

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,  
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj  
New Delhi-1100 03  
24th January 2022

To  
The Additional Chief Secretary/Pr. Secretary (Forest)  
All State Governments /UT Administrations.

**Sub: Clarification on use of forest land for residential purposes etc, under the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, reg.**

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the matter related to the existing guidelines issued under FCA, 1980 in the Handbook of FC Act and guidelines, 2019, in the paras 1.15, 11.1 and 11.9.

2. In this regard it is informed that the matter was considered by the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) in its meeting held on 17.09.2021. Based on the recommendation of the FAC and consideration of the recommendations by the competent authority in the Ministry, it is hereby clarified that:

The paras 1.15, 11.1 and 11.9 of the guidelines are modified as below:


**i) Para 1.15:** Diversion of forest land for non-site-specific projects:

Utilization of forest area for establishing industries, construction of residential colonies, institutes, disposal of fly ash, rehabilitation of displaced persons, etc. are non-site-specific activities and cannot be considered on forest land as a rule. For that matter, no non-site-specific proposal can be entertained for considering approval under the FCA 1980. In exceptional circumstances, residential projects upto one ha, can be considered for approval under FCA 1980 by the MoEF&CC, subject to appropriate justification and recommendation by the concerned State Government and the Regional Officer of the IRO of MoEF&CC.

**ii) Para 11.1** is deleted.

**iii) Para 11.9** shall remain unchanged (this deals with special provision for MDDA area).

3. This issues with the approval of the competent authority.

Yours faithfully,  
  
-24.1.22- Sd/-  
(Sandeep Sharma)  
Asst. Inspector General of Forests

**Copy to:**

1. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, all State Govt./UT Administrations
2. Nodal Officer (FCA), all State Govts/UT Administrations.
3. All Integrated Regional Offices, MoEF&CC, Government of India.
4. PPS to Secretary/ PPS to DGF&SS, MoEF&CC, New Delhi.
5. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi- for uploading on

PARIVESH.