F. No. 11-423/2011-FC
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Aliganj, Jorbagh Road,
New Delhi - 110003
Dated:22nd May 2019

To

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
All States/UT Governments

Sub: Proposal seeking diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 190 - Special consideration of compensatory afforestation in forest rich States – reg.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the minutes of the meeting dated 23rd April, 2019 of the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) wherein the FAC considered the issue mentioned in the subject above. The FAC, after deliberation on the issue, recommended as under:

(a) The states/UTs having forest land of more than 75% of their respective total geographical area, shall not be insisted upon providing non-forest land (for subsequently notifying into RF/PF) equal to the forest area diverted for non-forest purposes in the same state/UT. However, the same may be taken up in any other state/UT having deficient forest land/cover and having land bank for CA.

(b) Isolated patches having area less than 5 ha are difficult to manage as forests. Hence, no non-forest land, having area less than 5 ha area shall be accepted for CA purpose. However, land parcels, if contiguous to RF/PF, can be accepted for CA irrespective of their sizes, subject to their suitability for CA. In case of forest area under diversion is less than 5 ha, efforts should be made to identify non-forest land contiguous to some RF/PF. User agency shall fence all such land parcels properly and mutate the same in the name of Forest Department before handing them over to the Forest Department. All such land parcels shall be compact (i.e. without any pockets of habitation or non-forest land) and free from any encumbrances.

(c) Land parcels, if contiguous to National Parks/WL Sanctuaries, can be accepted for CA irrespective of their sizes and suitability for CA, subject to condition that the same shall be mutated in the name of Forest Department, notified as RF/PF and thereafter merged with concerned National Park/Wildlife Sanctuary with suitable declaration, prior to stage-II approval by MoEF&CC.

This issues with the approval of the competent authority in the Ministry.

Yours faithfully,

(Sandeep Sharma) 22.5.19
Assistant Inspector General of Forests (FC)

Copy to:-

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), All States/UT Governments.
2. The Addl. Director General (Central), All Regional Offices of the MoEF&CC.
3. The Addl. PCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), All States/UT Governments
4. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi.
5. Guard File.

22/5/19.
(Sandeep Sharma)
Assistant Inspector General of Forests