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

Paryavaran Bhawan,
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road,
New Delhi - 110 510.
Dated: 13th May, 2011

To

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
All States / Union Territory Governments except Jammu and Kashmir

Sub: General approval under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of forest land for creation of critical public utility infrastructure by Government Departments involving not more than 5.00 ha of forest land in each case in 60 Left Wing Extremism affected districts -reg.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to this Ministry's letter of even number dated 03.11.2010, wherein this Ministry accorded General approval under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of forest land for certain activities to be carried out by the Government Departments involving not more than 2.00 ha of forest land, and to say that this Ministry has received requests from various State Governments to increase the threshold limit for diversion of forest land for creation of critical public utility infrastructure by Government Department in 60 (sixty) Left Wing Extremism affected districts identified by the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Home Affairs from 2.00 ha. of forest land in each case to 5.00 ha. of forest land in each case. The Ministry of Home Affairs and the Planning Commission have also supported the said demand.

Accordingly, I am directed to say that in partial modification of this Ministry's said letter of even number dated 03.11.2010, to facilitate expeditious creation of the critical public utility infrastructure in 60 (sixty) Left Wing Extremism affected districts, the existing general approval under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of forest land for creation of critical public utility infrastructure by Government Department is further relaxed to diversion of not more than 5.00 ha of forest land in each case, in these districts. The activities covered under the General approval are as below:

1. Schools,
2. Dispensaries/Hospitals,
3. Electrical and Telecommunication Lines,
4. Drinking Water,
5. Water/Rain Water Harvesting Structures,
6. Minor Irrigation Canal,
7. Non Conventional Sources of Energy,
8. Skill up Gradation/Vocational Training Center,
9. Power Sub-stations,

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10. Rural roads
11. Communication Posts;
12. Police establishments like Police Stations / Outposts / Border Outposts / Watch Towers in sensitive area (identified by Ministry of Home Affairs); and
13. Underground laying of optical fibre cables, telephone lines & drinking water supply lines.

The General Approval shall be subject to fulfillment of the following conditions:

- (i) It shall be applicable to only 60 Left Wing Extremism affected districts identified by the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Home Affairs (List enclosed);
- (ii) All the terms and conditions stipulated by this Ministry in its letters of even number dated 03.01.2005 and 11.09.2009, wherein this Ministry accorded general approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for creation of the public utility infrastructure by Government Departments;
- (iii) All the terms and conditions stipulated by this Ministry in its letters of even number dated 16.10.2000 and 08.04.2009, wherein this Ministry accorded general approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for underground laying of optical fiber cables, telephone lines and drinking water supply lines;
- (iv) The State Government shall realize cost of cost to raise compensatory afforestation and NPV at the rates as applicable in each case as per the guidelines issued by this Ministry and transfer the same to the Ad-hoc CAMPA;
- (v) A copy of the each approval accorded by the State/UT Government under the general approval shall be endorsed to the concerned Regional office of the Ministry and the CEO, Ad-hoc CAMPA for their information and record;
- (vi) The State/Government shall follow the procedure for processing such cases stipulated in the Forest (Conservation) Rule, 2003;
- (vii) The instant general approval is not applicable to the diversion of forest land in protected areas;
- (viii) The each State/UT Government shall submit the six monthly reports for the period ending on 30th June and 31st December containing details of all forest land diverted under the general approval accorded by this Ministry along with the status of the actual utilization of the forest land so diverted for the stated purpose; and
- (ix) The general approval shall be valid till 31.12.2015.

Yours faithfully,

Encl.: As above


 (H.C. Chaudhary)
 Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:-

1. The Director, Prime Minister's Office, New Delhi for kind information.
2. The Secretary (Coordination), Cabinet Secretariat, New Delhi.
3. The Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, New Delhi.
4. The Member-Secretary, Planning Commission, New Delhi.
5. The Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development, New Delhi.
6. The Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, New Delhi.
7. All PCCFs / Nodal Officers, all State/UT Governments except Jammu and Kashmir.
8. All Regional Offices, Ministry of Environment & Forests.
9. Director General of Police, All State/UT Governments except Jammu and Kashmir.
10. All Assistant Inspector General of Forests in Forest Conservation Division, MoEF.
11. Dy. Secretary, R.O. (HQ), Ministry of Environment & Forests, New Delhi.
12. File No. 2-1/2003-FC.
13. Guard File.

22-01-2014
(H.C. Chaudhary)
Assistant Inspector General of Forests