

Copy of letter No.8-4/Fry (Coord.) dt. 19<sup>th</sup> August 1981 from the Under Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Co-operation) New Delhi to the Forest Secretaries of all States and Union Territories.

Sub:- Forest Conservation Act, 1980 – Disposal of cases referred to the Forest Department.

The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 provides that prior approval of the Central Government should be obtained before dereservation of any reserved forest or for use of any forest land for non-forest purposes. Under our circular letter No.F8-4 80 Fry (Coord) dated 26-12-1980, a Proforma has been prescribed for forwarding necessary information in respect of proposals for dereservation of reserved forest, etc. One of the requirements of this Proforma is that the opinion of the Chief Conservator of Forests/Head of the Forest Department concerned should be obtained and recorded therein before the proposal is sent to the Central Government.

It has been reported that in certain States, proposals for obtaining the approval of the Central Government, which are referred to the forest Department for consents, are not dealt with promptly by the concerned Forest Department. This is said to cause delay in the clearance of such proposals. Such delay should be avoided at all costs. Whenever a proposal is referred by a Department State or any agency to Forest Department for its comments, the latter should attend to it promptly and ensure that delay does not take place in its disposal at that end. While recording its opinion, the Forest Department will not doubt take into account the requirements not out in this Departments circular letter No.8-4/80-FRY (COORD) Dated 5-6-1981. It is requested that all efforts should be made to avoid any delay in the disposal of such cases.

Sd/-  
H.V. KESAVAN,  
Under Secretary to the Government.

Copy to:

1. Chief Conservator of Forests of all State Governments.

// True Copy //

Sd/-  
For Chief Conservator of Forests.

//True Copy//

For Conservator of Forests.

Mkv.4/12.