

F. No. 11/158/2024-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: June, 2026

To

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

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

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the guidelines issued by the Ministry vide Letter No. 11/158/2024 dated 17.12.2024 and letter dated 18.08.2025 (copies enclosed), relating to survey and exploratory drilling proposals, wherein the Divisional Forest Officer/Deputy Conservator of Forests were envisaged to grant permission for proposals pertaining to survey and exploratory drilling in forest areas.

In this regard, it has been observed that only a few States/UTs have so far enabled the respective Divisional Forest Officer/Deputy Conservator of Forests to process and accord permission for such survey and exploratory activities in pursuance of the aforesaid guidelines.

In view of the above, it is clarified that, for the purpose of considering and granting permission to proposals relating to survey and exploratory drilling in forest areas falling under the exempted category, the Divisional Forest Officer/Deputy Conservator of Forests in whose territorial jurisdiction, the forest area lies, is the officer authorised to discharge the assigned functions as authorized officer under the said guidelines. States/UTs are accordingly requested to take necessary action to facilitate implementation of the aforesaid provisions.

This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.

Yours faithfully,

(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 MoEF&CC
4. Nodal Officers, dealing with the matters related to the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, all States Governments and Union

territory Administrations