

THE ADMINISTRATION OF UNION TERRITORY OF LADAKH

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER DISTRIBUTION, PDD

LADAKH (Kargil)

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The Divisional Forest Officer, Kargil

Kargil, Ladakh-194103

No. CE/PDD/T/68/ 3535-44

Date: 29/03/2023

Sub: Forest NOC proposal i.r.o. 220 kV S/C Drass-Padum Transmission Line sanctioned to UT Ladakh under PMDP 2015.

- Ref. 1. SE, LPDD letter no. SE/PDDL/T-268/3549-56 dated 13.01.2023 reg compensatory land clarification.
2. SE, LPDD letter no. SE/PDDL/T-310/2858-65 dated 16.11.2022 reg compensatory land clarification.
3. DFO, Kargil letter no. FDK/Asses/022/1539-41 dated 22.06.2022 reg. Joint Survey Report.
4. CE, LPDD letter no. CE/PDDL/3353-59 dated 16.03.2022 reg submission of NOC proposal.
5. DFO, Kargil letter no. FDK/Estt/2021-22/1305 dated 11.12.2021 reg. e-Joint Survey Report.

Sir,


This has reference to the Forest Clearance Application no. FP/LA/TRANS/151761/2022 submitted on Parivesh portal on dated 30.01.2022 i.r.o. the **implementation of 220 kV Drass-Padum T/L under Prime Minister's Development Package-2015**. The said T/L is traversing through forest land lying in Manda, Phey, Atting, Shagar and Sani villages which constitutes an area of around 5.14 ha.

In this connection, your good office on Parivesh portal has requested for clarification reg. providing compensatory afforestation land. In this regard, it is intimated that to avoid difficulties and delays in identifying non-forest lands for raising compensatory afforestation under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, diversion of forest land was permitted by GoI against compensatory afforestation on double the degraded land in place of non forest land as many important development projects which are having vital national importance, either get delayed, or remain a non-started, due to delay in identifying and transferring suitable equivalent non-forest land to the concerned Forest Department.

In support of above facts, may kindly refer clause no. 3.2 (vi) (c), (ix) (a) and (ix) (f) under chapter-3 of Part C of Handbook published by Ministry of Environment & Forests on 31st May 2004. The respective statements are as follows:

1. Compensatory afforestation may be raised over degraded forest land twice in extent of the forest area being diverted i.ro. proposals for laying of transmission lines upto 220 kV.
2. Certificate of Chief Secretary regarding non-availability of non-forest land for compensatory afforestation will not be insisted for Central Govt. Projects.
3. The Nodal Officer (Forest Conservation), State Forest Department will identify the pool of such degraded forest lands in consultation with concerned Chief Conservator of Forest.

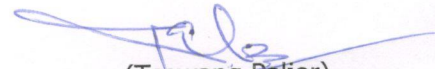
This office is dedicated to deposit eligible NPV and compensatory fee/funds under "Model Compensatory Afforestation Scheme" which is yet to be formulated by the Forest Department, Kargil.



In view of the above, it is requested to kindly arrange to expedite the issuance of NOC considering the limited working season at Kargil.

Note: In case, further clarification is required, kindly feel free to contact this office or **Shri. Nitin Kumar, Manager, RECPDCL** at his email id nitin.kumar@recl.in and contact no. **9914939955**.

Yours sincerely,


(Tsewang Paljor)
Chief Engineer
Distribution, PDD
UT Ladakh

Enclosures: Relevant pages of MoEF guidelines reg. Compensatory Afforestation Land are attached as Annexure-1.

Copy for kind information, please:

1. The Secretary Power and NRE, Union Territory of Ladakh, Civil Secretariat, Leh-194101.
2. The Chief Conservator of Forest, UT Ladakh, Leh-194101.
3. The Deputy Commissioner, Kargil.
4. The Chief Engineer, Distribution Circle Ladakh, Leh.
5. The Addl. CEO-II, RECPDCL, Gurugram.
6. The Executive Engineer, Sub Transmission Division Kargil, for necessary follow ups.
7. The Executive Engineer, Project Division, Leh, for necessary follow ups.
8. The Project Site In-charge, Ladakh, RECPDCL.

HANDBOOK

OF

Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980
(With Amendments made in 1988)

Forest (Conservation) Rules, 2003
(With Amendments made in 2004)

Guidelines & Clarifications
(June, 2004)



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
Ministry of Environment & Forests
New Delhi.



शु. शुराका
ए. राजा
A. RAJA



मंत्री
पर्यावरण एवं वन
भारत सरकार
नई दिल्ली-110003
MINISTER
ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NEW DELHI - 110003

FOREWORD

Revised comprehensive Rules/guidelines under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 was brought out last by Ministry of Environment and Forests in October, 1992, hence the need of an updated version of the same.

Since 1991, India has witnessed strategic shift both in the field of Conservation and Development and is pursuing a path of sustainable development in pursuance to the national goals/objectives and international commitments. Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, Rules and Guidelines made thereunder embody a framework regulating indiscriminate diversion/use of forests for developmental need of the States/people and the nation at large, so that development is not constrained but accommodates conservation parameters. Forests/forest eco-systems represent a unique endowment which must be preserved/protected and wisdom lies in their wise-use. Hence the need to regulate their indiscriminate diversion for other purposes. Forests whether Govt. village or private, subserve the entire community and represent a community resource that meet the need of the millions of rural people especially the tribals. Life, life style, wellbeing of forest fringe dwellers, villages and others are dependent on forests wholly or in part. Deforestation and forest degradation have adverse consequences on people living near forests.

Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is a unique piece of legislation, and a regulatory mechanism that reflects the collective will of the nation to protect its rich biodiversity and natural heritage and that permits only unavoidable use of forest land for various developmental purposes. It embodies the firm commitment of the Government of India to balance the conservation of forests with the sustainable development need of the country contributing to better environment, health and economy. The remarkable feature of this Act is that it is regulatory and not prohibitory.

Since 1980, Rules and Guidelines have been framed for diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes. Since its inception, the Act has facilitated developmental activities like construction of power projects, irrigation projects, roads, railways, schools, hospitals, rural electrification, telecommunication, drinking water facilities, mining etc. on forest lands and checked the indiscriminate diversion of pristine forest areas. Between 1950 and 1980, forest lands have been diverted at the rate of 1.50 lakh hectare per annum by the various State Governments/UT Administrations. This diversion has however, come down to as low as 0.38 lakh hectare per annum after 1980. If regularization of pre-1980 eligible encroachments (as per the Government policy) over 3.66 lakh hectares of forest land is excluded, the net rate of annual diversion comes to 0.23 lakh per hectare only. Since 1980, about 9.21 lakh hectare forest land have been diverted so far.

Concurrent to regulated forest land diversions, the Government of India in the Ministry of Environment and Forests has also made efforts to consolidate the forest area and regenerate the forest cover through compensatory afforestation process. Till December 2003, compensatory afforestation has been stipulated over 6.82 lakh hectare area which includes 4.55 lakh hectare degraded forest land and 2.27 lakh hectare non-forest land. About 0.13 lakh hectare non-forest land have also been added to forest area in Kerala. Therefore, about 2.40 lakh hectare of non-forest land have been brought under forest category by compensatory afforestation and consolidation.

Over the years, new sets of guidelines have also been issued especially for development of tribals, recognition of their rights on forest lands, and establishment of wind energy farms on degraded forest areas etc. This handbook is a compilation of the Act, latest guidelines and all the guidelines issued by the Government of India earlier. All this information is being presented in the form of a consolidated handbook so that the State Governments, UT Administrations/user agencies/people at large are made aware of the various provisions of the Act and for improved understanding of the provision of the Act/Rules/Guidelines with a view to facilitate their smooth implementation.

New Delhi

Dated the 31ST May, 2004.


(A. RAJA)

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CHAPTER 3

Compensatory Afforestation

3.1 Compensatory Afforestation

- (i) Compensatory afforestation is **one of the most important conditions** stipulated by the Central Government while approving proposals for de-reservation or diversion of forest land for non-forest uses. **It is essential that with all such proposals, a comprehensive scheme for compensatory afforestation is formulated and submitted to the Central Government.**
- (ii) The comprehensive scheme shall include the details of non-forest/degraded forest area identified for compensatory afforestation, map of areas to be taken up for compensatory afforestation, year-wise phased forestry operations, details of species to be planted and a suitability certificate from afforestation/management point of view alongwith the cost structure of various operations.
- (iii) Sometimes the compensatory afforestation schemes are being submitted at such a cost structure, which is at variance with the cost norms for the same area. The compensatory afforestation schemes no doubt has to be site specific and thus per hectare rate will vary according to species, type of forest and site. In this regard, it has been decided that henceforth the compensatory afforestation schemes which are being submitted alongwith the proposals for forestry clearance, must have technical and administrative approvals from the competent authority and should be in conformity with cost norms based on species, type of forest and site.

3.2 Land for Compensatory Afforestation

- (i) Compensatory afforestation shall be done over equivalent area of non-forest land.

Clarification:- As a matter of pragmatism, the revenue lands/zudpi jungle/chhote/bade jhar ka jungle/jungle-jhari land/civil-soyam lands and all other such categories of lands, on which the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 are applicable, shall be considered for the purpose of compensatory afforestation provided such lands on which compensatory afforestation is proposed shall be notified as RF under the Indian Forest Act, 1927.

- (ii) As far as possible, the non-forest land for compensatory afforestation should be identified contiguous to or in the proximity of Reserved Forest or Protected Forest to enable the Forest Department to effectively manage the newly planted area.
- (iii) In the event that non-forest land of compensatory afforestation is not available in the same district, non-forest land for compensatory afforestation may be identified anywhere else in the State/UT as near as possible to the site of diversion, so as to minimise adverse impact on the micro-ecology of the area.
- (iv) Where non-forest lands are not available or non-forest land is available in less extent to the forest area being diverted, compensatory afforestation may be carried out over degraded forest twice in extent to the area being diverted or to the difference between forest land being diverted and available non-forest land, as the case may be.
- (v) The non-availability of suitable non-forest land for compensatory afforestation in the entire State/UT would be accepted by the Central Government only on the Certificate from the Chief Secretary to the State/UT Government to that effect.

(vi) **As an exception to 3.2(i) above, compensatory afforestation may be raised over degraded forest land twice in extent of the forest area being diverted/dereserved in respect of following types of proposals:**

- (a) For extraction of minor minerals from the river beds. (However, if forest area to be diverted is above 500 hectares, compensatory afforestation over equivalent area of degraded forest shall be required to be done instead of twice the area being diverted subject to a minimum of 1000 hectare compensatory afforestation).
- (b) For construction of link roads, small water works, minor irrigation works, school building, dispensaries, hospital, tiny rural industrial sheds of the Government or any other similar work excluding mining and encroachment cases, which directly benefit the people of the area - in hill districts and in other districts having forest area exceeding 50% of the total geographical area, provided diversion of forest area does not exceed 20 hectares.
- (c) **For laying of transmission lines upto 220 KV.**
- (d) **For mulberry plantation undertaken for silk-worm rearing without any felling of existing trees.**
- (e) For diversion of linear or 'strip' plantation declared as protected forest along the road/rail/canal sides for widening or expansion of road/rail/canal.
- (f) For laying of telephone/optical fibre lines

(vii) **The field firing ranges**, which are used temporarily by the defence establishments for arms practice, comprises of safety zone encompassing the field firing range and danger area/impact zone. Keeping in view that the impact area is only a small portion of the entire firing range and as an exception to 3.2(i) above, compensatory afforestation may be raised over equivalent degraded forest land of the forest area being diverted for impact zone of the field firing range.

(viii) No compensatory afforestation shall be insisted upon in respect of the following :-

- (a) For clearing of naturally grown trees in forest land or in portion thereof for the purpose of using it for reforestation.
- (b) Proposals involving diversion of forest land up to **one hectare**. (However, in such cases, plantation of ten times the number of trees likely to be felled will have to be carried out by way of compensatory afforestation or any number of trees specified in the order)
- (c) For underground mining in forest land below 3 metres. (However, in respect of forest area required for surface right, compensatory afforestation shall be required as per relevant provisions).
- (d) Cases of renewal of mining lease, for the forest area already broken/used for mining, dumping or overburden, construction of roads, ropeways, buildings, etc. For the balance area, compensatory afforestation shall be required to be done as stipulated, provided that no compensatory afforestation had been stipulated and done in respect of this area at the time of grant/ renewal of lease earlier.

(ix) **Special provisions for Central Government/Central Government Undertaking Projects.**

- (a) Compensatory afforestation may be raised on degraded forest land twice in extent of forest area being diverted. Certificate of Chief Secretary regarding non-availability of non-forest land for compensatory afforestation will not be insisted.
- (b) The user agency will deposit the amount for compensatory afforestation with the concerned State Govt. on receiving the demand and the actual transfer/use of forest land will be effected only after the receipt of the demanded amount.
- (c) The State Governments will identify 'blank forest' or degraded forest lands for compensatory afforestation. The State Governments of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan will identify such degraded forest land in their States for compensatory afforestation of

Central projects in their respective States as indicated by the Chief Secretaries of these two States in the meeting of Committee of Secretaries held on 15-11-1996.

- (d) The pool of degraded forest land in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan will also be available for the Central Government projects of other States if the concerned State Government fail to identify the requisite land, as mentioned at (a) above, for compensatory afforestation in its own territory within one month of the submission of the proposal to the State Government
- (e) While identifying the pool of degraded forest land, blank forest lands in reserved forests in compact /sizeable blocks should be identified as first priority as "plantation bank". An appropriate treatment plan with choice of species should be prepared by the beneficiary States. Only when such areas are not available, the choice of compensatory afforestation will fall on protected, unprotected forests and unclassified forests in declining order of priority.
- (f) The Nodal Officer (Forest Conservation), State Forest Department will identify the pool of such degraded forest lands in consultation with concerned Chief Conservator of Forests (C), Regional Offices of the MOEF.

Clarification : The provisions of the above guideline would be applicable to only Central Sector projects and not on State Sector projects which are being undertaken by Central PSUs on turnkey basis. In such cases, Compensatory Afforestation on equivalent non-forest land/a certificate of Chief Secretary regarding non-availability of equivalent non-forest land anywhere in the State shall be insisted upon.

3.3 Elements of Schemes for Compensatory Afforestation

- (i) The scheme for compensatory afforestation should contain the following details :-
 - (a) Details of equivalent non-forest or degraded forest land identified for raising compensatory afforestation.
 - (b) Delineation of proposed area on suitable map.
 - (c) Agency responsible for afforestation.
 - (d) Details of work schedule proposed for compensatory afforestation
 - (e) Cost structure of plantation, provision of funds and the mechanism to ensure that the funds will be utilized for raising afforestation.
 - (f) Details of proposed monitoring mechanism.

3.4 Lands identified for Compensatory Afforestation to be Transferred to the Forest Department:

- (i) Equivalent non-forest land identified for the purpose are to be transferred to the ownership of the State Forest Department and **declared as reserved/protected forests, so that the plantation raised can be maintained permanently.** The transfer must take prior to the commencement of the project.
- (ii) The compensatory afforestation should clearly be an additional plantation activity and not a diversion of part of the annual plantation programme.
- (iii) In each case where the afforestation target is over 500 hectares in plains, and 200 hectares in hills, a Monitoring Committee shall be established with a nominee of the Central Government to oversee that the stipulations, including those pertaining to compensatory plantation are carried out.

3.5 Special Fund

- (i) The State/UT Government should create a special fund to which the individual user agency will make its deposits for Compensatory Afforestation. The Forest Department, or any other technically competent agency which is assigned the job of compensatory afforestation should fully utilise this amount for implementation of the afforestation scheme approved by the Government of India, and keep separate and meticulous account thereof.
- (ii) In order that a uniform procedure is followed by all departments, the Controller General of Accounts, Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance vide letter No.T-14018/14/90- Codes/485 dated 23.06.1992 has informed that the aforesaid deposit may be booked under the head "J-Reserve Fund(b) Reserve Funds not bearing interest - 8235 -General and Other Reserve Funds - 200 - Other Funds - Special Fund for Compensatory Afforestation".

Clarification : The Supreme Court has passed orders on 30-10-2002 in I.A. No.566 in Writ Petition (Civil) No.202 of 1995, regarding creation of a body for management of compensatory afforestation fund. Annexure-II B may be referred to. In compliance with the orders, creation of a body namely, "Compensatory Afforestation Management & Planning Agency (CAMPA)" is under consideration. As soon as this body comes into existence, all the funds received by the State/UT Governments towards Compensatory Afforestation, Additional Compensatory Afforestation, Penal Compensatory Afforestation, Net Present Value of forest land, Catchment Area Treatment Plan Funds, Wildlife Management Plan etc. for the conditions stipulated by the Central Governments, shall be transferred to the CAMPA. Further, Compensatory Afforestation Funds which have not yet been realised as well as the unspent funds already realised by the States shall be transferred to the said body within six months of its constitution by the respective States and the user-agencies.

Further, Supreme Court in its order dated 1.8.2003 in I.A. No.826 & 859 in I.A. No.566 in Writ Petition (Civil) No.202 of 1995 reiterated that no approval shall be granted without imposing the condition indicated in this Court's order dated 30.10.2002 relating to the payment of **net present value** of the forest land. Annexure-II C may be referred to.

Note:- Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) has been notified in Official Gazette on 23rd April, 2004 (Refer Appendix).

- (iii) Guidelines for collection of Net Present Value (NPV) of forest land in compliance to the orders of the Supreme Court have been issued vide letter No. 5-1/98-FC (Pt.II) dated 18-9-2003 & 22-9-2003 (Appendix). In this regard, a clarification has also been issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forests vide letter No. 5-1/98-FC (Pt.II) dated : 25.5.2004 (Appendix).
-

(A.N. SHARAN)

ASSTT. INSPECTOR GENERAL OF FORESTS

Annexure-IX

C.P. OBERAI INSPECTOR GENERAL OF FORESTS

SPECIAL SECRETARY

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

No.11-30/96-FC

April 10, 1997

Dear Shri

As you are well aware, there have been difficulties and delays in identifying non-forest lands for raising compensatory afforestation under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Our preferred option has been to carry out afforestation over non-forest area equivalent to forest area being diverted. However, in case of non-availability of non-forest land, as certified by the respective Chief Secretaries, compensatory afforestation over degraded forest land twice in extent of area being diverted has been provided for.

2. Over a period of time, it has been observed that many important development projects in the central sector, which are of vital national importance, either get delayed, or remain a non-starter, due to delay in identifying and transferring suitable equivalent non-forest land to the concerned Forest Department. Be that as it may, it has also resulted in severe criticism of the Ministry as being instrumental in delaying such projects, resulting in cost and time escalations of the projects.

3. The issue was considered recently in the Committee of Secretaries (COS), Govt. of India, who have inter alia recommended that to avoid such delays in central sector projects, diversion of forest land may be permitted against compensatory afforestation on double the degraded land in the first instance.

4. After giving considerable and careful thought to the recommendations, the Ministry has decided to insert para 3.2 (viii) in the existing guidelines for central projects. The preamble alongwith a copy of the additional guideline is enclosed for ready reference and further necessary action at your end.

5. The Government of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan have indicated their willingness to create a "degraded forest plantation bank" which can be even availed of by the proponents of the central sector projects in other states, if the state governments, where such projects are sited, cannot undertake the compensatory afforestation within their own forest areas.

6. Keeping in view the revised guidelines, I request you to henceforth submit the proposals for central sector projects providing for compensatory afforestation on double the degraded land, without insisting upon a certificate from the State Chief Secretaries as hitherto. In case, you find it difficult to locate suitable degraded forest land for compensatory afforestation for such central projects within the time frame, this may kindly be indicated in the body of the proposal itself. In such exigencies, the Ministry will allot areas for compensatory afforestation in degraded forest land bank already identified in either of the states of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan as per the cost norms indicated by the concerned government from time to time.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-

(C.P. OBERAI)

Encl. : as above

To Forest Secretaries of All States/UTS

PREAMBLE

National Forest Policy, 1988 envisages that one third of the total geographical area of the country should be brought under forest/tree cover. The total recorded forest cover in the country is 7,65,210 sq km. which is about 23% of the geographical area.

According to the State of Forest Report, 1995 of Forest Survey of India, out of the total recorded forest cover:-

- 60,528 sq km is having less than 10% crown density; and
- 2,49,311 sq km has crown density of more than 10% but less than 40%

Thus, altogether nearly 3,09,839 sq km (i.e. 24.7%) forest land of the country are degraded, albeit to varying extent, and need urgent attention and sufficient monetary input to be brought under vegetative cover. Such degraded areas have been broadly located by Forest Survey of India all over the country. These forest areas were endowed with diverse biological diversity and it is our immediate concern to rejuvenate them at the earliest. On account of several factors degradation of these is still going on and the rate is likely to accelerate with the passage of time due to escalating biotic pressure (both human and animal).

Whereas this Ministry is greatly concerned over the slow rate of afforestation owing to financial and other constraints, afforestation has gone down from 89,000 sq km in the Seventh Five Year Plan to 59,000 sq km in the first four years of the Eighth Plan. During the current year only about 12,500 sq km area will be brought under afforestation, thus making the total afforestation in the Eighth Plan around 72,000 sq km; i.e. reduction of almost 20% over the previous plan. With increasing costs (wages, material), the annual average

may even plummet further.

Even if it is hypothesised that there will be no further degradation of forest areas, with the present rate of afforestation it may take more than 25 years to (re) stock the degraded forest areas alone. Even with a conservative norm of Rs. 10,000/- per ha., it will require a budgetary allocation of Rs. 310 billion.

Whereas the National Forest Policy, 1988, also enjoins substantially increasing the forest/tree-cover on all denuded and degraded lands as one of the basic goals.

Whereas compensatory afforestation is an innovative feature, and one of the most important conditions stipulated under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, while approving proposals for diversion of forest land for non-forest use, in order to ensure that the recorded forest area does not get depleted, as a preferred option, compensatory afforestation is required to be carried out over equivalent non-forest area. Such lands should, as far as practicable, be

(i) contiguous to existing block of forest to facilitate future management.

(ii) nearest to the site of diversion to mitigate/minimise the adverse impact on the micro-ecology of the area.

At the same time in case of non-availability of non-forest land, compensatory afforestation is stipulated on degraded forest lands twice in extent of area being diverted so that the basic objective of the forest policy to improve the forest/tree-cover on degraded forest land is achieved.

Whereas it has been found over a period of time that identification of suitable non-forest land in most of the State(s) is becoming increasingly more difficult and in most cases where non-forest lands are offered, they are generally far away from the forest boundaries and, more often than not, available in chunks, thereby their management become difficult and consequently even projects of national priority are getting delayed.

PROPOSAL

The Committee of Secretaries has carefully considered this paradox of looking for elusive non-forest land whereas huge tracts of totally degraded forest lands are crying for bio-ecological upgradation. After considering all relevant issues including delays which lead to cost and time overruns in processing requests for diversion of forest lands, the Committee of Secretaries recommended that in case of central sector projects, certification by the Chief Secretary about non-availability of non-forest land should be dispensed with and compensatory afforestation may be accepted on double the degraded forest area. States of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan have offered creation of "degraded forest land bank" for accommodating the demand of compensatory afforestation against central sector projects, even if the respective state(s) where the projects are located find it difficult to raise compensatory afforestation or fail to respond within one month time frame. To implement this scheme, a new para in guidelines (Para 3.2 (viii)) is being added.

3.2 (viii) Special provisions for Central Government Projects.

(a) Compensatory afforestation may be raised on degraded forest land twice in extent of forest area being diverted. Certificate of Chief Secretary regarding non-availability of non-forest land for compensatory afforestation will not be insisted.

(b) The user agency will deposit the amount for compensatory afforestation with the concerned State Govt. on receiving the demand and the actual transfer/use of forest land will be effected only after the receipt of the demanded amount.

(c) The State Governments will identify 'blank forest' or degraded forest lands for compensatory afforestation. The State Governments of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan will identify such degraded forest land in their States for compensatory afforestation of central projects in their respective States as indicated by the Chief Secretaries of these two States in the meeting of Committee of Secretaries held on 15.11.96.

(d) The pool of degraded forest land in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan will also be available for the Central Government projects of other States if the concerned State Government fail to identify the requisite land, as mentioned at (a) above, for compensatory afforestation in its own territory within one month of the submission of the proposal to the State Government.

(e) While identifying the pool of degraded forest land, blank forest lands in reserved forests in compact/sizeable blocks should be identified as first priority as "plantation bank". An appropriate treatment plan with choice of species should be prepared by the beneficiary States. Only when such areas are not available, the choice of compensatory afforestation will fall on protected, unprotected forests and unclassified forests in declining order of priority.

(f) The Nodal Officer (Forest Conservation), State Forest Department will identify the pool of such degraded forest lands in consultation with the concerned Chief Conservator of Forests (C), Regional Offices of the MOEF.

Annexure-X

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Government of India

Ministry of Environment & Forests