

NO.8-4/80-FRY (Co-ord)  
Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture  
(Dept. of Agri & Co-operation)

New Delhi, the 5<sup>th</sup> June 1981.

To

The Chief Secretaries,  
All State Governments/Union Territories

Sir,

Subject:- Forest (Conservation), Act, 1980.

The under circular of even number dated the 26<sup>th</sup> December 1980, this Ministry had enclosed a Proforma and requested all State Governments to furnish reports in that proforma for all proposals relating to disreservation of reserved forests and diversion of forest lands for non-forestry purposes.

From proposals that have so far been received from various State Governments, it has been experienced that the proposals are invariably too brief to justify the case of the State Government and in fact they lack in matter most essentially required for taking a decision. Following observations have emerged from proposals received so far brought to the notice of the State Governments for issuing instructions to respective officers for exercising due care in drafting their reports so that the proposals are self-contained and fully explanatory, as failing these requirements the proposals may get delayed in disposals owing to the time that may be consumed in collecting the wanting information:-

- i) In most of the proposals, area figures have been given in British unit of measure which is legally not appropriate. The areas figures should therefore be invariably reported in metric units.
- ii) The information relating to step proposed to be taken to compensate for the loss of forest area, the vegetation and the wild life (item 5 of the Proforma) is invariably reported in terms of money calculated to be recovered towards the loss of the said forest property. In fact the purpose of this item is to know as to what steps are proposed to be taken to undertaken compensatory action so that the vegetal cover lost is made good at an alternative site and accordingly the proposal should given details of compensatory allocation of land plantations and creation of habits for the wild life.
- iii) The opinion of the Chief Conservator of Forests has also been often found to be extremely lacking in materials.

In some cases it is difficult to know if Forests Department was consulted at all. As an illustration a report furnished by one of the Chief Conservator of Forests and appended to the proposal is given below to elucidate how incomplete reports are being forwarded to this Ministry.

## 1. Forest types

- a) Tropical dry deciduous forest      60%
- b) Tropical moist evergreen forest      40%

## 2. Endangered species

The forest authorities must get the area inspected by a responsible office depending on the sensitivity and potential value of the forest involved. For instance if the areas is very important from forestry angle, the territorial conservator should inspect the areas and give complete information relating to the forest. Scientific names of important timber species should be given while describing composition of forest crop. If the area in is while describing composition of forest crop. If the area is relatively less important then the Divisional Forest Officer should see the area himself. The inspecting Officers should record its of the proffered very clearly if they have noticed any anticipation activities such as tree feelings, land breaking etc. in that area. In any case the recommendations of the Chief Conservator of Forests should be categorical and specific.

4) In case of river valley projects, it should be clearly indicated are to how many families will be uprooted from the submergence area and what alternative arrangements are proposed to be made for the settlement else-where. If they are proposed to settled in a form are elsewhere; that proposal should be detailed fully.

Yours faithfully,

SD/-

(M.K. DALVI)

Inspector General of Forests,

//True Copy//

For Conservator of Forests,  
Trichur.

L.12/12.