

File No.11-50/2020-FC

Government of India
Ministry of Environment & Forests
(Forest Conservation Division)

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

Dated: 31st January, 2023

To

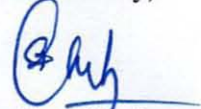
The Addl. Chief Secretaries/Principal Secretaries (Forests),
All States/ Union Territory Administrations.

Sub: Clarification on the applicability of provisions of compensatory afforestation in respect of forest land used for construction of tunnels in road/railways projects reg.

Madam/Sir,

In continuation to this Ministry's letter dated 17.04.2018, I am directed to refer to the above mentioned subject regarding applicability of provisions of compensatory afforestation in respect of forest land used for construction of road/railways tunnels. In this connection, it is to inform that after examination of the matter in the Ministry, it is observed that construction of tunnels is environment friendly as it does not interfere with above ground flora and fauna, ecology, etc. Ministry, in case of underground mining projects, has exempted raising of compensatory afforestation as there is no impact on the above ground flora and fauna. Therefore, considering the road/railways tunnels at par with the underground mining projects, it is to clarify that construction of road/railways tunnels in the forest area may be treated at par with the underground mining project for the purpose of applicability of compensatory afforestation.

Yours faithfully,



Charan Jeet Singh
Scientist 'D'

Copy to:

1. The PCCF, All States/ Union Territories Administration.
2. The Regional Officer, All Integrated Regional Office of MoEF&CC
3. The Nodal Officer, O/o the PCCF, All States/ Union Territories Administration.
4. Monitoring Cell of FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi
5. Guard file.