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Director  
Adviser, Env't

F. No.11-48/2002-FC  
Government of India  
Ministry of Environment & Forests  
F.C. Division

29 MAY 2005  
Paryavaran Bhawan, CSO Complex,  
Lodhi Road, New Delhi - 110 003.  
New Delhi, the 29 April 2005.  
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To  
The Principal Secretary (Forests),  
All States/UTs.

Sub: Guidelines under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, for up-gradation of 'Kutchha roads constructed prior to 1980 in forest areas, to Pucca roads'.  
Sir,

In continuation of this Ministry's letter of even number dated 14-9-2004 regarding guidelines for repair and maintenance of roads constructed on forest lands prior to 1980, and with reference to the above-mentioned subject, I am directed to convey the approval of the Central Government to the following guidelines, meant for up-gradation of 'Kutchha roads constructed prior to 1980 in forest areas, to Pucca roads':

1. The up-gradation of roads constructed in forest areas prior to 1980 from 'Kutchha to Pucca' is allowed to the extent that these roads are not black topped/tarred, and if during the process of up-gradation, these roads need to be black topped/tarred, prior environmental clearance shall be sought by the user agency in this regard.
2. For such up-gradation in protected areas like National Park/Sanctuaries, prior permission of National Board of Wildlife and the Supreme Court shall be taken by the State / UT Government.
3. Fire for melting of coal tar and mixing, shall be lit at a safe distance from the trees/vegetation, which shall be decided by the concerned Divisional Forest Officer. For such constructions, it is better to avoid dry/hot windy seasons. For this purpose, fuelwood shall be purchased by the implementing agency in advance from the depot of State Forest Development Corporation.
4. No crushing/breaking of stones shall be allowed inside forest areas. Readymade materials shall be used for up-gradation of such roads.
5. Both sides of the upgraded roads shall be reinforced with brick/stone works, and vegetative measures to check soil erosion, at the project cost, in consultation with the Divisional Forest Officer.
6. No tree felling shall be allowed.
7. No widening of roads shall be undertaken without prior permission of the Central Government under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
8. No breaking of fresh forest land shall be carried out.
9. Plantation activities, if the concerned Divisional Forest Officer finds it necessary, shall be taken up along the road at the project cost immediately. The plantation shall be maintained at the project cost.
10. No labour camp shall be established on the forest lands.
11. No work shall be allowed after sunset.

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12. Any other condition that the Divisional Forest Officer may impose from time to time for the protection and improvement of flora and fauna in the forest area, shall be applicable.
13. Any damage to forest area due to such up-gradation works shall be compensated by the implementing agency from the project cost. The extent of damage shall be assessed by the concerned Divisional Forest Officer.
14. State Forest Department shall establish permanent check posts on strategic locations on such roads which are already up-graded/under up-gradation.

Yours faithfully,



(Anurag Bajpai)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, New Delhi.
2. Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, New Delhi.
3. Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India, New Delhi.
4. Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of India, New Delhi.
5. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, All States and UTs.
6. The Chief Conservator of Forests (Central), All Regional Offices, Ministry of Environment & Forests.
7. The Nodal Officer(FC), Forest Department, All States/UTs.
8. Director(FC)
9. AIGF(P)/AIGF(S)
10. Guard file.