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F. No. 11-168/2009-FC (pt.)  
Government of India  
Ministry of Environment and Forests  
(FC Division)

Paryavaran Bhawan,  
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road,  
New Delhi - 110 510.  
Dated: 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2012

To: **The Principal Secretary (Forests),**  
All States / Union Territory Governments except Jammu and Kashmir

Sub: Strengthening of the office of the Nodal Officer, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Sir,

I am directed to say that a Group of Minister constituted by the Cabinet Secretariat vide their O.M. No. 121/4/3/2010-Cab. Dated 3.2.2011 to consider the environmental and developmental issues relating to coal mining and other development projects in its fifth meeting held under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Finance Minister on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2011 *inter-alia* accepted the recommendation made by a committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri B.K. Chaturvedi, Member, Planning Commission that the period of maintenance of afforestation may be increased from the existing 5 years to 7-10 years to ensure that the maintenance of forest cover improves.

Accordingly, I am directed to say that the said decision of the GoM may kindly be kept in view while formulating proposals for creation and maintenance of compensatory afforestation in lieu of the forest land diverted for non-forest purposes.

Yours faithfully,

(H.C. Chaudhary)  
Assistant Inspector General of Forests

R. Rajaraja Varma  
PCCF & HoFF

Copy to:-

1. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, all State/UT Governments except Jammu and Kashmir.
2. Nodal Officer, the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, all State/UT Governments except Jammu and Kashmir
3. All Regional Offices, Ministry of Environment & Forests.
4. All Assistant Inspector General of Forests in Forest Conservation Division, MoEF.
5. Director, Regional Office (Headquarters), Ministry of Environment & Forests, New Delhi.
6. Guard File.

(H.C. Chaudhary)  
Assistant Inspector General of Forests