

FOREST (CONSERVATION) ACT, 1980

REGISTERED No. D- Che Gazette of India EXTRAORDINARY PART II—Section PUBLISHED BY At z 7, 1 6, 1 902 NEW DELHI, SATURDAY. DECEMBER 27, 1980/PAUSA 6, 1902 Separate paging is given to this Part in order that it may be filed as a compilation MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (Legislative Department) of 27th 1980 'Pausa G. 1902 (Saka)' vide Act of Parliament received the assent of the President 27th December, 1980, and hereby published for general information. FOREST ACT, 1980 No. 69 OF 1980 [27th December, 1980.] An Act to provide for the conservation of forests and for matters connected therewith or ancillary or incidental thereto. BE it enacted by Parliament in the Thirty-first Year of the Republic of India as follows: 1. (1) This Act may be called the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. (2) It extends to the whole of India except the State of Jammu and (3) It shall be deemed to have come into force on the 25th day of October, 1980. 2. Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force in a State, no State Government or other authority shall make, except with the prior approval of the Central Government, any order directing— (i) that any reserved forest (within the meaning of the expression "reserved forest" in any law for the time being in force in that State) or any portion thereof, shall cease to be reserved; (ii) that any forest land or any portion thereof may be used for any non-forest purpose. Short title, extent commencement— Restriction on the reservation of forests or use of forest land for non-forest purpose" F 738 THE GAZETTE OF EXTRAORDINARY [PART SEC. 1] Constitution of Advisory Committee. Power to make rules. Repeal and saving. the purposes of this section non-forest purposes means breaking up or clearing of any forest land or portion thereto for any purpose other than reafforestation

3. The Central Government may constitute a Committee consisting of such number of persons as it may deem fit to advise that Government with regard to—(i) the grant of approval under section 2; and (ii) any other matter connected with the conservation of forests which may be referred to it by the Central Government. 4. (1) The Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the provisions of this Act. (2) Every rule made under this Act shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament, while it is in session, for a total period of thirty days which may be comprised in one session or in two or more successive sessions, and if, before the expiry of the session immediately following the session or the successive sessions aforesaid, both Houses agree in making any modification in the rule or both Houses agree that the rule should not be made, the rule shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be; so, however, that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that rule. 5. (1) The Forest (Conservation) Ordinance, 1980 is hereby repealed. (2) Notwithstanding such repeal, anything done or any action taken under the provisions of the Said Ordinance shall be deemed to have been done or taken under the corresponding provisions of this Act. R. V. S. PERI SASTRI, Secy. to the Govt. of India. 17 of 1980. PRINTED BY GENERAL MANAGER BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA