

11/155/2019-FC
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Aliganj, Jorbagh Road,
New Delhi-110003

Dated: 18th October, 2019

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

Sub: Clarification on the Guidelines given under the Handbook of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and general approval to micro hydel project – reg.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to this Ministry's letter dated 28th March, 2019 wherein all State/UT Governments were informed about the revised Handbook of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and to inform that during the intervening period certain suggestions for rectification of anomalies in the Handbook are being received from the Regional Office(s), State/UT Governments and various Ministries of the Central Government.

2. A recent request, for clarification on para 1.15 of Chapter-1 of the Guidelines and general approvals to micro hydel project, sought by the Regional Office of the MoEF&CC at Dehradun, vide their letter No. RO-DDN/Guidelines /01/2018/861 dated 23rd July, 2019, was considered by the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) in its meeting held on 31st August, 2019 wherein the FAC, after thorough deliberation, recommended /clarified as under:

- i. As regards to non-site-specific activities, the FAC recommended that guidelines in this regard have already been provided under para 1.15 of the New Handbook of the Guidelines. Concerned authorities in the Ministry as well in its Regional Offices may deal with non site-specific projects as per said guidelines. While dealing with non-site-specific proposal, well informed decision, after thorough evaluation and scrutiny of information regarding inescapability of forest land, should be taken into consideration by the concerned authorities of the Ministry.
- ii. With regards to the micro hydel projects, the FAC observed that that micro hydel projects is a green activity providing energy at local level with minimum damage to forests. Micro hydro is a type of hydroelectric power that typically produces from 5 kW to 100 kW of electricity using the natural flow of water and the same may be considered at par with water mills for which Ministry has already accorded general approval. FAC recommended that construction of micro hydel project, involving area upto 1 ha of forest land, may be covered under general approval by the Ministry under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980

This issue with the approval of competent authority.

Yours faithfully,


(Sandeep Sharma)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests