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URGENT/ IMMEDIATE
TIME BOUND

F. No. 2-1/1997-FP (Vol. 7)
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
(Forest Policy Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
6th Floor, Vayu Wing,
Jorbagh Road, Aliganj
New Delhi-110003
Date: 25th July, 2017

To

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and HoFFs'
All State/UT Governments

Sub: Amendment to Section 2 (7) of the Indian Forest Act, 1927-regarding

Sir,

This is to inform that a proposal to amend sub-section (7) of section 2 under Chapter 1 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 is under consideration in the Ministry. The proposed amendment is regarding removal of "bamboo" and "cane" from the definition of tree under section 2(7) of IFA, 1927. A copy of the draft amendment Bill is also enclosed.

2. The rationale in brief for amending the definition of tree is being considered in view of the fact that the exemption of Bamboo and cane from definition of tree will exempt these species from the requirement of felling and transit permissions. This would encourage farmers and other interested land owners for taking up Bamboo & cane plantations in a big way. At present under Chapter 1, Section 7 of IFA, 1927 bamboo is defined as tree, though scientifically and taxonomically it is a grass, and since bamboo & cane is defined as a tree it attracts the provisions of felling and transit regulations of respective States as per the Section 41 of IFA.

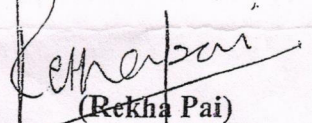
3. Though many States have exempted transit and felling regime for various species of bamboo within the States, however the inter-state movement of bamboo & cane still requires the permit when being in transit through different states. This has been identified as a major impediment for growth of bamboo & cane sector.

4. Further, amendment of definition of bamboo will also bring conformity with the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 as Bamboo is defined as Minor Forest Produce in the later Act.

5. In view of the above, it is requested the views/comments of the State Government may kindly be conveyed to the Ministry by 11.08.2017. This may please be accorded top priority.

Encl: as above.

Yours faithfully,



(Rekha Pai)

Inspector General of Forest (Forest Policy)

Copy to:

The Chief Secretary, All States/UTs Governments