

# **CENTRAL EMPOWERED COMMITTEE**

## **(CONSTITUED BY THE HON'BLE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA)**

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F. No. 1-5/CEC/SC/2024-Pt. XVI

Dated: 04.05.2025

### **Notice for Meeting**

**Sub: Hon'ble Supreme Court order dated 17<sup>th</sup> April, 2025 in Miscellaneous Application No. 41 of 2024 in C.A. No. 10294 of 2013 – regd.**

In CA No. 10294 of 2013, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in the Judgement dated 21.07.2022 has *inter alia* passed the following orders:

***“64. Thus, we hold that the lands covered by the special orders issued under Section 4 of PLPA have all the trappings of forest lands within the meaning of Section 2 of the 1980 Forest Act and, therefore, the State Government or competent authority cannot permit its use for non-forest activities without the prior approval of the Central Government with effect from 25<sup>th</sup> October 1980. Prior permission of the Central Government is the quintessence to allow any change of user of forest or so to say deemed forest land. We may add here that even during the subsistence of the special orders under Section 4 of PLPA, with the approval of the Central Government, the State or a competent authority can grant permission for non-forest use. If such non-forest use is permitted in accordance with Section 2 of the 1980 Forest Act, to that extent, the restrictions imposed by the special orders under Section 4 of PLPA will not apply in view of the language used in the opening part of Section 2 of the 1980 Forest Act. We also clarify that only because there is a notification issued under Section 3 of PLPA, the land, which is subject matter of such notification, will not ipso facto become a forest land within the meaning of the 1980 Forest Act.***

***65. Therefore, the lands covered by the special orders dated 18th August 1992 issued under Section 4 of PLPA will be governed by the orders passed by this Court in the Petition for Special Leave to Appeal (Civil) Nos.7220-7221 of 2017. Hence, all the concerned authorities shall take action to remove the remaining illegal structures standing on land covered by the special orders and used for non-forest activities on the said lands erected after 25th October 1980, without prior approval of the Central Government,***

***and further to restore status quo ante including to undertake reforestation/afforestation programmes in right earnest. As far as the lands covered by special orders under Section 5 are concerned, we are not making any adjudication. Therefore, the authorities will have to decide the status of the lands covered by the said orders under Section 5 on case-to-case basis.***

***66. To avoid any prejudice to the affected persons, we direct that before the action of removal of the illegal structures and/or action of stopping non-forest activities is taken in respect of the lands covered by the special orders dated 18<sup>th</sup> August 1992 issued under Section 4 of PLPA, the concerned competent authority shall afford an opportunity of being heard to the affected persons and conclude such proceedings finally not later than three months from today and submit compliance report in that regard within the same time.”***

2. A miscellaneous applicant no. 41/2024 has been filed in this CA and the order dated 17.04.2025 of this Hon’ble Court is as follows:

***“The issue is of compliance with directions issued under judgment dated 21st July, 2022. Learned Amicus with justification submits that the process of implementation has been very slow. Looking to the structures involved, for the time being, we extend the time to make compliance till 31st July, 2025.***

***Compliance report to be filed within 1st week of August, 2025 with a copy of CEC. CEC will examine the compliance and submit a report to this Court by end of August, 2025.”***

3. Hence the CEC would like to know about the status of compliance of the orders of the Hon’ble Supreme Court of India as mentioned in para 1 above and about the action plan that the State Government of Haryana has prepared for compliance within the time limits set by the Hon’ble Court as mentioned in para 2 above.

4. Accordingly, I have been directed to inform you that to discuss these issues, a meeting has been scheduled on **7<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at 16:00 hrs. onwards in the Meeting Room of the Central Empowered Committee, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Chanakya Bhawan, Chanakya Puri, New Delhi – 110021.**

5. The Chief Secretary, Government of Haryana, or his nominee, the Additional Chief Secretary (Environment, Forest & Wildlife), the Financial Commissioner Revenue,

Government of Haryana, the Commissioner & Secretary, Department of Urban Local Bodies, Government of Haryana and the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest & HoFF, Government of Haryana are requested to attend the meeting along with all the relevant documents / information related to matter.



**(Chandra Prakash Goyal)**  
**Member**

**Copy to the following for the information and necessary action:**

- i. The Chief Secretary, Government of Haryana, Panchkula.
- ii. The Additional Chief Secretary (Environment, Forest & Wildlife), Government of Haryana, Panchkula.
- iii. The Financial Commissioner Revenue, Government of Haryana, Panchkula
- iv. The Commissioner & Secretary, Department of Urban Local Bodies, Government of Haryana, Panchkula.
- v. The PCCF & HoFF, Government of Haryana, Panchkula.
- vi. All the members of the CEC.