No.11-8/2001-FC Government of India Ministry of Environment and Forests F.C. Division

Paryavaran Bhawan, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi - 110 003. Dated: 15.11.2001

To*

The Secretary (Forests)
Government of Goa
Junta House,
Panaji,
Goa.

Sub: Grant/Renewal of mining leases in forest area under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980- Regarding cluster proposals.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to Conservator of Forests, Goa letter No. 6-13-96/FD/Vol V/Part/793 dated 21.5.2001 seeking detailed guidelines in framing proposals under cluster mining. Certain clarifications/guidelines for cluster mining in respect of State of Rajasthan were earlier issued vide No. 11-29/94-FC dated 18.8.1994, which were State specific.

- 2. After careful examination of the issues involved, the following line of action, analogous to guidelines issued for the State of Rajasthan, may be followed for preparation of cluster mining proposals:-
- a. Cluster proposal may be prepared for such leases, which have contiguous boundaries.
- b. All the existing mines proposals/fresh proposals in pipeline be included in that including non-forest lands, if within.
- c. States will take individual proposals from different lessees in the proforma with relevant documents.
- d. However, with covering letter, a comparative statement of all mines with area and other details be given and all leases with boundaries be shown on one map.
- e. Even existing approved leases be included in the proposal so that they can be brought to the same time frame.
- f. The condition of compensatory afforestation will apply on the basis of each individual lease rather than on pro-rata basis.
- g. The safety zone shall be at the outer boundary of the cluster and condition of safety zone will apply on pro-rata basis.

This is to further clarify that where existing forest roads outside the lease areas/cluster are being used by lessees for transporting mined minerals, it is not desirable

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to insist inclusion of such forest areas in the lease proposal unless a new road is proposed for such lease or cluster. The State Governments should rather permit its use on the terms and conditions to be decided by the State Government.

Kindly acknowledge receipt.

Yours faithfully,

(R.K. GUPTA) Asstt. Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:-

1. Secretary (Forests), (All States/UTs except Goa)

2. PCCF/Nodal Officers (All States/UTs).

3. All Regional Offices.

4. DIG(FC), Director(FC), AlGs(FC).

(R.K. GUPTA)

Asstt. Inspector General of Forests