

No. C-11021/25/76-FRY (Coord)
Government of India
Ministry of Agriculture
(Department of Agri. & Coop)-

To

The Chief Conservators,
of all States/ Union Territories,

Sir,

Sub: - Mining in forest areas – Permission under section 2 of the Forest
(Conservation) Act 80.

Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act 1980 provided that prior approval of the Central Government should be obtained before any State Government or other authority issues any order allowing dereservation of reserved forests or use of forest lands for non – forest purposes. Since mining is a non – forest activity. It is essential that prior Approval of the Central government should be obtained under the aforesaid Act. Before grant or renewal of mining leases in forest areas.

2. The position sanctioned above was brought to your notion through our circular letter of even number. Dated 26-10-1981. It is, however, observed that proposals under the Forest (Conservation) Act in respect of grant/renewal of mining/quarrying leases in forest areas have so far been received in this Ministry only from a few state Government, like Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh. It is therefore, once again urged that all cases relating to grant/renewal of mining leases in forest areas after 25-10-80 when the forest (Conservator) Ordinance, 1980, was promulgated, should be referred to this Ministry for approval according to the procedure prescribed for this purpose.

3. While examining proposals for grant/renewal of mining leases, care should be taken to ensure that no forest areas is included, unless unavoidable.

4. It is requested that these instructions may please be brought to the notice of all Department and Offices connected with grant/renewal of mining and quarrying leases in the States Union Territories.

Yours faithfully,

(Samer Singh)

Joint Secretary to the Govt., of India

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for Conservator of Forests.