

Copy of letter No.8-22-FRY (Con) dt.15-4-86 from Ranjithsinh, Joint Secretary to Government of India (Department of Environment, Forests & Wild Life) Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi, to the Forest Secretary, Chief Conservator of Forests, Trivandrum.

Sub:- Forest (Conservation) Act 1980.

In this Ministry's circulars No.8-22/81-Fry (Coord)_ dated 24-9-1981 and No.8-22/81-Fry (Cons) dated 12-5-1982, it was stated that investigations and surveys carried out in connection with the laying of transmission lines and hydro-electric projects will not attract the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act 1980 so long as these surveys do not involve any clearing of Forest or cutting of trees. The State Governments were authorised to allow such surveys/investigations after satisfying themselves that the survey work will not involve any clearing of forest area or actual felling of trees.

2) It has come to notice of this Ministry that the State Governments taking advantage of the authority given by the Central Government to the State Governments in regard to allowing investigations/surveys have directed the Chief Wild Life Warden to grant such permissions in a national park or sanctuary, or have allowed surveys without his permission. There are instances where such surveys and initiations have been accompanied by use of explosives and have caused damage and disturbance to national parks, wildlife sanctuaries and game reserves.

3) Not only have such surveys resulted in factors detrimental to the interests of wildlife species and their habitat, but have also usually led to infructuous expenditure on such surveys as, upon completion of the survey, and preparation of a Project Proposal thereafter, the latter has very often to be rejected by the Central Government on the grounds that the project could not be permitted in a national park or sanctuary etc. It would be only appropriate, therefore, if such surveys in protected areas are undertaken after the approval of the Central Government for carrying out any surveys/investigations in a national park, wildlife sanctuary or game reserve for purposes of diversion of such land, will be necessary.

Yours faithfully,
Sd/-
(M.M.Ranjitsinh)

Copy to Chief Conservator of Forests of all states/UTs.

Endt. No.L5-15330/86/K.Dis dt. 26-4-86

Chief Conservator of Forests Office,
Trivandrum.

Copy to All Conservator of Forests and Sub Officers for information.

Sd/- For Chief Conservator of Forests.

Endt. No.D-363/82 dt.4-6-86

Copy to TR, CH, VC, ML, and D1 Section for information.

For Conservator of Forests, Trichur.

M/10-6.
Copy of Lr,