

17-13/2018-FC

Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change
(FC Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Aliganj, Jor Bag Road,
New Delhi - 110003.
Dated: 31st August, 2021

To,

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Government of Arunachal Pradesh,
Itanagar.

Sub: Matters related to grant of NOC to Tea Growers in Arunachal Pradesh.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the issue raised by Shri Kiren Rijju, Hon'ble Union Minister, Regional Office, Shillong vide their letter no. RO-NE/F/AP/TEA-GEN/ 2018/412-13 dated 13.04.2018 and representations made by Hornbill Tea Company regarding the difficulties being faced by Tea Growers of Arunachal Pradesh in obtaining NOC for the cultivation. The said issue has been examined by the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) constituted by the Central Government under Section-3 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and the recommendation of the FAC has been accepted by the competent authority in the Ministry.

Accordingly, I am further directed to convey the approval of competent authority to withdraw of the circular of this Ministry as issued in 2006 {F.N. 2-7 (NEC Gen.cor/99/110)-122/2000}, on the matter of "*Large scale destruction of forests in Tirap and Changlang district of Arunachal Pradesh through Tea cultivation*". Therefore, it is clarified that cultivation of tea on the lands not falling within the ambit of judgement of Hon'ble Supreme Court dt 12.12.1996, will not require NOC from the Ministry. However, prior approval of the Central Government will be required if such activity is proposed on the forest land as defined in the Hon'ble Supreme Court order dated 12.12.1996.

Yours faithfully

Sd/-

(Sandeep Sharma)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests (FC)

Copy to:

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Government of Arunachal Pradesh, Itanagar.
2. The Nodal-Officer, O/o the PCCF (HoFF), Government of Arunachal Pradesh, Itanagar.
3. The Deputy Inspector General (Central), Regional Office (NEZ), Shillong-793021.
4. Hornbill Tea Company.
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Divisions, MoEF&CC.
6. Guard File