File No.11-43/2013-FC

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

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

Dated: 25th February ~~January~~, 2019

To,

The Principal Secretary/Secretary (Forests)
All States/UTs Governments

Sub: Compliance of the Schedule Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006-regarding

Sir,

I am directed to refer to Forest (Conservation) amendment Rules 2016 as amended on 06th March, 2017 wherein inter-alia it has been provided that:

(e) *the District Collector shall*

(i) complete the process of recognition and vesting of forest rights in accordance with the provisions of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (2 of 2007) for the entire forest land indicated in the proposal.

(ii) obtain consent of each Gram Sabha having jurisdiction over the whole or a part of the forest land indicated in the proposal for the diversion of such forest land and compensatory and ameliorative measures, if any, having understood the purposes and details of diversion, wherever required; and

(iii) forward his findings in this regard to the Conservator of Forests

(f) the entire process referred to in clause (e) shall be completed by the District Collector within the time period stipulated in these rules for grant of in-principle approval under the Act to the proposal.

(g) the Conservator of Forests shall examine the factual details and feasibility of the proposal, carry out site inspection in case the area of forest land proposed to be diverted is more than forty hectares, and forward the proposal along with his recommendations to the Nodal Office.

I am also directed to refer to references/communications received from various State Governments seeking clarification on whether FRA certificate is to be submitted before Stage-II compliance or it has been submitted along-with proposal for seeking Stage-I approval.

It is clarified that within the time period stipulated for compliance of stage-I

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condition, Deputy Commissioner shall complete the process of compliance of FRA (including forwarding its findings to the concerned CF). Hence for the purpose of the MoEF&CC, as per the provision under Forest (Conservation) amendment rules, 2016 the compliance under FRA is not required for consideration of in-principle approval. This has to be furnished by the state Govt. for consideration of the proposal by the ministry for final approval.

In view of the above, the State Governments are requested to adhere the provisions contained in Forest (Conservation) Amendment Rules, 2016 for FRA purpose while forwarding the proposal for seeking prior approval under Section 2 of Forest(Conservation) Act,1980 to this Ministry for consideration.

Yours faithfully,

(Shrawan Kumar Verma)
Dy. Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. Prime Minister's Office
2. Secretary, Ministry of Mines, Government of India
3. Secretary, Ministry of Coal, Government of India
4. Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India
5. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, all State/UT Governments
6. Nodal Officer, the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, all State/ UT Governments
7. All Regional Offices, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), GoI.
8. Joint Secretary in-charge, Impact Assessment Division, MoEF&CC, GoI
9. All Assistant Inspector General of Forests/ Directors in the Forest Conservation Division, MoEF&CC, GoI/Director, ROHQ, MoEF&CC, GoI/TO(FC)/TO(RoHQ).
10. Sr. Director (Technical), NIC, MoEF&CC with a request to place a copy of the letter on website of this Ministry.
11. Sr. PPS to the Secretary, MoEF&CC
12. Sr. PPS to the Director General of Forest & Special Secretary, MoEF&CC, GoI
13. Sr. PPS to the Addl. Director General of Forests (Forest Conservation), MoEF&CC, GoI.

Yours faithfully,

(Shrawan Kumar Verma)
Dy. Inspector General of Forests

O/C

13/3/19