

F. No. 11-599/ 2014-FC  
Government of India  
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change  
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan  
Aliganj, Jorbagh Road  
New Delhi - 110 003  
Dated: 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2015

To

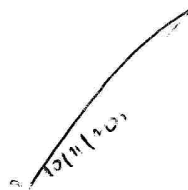
**The Principal Secretary (Forests)**  
All State Governments / Union territory Administrations

**Sub:** Guidelines for diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes under the Forest (Conservation) Act 1980- Submission of proposals to obtain approval for diversion of entire forest land located within a mining lease.

Sir,

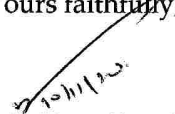
I am directed to refer to para 4.4 of the consolidated guidelines under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 issued by this Ministry which *inter-alia* provides that if a project involves forest as well as non-forest land, work should not be started on non-forest land till approval of the Central Government for release of forest land under the afore-mentioned Act has been given, and to say that this Ministry has received representation to appropriately amend the said guidelines to permit commencement of mining in non-forest areas in the coal blocks having both forest and non-forest land.

After careful examination of the matter in this Ministry and in partial modification of the said para 4.4 of the consolidated guidelines under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and the guidelines issued by this Ministry vide letter of even number dated 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014 on the above-mentioned subject, I am directed to say that in case of mining leases having forest land in part or in full, the concerned user agency may execute a single mining lease in accordance with the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and the Rules framed thereunder, for the entire area falling in the mining lease after final approval under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for the entire forest land falling in such mining lease is obtained. However, the State Government, if so desires, may execute a separate mining lease for a whole or part of non-forest land falling in such mining lease, once stage-I approval under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for the entire forest land falling in such mining lease is obtained. The State

  
12/11/15


Government, in such cases, shall take all measures to ensure that no violations of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 occurs on the forest land.

Yours faithfully,

  
(H.C. Chaudhary)  
Director

**Copy to:-**

1. Prime Minister's Office (*Kind attn.:* Shri Santosh D. Vaidya, Director).
2. Secretary (Coordination), Cabinet Secretariat.
3. Secretary, Ministry of Mines, Government of India.
4. Secretary, Ministry of Coal, Government of India.
5. Secretary, Ministry of Steel, Government of India.
6. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, all States/UTs.
7. Nodal Officer, the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, all States/UTs.
8. All Regional Offices, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).
9. Joint Secretary, In-charge, Impact Assessment Division, MoEF.
10. PS to the Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
11. Chairman, State Environment Impact Assessment Authority, all States/UTs.
12. Member-Secretary, State Environment Impact Assessment Authority, all States/UTs.
13. All Directors/ Assistant Inspector General of Forests in Forest Conservation Division, MoEFCC.
14. All Advisors/ Directors/ Dy. Directors in the Impact Assessment Division, MoEFCC.
15. Director, Regional Office (Headquarters), MoEFCC. .
16. Sr. Director (Technical), NIC, MoEFCC with a request to place a copy of this letter on website of this Ministry.
17. Sr. PPS to the Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
18. Sr. PPS to Director General of Forests and Special Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
19. Sr. PPS to Addl. Director General of Forests (Forest Conservation), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
20. Sr. PPS to Inspector General of Forests (Forest Conservation), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
21. Guard File.

  
(H.C. Chaudhary)  
Director