

Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Aliganj, Jorbagh Road,
New Delhi-110003

Dated: 11th October, 2020

To

1. The Secretary,
Ministry of Mines, Government of India, New Delhi
2. The Principal Secretary (Forests),
All State Governments/UT Administrations

Sub: Guidelines under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, in pursuance of the “The Mineral Laws (Amendment) Act, 2020” – regarding.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to this Ministry guidelines dated 31.03.2020 read with guidelines dated 09.08.2020 on the above subject providing for seamless operations in already broken up forest area of mining leases whose validity was expiring in term of provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2015, for a period of two years from the date of commencement of lease.

In this connection, it is to inform that as per the provisions of guidelines dated 31.03.2020, the new lessee is required to apply and obtain prior approval of the Central Government under the FC Act, 1980 for carrying out mining operations beyond the period of two years. It is evident from the online PARIVSH portal, that so far, even after a lapse of six months time no such proposal has been submitted by any of the concerned States for prior approval of the Central Government. Receipt of such proposal at a time of approaching the deadline is certainly going to affect the smooth continuance of mining in the given area, thereby defeating the very spirit and purpose of guidelines dated 31.03.2020 read with guidelines dated 9.08.2020 issued by the MoEF&CC in this regard.

In view of the above, I am further directed to request the Ministry of Mines, Government of India and State Governments/Union territory Administrations to direct the concerned lessees to obtain prior approval of Central Government under the FC Act, 1980 within the stipulated time failing which mining operation will be stopped till a time prior approval under the FC Act, 1980 is obtained by the States/UTs concerned.

This issues with the approval of competent authority.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-

(Sandeep Sharma)

Asst. Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, All State/UTs
2. The Nodal Officer (FCA), Office of the PCCF, All State/UTs
3. The Heads of All IROs of the MoEF&CC
4. PPS to Secretary (EF&CC)/ PPS to DGF&SS/ PPS to ADG (FC), MoEF&CC
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF and CC, New Delhi