

I/56707/2023

Government of India  
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change  
(Forest Conservation Division)

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Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,  
Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road,  
New Delhi: 110003

Dated: November, 2023

To

Addl. Chief Secretary (Forests)/Principal Secretary (Forests)  
All States Governments /Union territory Administrations

**Sub: Creation of Accredited Compensatory Afforestation in Government owned non-forest lands – reg.**

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Western Coalfield Limited's letter no. Vkaulee/Nidey tak pari evam yo/2023/053 dated 20.06.2023 on the above subject and meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Monitoring and Coordination Committee held on 30.10.2023 in the MoEF&CC wherein issue related to use of ACA land as CA in lieu of diversion of forestland was also deliberated and to inform that after further examination of the matter, it is observed that while formulating the guidelines on Accredited Compensatory Afforestation, the matter related to transfer and mutation of government owned non-forest land was deliberated in detail by the MoEF&CC in consultation with the Ministry of Coal and various State Governments. Accordingly, the provisions, enabling the notification of such government lands as RF/PF without insisting for transfer and mutation, have been incorporated at para 6(ii) and 8(iv) of the guidelines dated 24.01.2023.

Further, the matter related to progress made in the creation of Accredited Compensatory Afforestation lands was also deliberated in a meeting held between Secretary, MoEF&CC and Secretary, M/o Coal on 12.10.2023 wherein, it was desired that pending the operationalization of the online module on ACA on PARIVESH, process for creation of ACA lands may be completed and taken on record in offline mode by the Forest Department concerned.

In view of the above, I am directed to request the State Governments and Union territory Administrations to create Accredited Compensatory Afforestation lands by completing the process in offline mode till a time the online module is operationalized and to comply with the enabling provisions provided under para 6(ii) and 8(iv) of the Guidelines dated 24.01.2.023 regarding acceptance of government owned lands for ACA and its subsequent swapping for CA without insisting for transfer and mutation of such government owned lands.

Yours faithfully,

(Charan Jeet Singh)  
Scientist D

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**Copy to:**

1. The PCCF (HOFF), All States Govt./UT Administrations
2. Dy DG, All Regional Offices of the Ministry
3. Addl. PCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), O/o PCCF, All State Govts/UT Administrations
4. Sr. PPS to Secretary/PPS to DGF&SS/PPS to Addl. DGF(FC)
5. Guard File