

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Aliganj, Jorbagh Road,
New Delhi-110003
Dated: 12th August, 2020

To,

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

Sub: Time Bound furnishing clarification or additional information relating to a proposal for seeking prior approval under the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980-regarding.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to this Ministry's letter of even no. dated 28.03.2020 wherein the Handbook of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and Guidelines was circulated for effective and transparent implementation of the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The copy of comprehensive guidelines is available on Ministry's website: www.parivesh.nic.in.

2. In the Handbook of guidelines, the Para 1.20 deals with Reopening/reconsideration of proposals under the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 which is reproduced below:

1.20. Reopening/reconsideration of Proposals:

(i) *In cases where the State Government is requested to furnish clarification or additional information relating to a proposal, all particulars should be made available to the Central Government within 90 days. If such particulars are not received within 90 days, the proposal may be rejected by the Central Government for non-furnishing of essential information. Such cases can be reopened provided the following conditions are satisfied: a. there is no change in the proposal in terms of scope, purpose and other important aspects. b. all the required information has been made available c. delay in providing the information is satisfactorily explained*

(ii) *Any request for reconsideration of any proposal that has been considered and rejected by the Central Government has to be made by concerned State/UT Government within three months from the date of communication of such rejection along with detailed justification for reconsideration and comments on each of the grounds on which proposal has been rejected.*

3. It is noted that many State/ UT Governments are not furnishing their clarification or additional information as sought by this Ministry relating to a proposal within stipulated time. The Ministry has taken a serious note on the issue. Accordingly, it is conveyed that if the requisite information is not received within the stipulated period, the concerned proposal will stand rejected.

4. All State Governments and UT Administrations are requested to adhere to the time frame in furnishing clarification or additional information sought by this Ministry relating to a proposal for seeking prior approval under the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 to avoid rejection of a proposal.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-

(Sandeep Sharma)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

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