government. Completion of these formalities, which normally takes several months and results in avoidable delay in handing over and actual utilization of the forest land for the purpose for which it has been diverted.

After careful examination of the matter, I am directed to say that to minimize delay in actual utilization of the forest land for the purpose for which it is diverted, the State Governments or Union Territory Administrations may initiate afore-mentioned procedural formalities immediately on receipt of stage-1 approval under the FC Act for diversion of forest land for non-forest purpose. However, actual handing over of the forest land to the user agency and felling/ extraction of timber and other forest produce therefrom, except in case of linear project for which a separate guidelines has been issued by this Ministry vide letter of even number dated 8<sup>th</sup> August, 2014, shall be undertaken only after final approval under the afore-mentioned Act for diversion of such forest land is accorded by the Central Government.

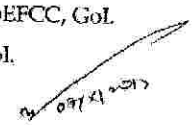
Yours faithfully,

  
(H.C. Chaudhary)  
Director

Copy to:-

1. Prime Minister's Office (Kind attn.: Shri Santosh D. Vaidya, Director), North Block, New Delhi.

2. Secretary, Ministry of Coal, Government of India, New Delhi.
3. Secretary, Ministry of Mines, Government of India, New Delhi.
4. Secretary, Ministry of Steel, Government of India, New Delhi
5. The Secretary (Coordination), Cabinet Secretariat, Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi.
6. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, all State/UT Governments.
7. Nodal Officer, the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, all State/UT Governments.
8. All Regional Offices, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India (GoI).
9. Joint Secretary in-charge, Impact Assessment Division, MoEFCC, GoI.
10. All Assistant Inspector General of Forests/ Directors in the Forest Conservation Division, MoEFCC, GoI.
11. Director, Regional Offices Headquarters Division, MoEFCC, GoI.
12. Sr. Director (Technical), NIC, MoEFCC, GoI with a request to place a copy of this letter on website of this Ministry.
13. Sr. PPS to the Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, GoI.
14. Sr. PPS to the Director General of Forests & Special Secretary, MoEFCC, GoI.
15. Sr. PPS to the Addl. Director General of Forests (Forest Conservation), MoEFCC, GoI.
16. PS to the Inspector General of Forests (Forest Conservation), MoEFCC, GoI.
17. Guard File.

  
(H.C. Chaudhary)  
Director