

F. No. 11-09/98-FC
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road,
New Delhi - 110 003
Dated: 7th November, 2014

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

Sub: Guidelines for diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980- General approval under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980-reg.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to this Ministry's letter of even number dated 13th February 2014 read with letter of even number dated 21st August 2014 on the above-mentioned subject wherein this ministry accorded general approval under section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of not more than 1 hectare of forest land in each case, for creation of critical development and security related infrastructure of 13 categories by Government Departments/ Undertakings, Boards, Corporations etc. subject inter-alia to the following condition:

"Project should not involve felling of more than fifty trees per hectare. Corresponding permissible limits of maximum number of trees to be felled for the forest area diverted, shall be in proportion to the extent of the diverted area."

It has been brought to notice of this Ministry that area required for entry/exit roads for fuel stations is very small, and it will not be feasible for States to grant approval, in exercise of the said general approval, for diversion of forest land for entry/ exit of fuel stations in case it involves felling of even a single tree. The said condition thus defeats the very purpose of grant of general approval, and all such proposals will continue to be forwarded to the Regional Offices of the Ministry for approval.

I am directed to say that after careful consideration of the matter, this Ministry has decided that the said conditions stipulated in the general approval accorded under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 shall be read as "Project should not involve felling of more than 50 trees per hectare or ten trees, whichever is higher".

This issues with approval of the Competent Authority.

Yours faithfully,

(H.C. Chaudhary)
Director

Copy to:-

1. Prime Minister's Office (Kind attn.: Shri Santosh D. Vaidya, Director).
2. Secretary, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Government of India, New Delhi.

3. Secretary, Ministry of Defence, Government of India.
4. Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, New Delhi.
5. Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, New Delhi.
6. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, all State/UT Governments.
7. Nodal Officer, the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, all State/UT Governments.
8. All Regional Offices, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC), GoI.
9. Joint Secretary in-charge, Impact Assessment Division, MoEFCC, GoI.
10. All Assistant Inspector General of Forests/ Director in the Forest Conservation Division, MoEFCC, GoI.
11. Director Regional Office Headquarters Division, MoEFCC, GoI.
12. Sr. Director (Technical), NIC, MoEFCC with a request to place a copy of the letter on website of this Ministry.
13. Sr. PPS to the Secretary, Environment and Forests.
14. Sr. PPS to the Director General of Forests & Special Secretary, MoEFCC, GoI.
15. Sr. PPS to the Addl. Director General of Forests (Forest Conservation), MoEFCC, GoI.
16. PS to the Inspector General of Forests (Forest Conservation), MoEFCC, GoI.
17. Guard File.

(H.C. Chaudhary)
Director