F.No.8-100/2002-FC Government of India Ministry of Environment & Forests (FC- Division)

Paryavaran Bhawan, CGO Complex, Lodi Road, New Delhi-110003. Dated: 31st March 2006.

Toι

The Secretary (Forests), Government of Arunachal Pradesh, Itanagar.

Sub: Diversion of forest land for construction of Lower Subansiri Hydroelectric project; payment of compensation to the villagers in Unclassed State Forest (USF) areas – regarding.

Sir,

Kindly refer to the State Government's letter No. FOR.10-34/CONS/2000/Vol-II/Pt/444-47 dated 03rd November 2005 seeking clarification regarding payment of compensation to the villagers for loss of their land in USF areas.

- 2. In this connection, I am directed to clarify that payment of compensation to the people displaced from USF or other areas, covered under the category of 'deemed forest land' (according to the widened meaning given to the word 'forest' by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India vide order dated 12.12.1996 in WP(C) No. 202 of 1995), which are diverted for nonforestry purposes under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, is the responsibility of the User Agency according to the policy of the concerned State/Union Territory Government and/or the Central Government regarding rehabilitation and resettlement of project affected people.
- 3. In so far as Net Present Value (NPV) of forest land is concerned, it is to clarify that the purpose of charging NPV of the forest land put to non-forestry use is to compensate the loss of environmental services that the forest land is capable of providing. In view of this, NPV cannot be used for any other purpose, including payment of compensation to the project affected people.

Yours faithfully,

(Sandeep Kumar)
Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:-

- 1. Secretary (Forests), Government of Assam, Dispur, Guwahati –6.
- 2. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Arunachal Pradesh, Itanagar.
- 3. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Assam, Rehabari, Guwahati-8.
- 4. Nodal Officer, O/o the PCCF, Arunachal Pradesh, Itanagar.
- 5. Nodal Officer, O/o the PCCF, Assam, Rehabari, Guwahati-8.
- 6. The CCF (Central), Regional Office, Shillong.
- 7. RO (HQ), MoEF, New Delhi.
- 8. Guard File.

(Sandeep Kumar)
Assistant Inspector General of Forests