F. No. FC-11/135/2024-FC
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road,
New Delhi: 110003
Dated: December, 2025

To

The Addl. Chief Secretaries of Forests/Principal Secretary (Forests),
State Governments of Odisha, Karnataka, Rajasthan,
Maharashtra, Gujarat and Goa

Sub: Authorization of Divisional Forest Officers to grant permission for exempted categories of survey and explorations in the forest areas – reg.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the guidelines issued by the Ministry, vide Letter 11/158/2024 dated 17.12.2024 and letter dated 18.08.2025 (Copies enclosed), relating to survey and exploratory drilling proposals. Under these guidelines, the Ministry has authorized the Divisional Forest Officer or Deputy Conservator of Forests to grant permission to the proposals related to survey and exploratory drilling in the forest area.

2. In this background, it has been observed that so far, only a few States have authorized the respective Divisional Forest Officer or Deputy Conservator of Forests to give permission for survey and explorations, in pursuance to the said guidelines. Further, in most States/UTs, the approval for such proposals are being granted at the Nodal Officer or State Government level. This situation is causing delays in the approval of such proposals. It is also pertinent to mention that under PARIVESH 2.0, a separate module and work flow has also been created for processing the proposals related to survey and explorations.

4. In view of above, I am directed to request the State/UTs to implement the provisions of guidelines dated 17.12.2024 and authorize the Divisional Forest Officer or Deputy Conservator of Forests to grant permission to the proposals related to survey and exploratory drilling in the forest areas, so as to ensure speedy processing and disposal of proposals, pertaining to survey and exploration.

This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.

Yours faithfully,

Digitally signed by
CHARAN JEET SINGH
Date: 11-12-2025
16:23:48

(Charan Jeet Singh)
Scientist 'E'

Copy to:

1. Secretary, Ministry of Mines /Coal /Steel/ Power
2. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, All States Governments and Union territory Administrations
3. Dy Director General of Forests (Central), all Regional Offices of the
4. MoEF&CC
5. Nodal Officers, dealing with the matters related to the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, all States Governments and Union territory Administrations