

F. No. 11-36/ 2013-FC  
Government of India  
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change  
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,  
Aliganj, Jorbagh Road,  
New Delhi - 110 003  
Dated: 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2016

To

The Principal Secretary (Forests),  
All States/Union territories

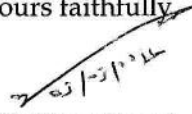
**Sub:** Guidelines under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980- Clarification on drilling of shot holes for seismic surveys- *reg.*

Sir,

I am directed to say that para 1.3 of guidelines issued under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 *inter-alia* provides that investigations and surveys carried out in connection with development projects such as transmission lines, hydro-electric projects, seismic surveys, exploration for oil drilling, mining etc. will not attract the provisions of the Act as long as these surveys do not involve any clearing of forest, and operations are restricted to cleaning of bushes and lopping of trees branches for purpose of sighting. This Ministry has received a representation, wherein this Ministry has been requested to clarify whether drilling of shot holes for seismic survey will attract provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

After careful examination of the matter in this Ministry, I am directed to say that the para 1.3 of guidelines under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 issued by this Ministry provides that among others seismic surveys will not attract the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 as long as these surveys do not involve any clearing of forest, and operations are restricted to cleaning of bushes and lopping of trees branches for purpose of sighting.

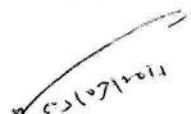
Yours faithfully,

  
(H.C. Chaudhary)  
Director

**Copy to:-**

1. Prime Minister's Office (*Kind attn.:* Shri Santosh D. Vaidya, Director).
2. The Secretary (Coordination), Cabinet Secretariat, Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi.
3. Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India, New Delhi.

4. The Director General, the Directorate General of Hydrocarbons, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India, OIDB Bhawan, Tower A, Plot No. 2, Sector-73, Noida -201 301
5. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, all States/ Union territories.
6. Nodal Officer, the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, Government of Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Sikkim.
7. All Regional Offices, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India (GoI).
8. Joint Secretary in-charge, Impact Assessment Division, MoEFCC, GoI.
9. PS to the Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India.
10. All Assistant Inspector General of Forests/ Directors in the Forest Conservation Division, MoEFCC, GoI.
11. Director, Regional Offices Headquarters Division, MoEFCC, GoI.
12. Sr. Director (Technical), NIC, MoEFCC, GoI with a request to place a copy of the letter on website of this Ministry.
13. Sr. PPS to the Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, GoI.
14. Sr. PPS to the Director General of Forests & Special Secretary, MoEFCC.
15. Sr. PPS to the Addl. Director General of Forests (Forest Conservation), MoEFCC.
16. PS to the Inspector General of Forests (Forest Conservation), MoEFCC.
17. Guard File.

  
(H.C. Chaudhary)  
Director