

Copy of Govt. letter No. 8-4/80- FRY (COOR D), Dt. June 1981 from the Inspector General of Forests, Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture, (Department of Agriculture and Co- operation to the Chief Secretaries, All State Government/Union Territories.

Sub: Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980

Under circular of even number dated the 26th December 1980, this Ministry had enclosed a perform and requested all State Governments to furnish reports in that Proforma for all proposals relating to dereservation of reserved forests and diversion of forestlands 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 if had they jack 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 falling these requirements the proposals may be consumed in collecting the wanting information:-

1 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.

2 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 ve3getal cover lost is made good at an alternative site and accordingly the proposal should given details of compensatory allocation of head, plantations and creation of habits or the wild life.

3 The opinion of the Chief Conservator of Forests has also been often found to be extremely lacking in material. 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

No species will be affected to the point of endangering their existence

Sd/-
Chief Conservator of Forests.

The forest authorities must get the area inspected by a responsible officer 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. It 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 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 may families will be unroofed from the submergence area and what alternative arrangements are proposed to be foe their settlement else-where, If they are proposed to settled in a forest area elsewhere; that proposal should be detailed fully.

Sd/-
Inspector General of Forests.

Copy for information to:

Chief Conservator of Forest of all states and Union Territories.

Sd/-
(J.P. Bhatmargar)
Under Secretary to Govt. of India.

Endt. on C4.1715/81 dt. 18.06.1981.

Copy forwarded to all Conservator of Forests for information and future guidance.

Sd/-
for Chief Conservator of Forests.

Endt. G2.997/81 dt. 30.06.1981

Copy to all Divisional Forests Officers for information guidance.

Copy to section, CH,TR, ML, MR & KT – D & D1.

Copy to Conservator of Forests, Administrative Assistant Senior Superintendent &
Junior Superintendent

Copy to stock file.

for Conservator of Forests,
Trichur.

12/4.8
25 copies