

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 10th January, 2003

(G.S.R. 12(E).— In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 4 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 (69 of 1980), and in supersession of the Forest (Conservation) Rules, 1981, except as respects things done or omitted to be done before such supersession, the Central Government hereby makes the following rules, namely:—

1. Short title, extent and commencement.—
 - (1) These rules may be called the Forest (Conservation) Rules, 2003.
 - (2) They shall extend to the whole of India except the State of Jammu and Kashmir.
 - (3) They shall come into force on the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.
2. Definitions.— In these rules, unless the context otherwise requires:—
 - (a) "Act" means the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 (69 of 1980);
 - (b) "Committee" means the Advisory Committee constituted under section 3 of the Act;
 - (c) "Chairperson" means the Chairperson of the Committee;
 - (d) "Member" means a member of the Committee;
 - (e) "Nodal Officer" means any officer not below the rank of Conservator of Forests, authorised by the State Government to deal with the forest conservation matters under the Act;
 - (f) "Regional Office" means a Regional Office of the Central Government in the Ministry of Environment and Forests established as part of the Ministry to deal with the forest conservation matters under the Act;
 - (g) "Section" means a section of the Act;
 - (h) "User Agency" means any person, organisation or Company or Department of the Central or State Government making a request for diversion or de-notification of forest land for non-forest purpose or using forest land for non-forest purpose in accordance with the permission granted by the Central Government under the Act or the rules
3. Composition of the Committee.—
 - (i) The Committee shall be composed of the following members:—
 - (i) Director General of Forests, Ministry of Environment and Forests - Chairperson.
 - (ii) Additional Director General of Forests, Ministry of Environment and Forests - Member.
 - (iii) Additional Commissioner (Soil Conservation), Ministry of Agriculture - Member.
 - (iv) Three eminent experts in forestry and allied disciplines (non-officials) - Member.
 - (v) Inspector General of Forests (Forest Conservation), Ministry of Environment and Forests - Member Secretary.

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ASSISTANT SECRETARY
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