

GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTS AND ENVIRONMENT
OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FOREST & HOFF :
MEGHALAYA

No.MFG.56/14/2016

Dated Shillong the Oct 2016

To,

Principal Secretary
 Forest & Environment Department
 Govt of Meghalaya, Shillong.

IG/EAP on tour

DIG/FP

25/10

Sub : Action taken report on the Guidelines for Felling and Transit Regulation for Tree Species grown on Non-forest lands/Private lands – Regarding

Ref : (i) Letter No. FOR.22/2004/310 dated 18th March 2015
 (ii) Letter of Govt of India F.No. 8-14/2004 – FP dated 08.03.2016
 (iii) Letter of Govt of India F.No. 8-14/2004 – FP dated Sept 2016

TO FAI

Sir,

With reference to the letters quoted above the remarks on the matter are as follows:

1. The undersigned had attended the Conference of PCCF & HoFFs, Additional CS and Principal Secretaries in charge of Forest Dept held in New Delhi on 21st and 22nd October 2016 which was convened by the MoEF & CC Govt of India. It was clarified to us by the Ministry Officials during the course of conference proceedings that the action taken report sought by Govt of India in the matter of "Guidelines for Felling and Transit Regulation for Tree Species grown on Non-forest lands/Private lands" refers to Agroforestry stands.
2. Meghalaya being a hilly state has no agroforestry at all since the percentage of the State's land covered by agriculture is very small. Therefore, there may not be any need to submit any kind of action taken report.

O/o IGF (EAP)
 Dy. No. 18/1
 Date: 25/10/16

3. In any case, though Meghalaya is endowed with forest cover of nearly 77% (as per latest SFR Report of FSI) only 5% of the geographical land is covered by forests which are under direct administration of the State Government the rest being administered by the Autonomous District Councils in view of provisions of VI Schedule of Constitution in its application to the State of Meghalaya. If any blanket inter-state movement of timber is permitted we may lose our meagre forest resources under control of the State Government. Even the forest cover in the District Council administered areas may shrink since any such inter-state movement of timber might encourage unscrupulous elements to remove timber from forest land in the garb of timber from non-forest areas. In view of these concerns the State of Meghalaya has enacted Meghalaya Forest (Removal of Timber Regulation) Act, 1981 after receiving the Presidential assent on 29th May 1981 regulating interstate movement of timber from Meghalaya. Enforcement of the suggested guidelines may need repealing the Act which may lead to public uproar.

Yours faithfully

(C. Budnah, IFS)

Principal Chief Conservator of Forest
& HOFF, Meghalaya, Shillong

BY FAX

Memo No. MFG.56/14/2016/10678
Copy forwarded to:

Dated Shillong the 24th Oct 2016

Smt Rekha Pai, Inspector General of Forests (EAP/Forest Policy) Indira Paryavaran Bhavan, Vayu Wing, 6th Floor, Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj, New Delhi 110 003. This has reference to instructions of the Ministry Officials during the recent conference (21st-22nd Oct16) to immediately communicate the remarks of PCCF & HoFF on the guidelines referred above.

(C. Budnah, IFS)

Principal Chief Conservator of Forest
& HOFF, Meghalaya, Shillong