

**F. No. 11- 317/ 2014-FC (pt.)**  
Government of India  
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change  
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan  
Aliganj, Jorbagh Road  
New Delhi - 110 001  
Dated: 7<sup>th</sup> November, 2014

To .

**The Chief Secretaries**  
All State / Union Territory Governments

**Sub:** Guidelines for diversion of forest land for non-forest purpose under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980- Non-availability of non-forest land for creation of compensatory afforestation- *reg.*

Sir,

I am directed to refer to this Ministry's letter No. 11-423/ 2011-FC dated 13<sup>th</sup> February 2012 on the above mentioned subject, wherein it has *inter-alia* been stipulated that no certificate regarding non-availability of non-forest land for compensatory afforestation in the entire State/UT may be issued by the Chief Secretary, unless he/she obtains joint certificate to this effect from each district collector and Divisional Forest Officer in respect of area under their jurisdiction. It has also been stipulated in this Ministry's said letter dated 13<sup>th</sup> February 2012 that certificate regarding non-availability of non-forest land for creation of compensatory afforestation shall be accepted only from States having area of forest land more than 50 % of their geographical area.

In partial modification of this Ministry's said letter No. 11-423/ 2011-FC dated 13<sup>th</sup> February 2012, this Ministry in consideration of requests received from various States and Ministries in the Central Government decided that certificate of non-availability of non-forest land for Compensatory afforestation may be accepted from Chief Secretaries of States and Union Territories having area of forest land more than 33 % of their geographical area, and communicated the same to States/ Union Territories vide letter of even number dated 25<sup>th</sup> August 2014. With a view to ensuring that certificate regarding non-availability of non-forest land/ revenue forest land in a State/ Union Territory is issued by the Chief Secretary in an informed and objective manner, this Ministry in the said letter of even number dated 25<sup>th</sup> August 2014 also communicated a format of certificate in this regard to be issued by the Chief Secretaries on their personal Stationary.

  
20/11/2014