

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: 11<sup>th</sup> January, 2011

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

**Sub: Diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 - Guidelines for construction of school buildings for the benefit of the people - reg.**

Sir,

The Ministry of Environment & Forests at New Delhi and its Regional offices are receiving large number of proposals from different States/UTs, including the newly constituted states like Uttarakhand, seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of forest land for building construction for the purpose of schools, hospitals and any other buildings, which are for the benefit of the people. The proposals also include offices and other residential buildings for the newly created district / sub-divisions / block level offices.

The matter has been examined 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 the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangthan, an organization under the Ministry of Human Resource Development, has laid guidelines for minimum and desirable requirements of areas for opening of Kendriya Vidyalayas (Central School) at various locations including hilly areas:

Sl. No.	Location	Min. requirement (in acres)	Desirable extent (in acres)
1.	Metropolitan city	2	4
2.	Hilly areas	4	8
3.	Urban area	4	8
4.	Semi-Urban/rural areas	5	10

The Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangthan's circular also highlights that the sponsoring authority will be liable to provide land as per 'desirable norms', but where that does not become possible despite best efforts, they would be under obligation to make available land at least to the extent of 'minimum norms', free of cost. The FAC, after taking all above factors into account, recommended the "minimum" area norm in hilly areas for construction of schools, where non-forests land is not available.

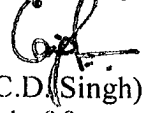
In view of the above, I am directed to convey the approval of the Central Government for "minimum" area norm in hilly areas (i.e. 4 acres or 1.62 ha) for construction of schools on forest land, where non-forests land is not available, with the following conditions:

- A certificate from the district Magistrate that non-forest land is not available for the school building / other building construction in the area.
- Reserve forest land with density more than 0.4 shall not be allowed.

- c. Felling more than 75 trees per hectare shall not be considered in any kind of forest.
- d. Besides Compensatory Afforestation as per the guidelines, the concerned authority should ensure plantation in vacant areas, wherever available, within the school premises.

It is further reiterated that this stipulation is strictly restricted to construction of schools in hilly areas, where non-forest land is not available.

Yours faithfully,

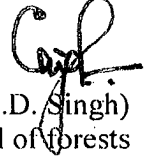


(C.D. Singh)

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 Human Resource Development, Shastri 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, Bhubaneshwar, Lucknow and Chandigarh.
7. The RO (HQ), MoEF, New Delhi.
8. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF, New Delhi.
9. Guard File.



(C.D. Singh)

Deputy Inspector General of forests