

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS

Tel/Fax: 24360379

No.IGF/FC/2002

Date:- 30.10.2002

To,

1. The Chief Secretary,
(All States/UTs)
2. The Secretary (Forests),
(All States/UTs)
3. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(All States/UTs)

Sub: - Eviction of illegal encroachment on forest lands in various States/UTs- Time Bound Action plan- Clarification thereof

Sir,

I would like to draw your attention to this Ministry's letter of even number dated 3.05.2002 on the above subject. This Ministry has received several communications from various individuals and organisations requesting us to stop the eviction of encroachments in various States. There vide this Ministry No. 30.1/90-FP dated 18.09.1990 relating to regularization of encroachments on forest lands.

This is to clarify that there is no change in the policy of the Ministry with regard to regularisation of pre-1980 eligible encroachments and the commitment with reference to forest tribal-interface on the disputed settlement claims. In respect of disputed claims of eligible encroachment of the tribals for want of First Offence Report/non-settlement of rights, etc. the States may consider setting up Commission/committees at the level of Districts involving Revenue, forest and Tribal Welfare Department for their settlement provided other conditions are fulfilled. A copy of the guidelines issued by the Ministry in 1990 is enclosed. In such identified cases the State Should submit their proposals to the Central Government so that final decision can be taken within a time-bound manner.

That State should simultaneously show progress on the eviction of ineligible encroachments. the States may consider 'in situ ' economic rehabilitation by involving these ineligible encroachers in forestry activities through Joint Forest Management. But forest land encroached for agriculture, building etc. will have to be vacated and put to forest use in the interest of Tribal Communities.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-
(Dr. V.K. BAHUGUNA)
Inspector General of Forests