

GOVT. OF ORISSA, R & DM DEPARTMENT

No. 38971/R&DM., Dated 11.10.2006

**11. Conversion of agricultural land for nonagricultural purposes -
Prevention of leakage of Government revenue :**

Ref. : 1. Circular No. 40032 dt. 14/10/2004.

2. Orissa gazette Notfn. No. 965, dt. 7.7.2006 - OLR (Amendment) Act, 2008.

With reference to the subject cited above, I am directed to say that the above cited circular at Reference 1 governs the points to be kept in mind by the Authorised Officer while exercising his functions under Rule 12-A.

It is once again reiterated that the authorized officer should make or cause enquiry as per the provisions u/r 12-A OLR (General) Amendment Rules, 1997 and ensure the following aspects before granting permission.

1. The proposed conversion does not obstruct natural water courses like stream, nala, Nayanjories, or any drainage channel and irrigation channel.
2. It does not cause any inconvenience or difficulty to the neighbouring land owners.
3. It shall be ascertained for what purpose the land will be used after conversion and whether the conversion will not affect the normal agricultural operation in the neighbourhood.
4. It should be seen that whether the present conversion along with the conversion already allowed will obstruct the passage of men, animals and agricultural implements.
5. It should also be seen that small scale industries set up on the converted land do not affect in any way the agricultural operation in the neighbouring plots.

It is requested that suitable instructions may please be issued to all concerned to follow the procedure laid down in Rule 12-A of the Act meticulously and ensure that no agricultural land particularly lying in ayacut areas of irrigation projects are allowed for conversion for non-agricultural purpose without sufficient reasons.

It is also equally important that the revenue machinery is watchful as to whether cases of conversion may be happening without valid orders under Section 8-A of OLR Act.

It is hereby cautioned that all steps need to be taken to see that the conversion fees due under the Act is realized without fail. It is instructed that the authorized officer, while conducting enquiry in the field shall also verify the physical status of neighbouring lands. He shall initiate cases U/S 8(1)(C) of OLR Act against such neighbouring raiyats, if they have unauthorizedly converted agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes.

He should appropriately dispose of such cases of neighbouring lands, so that agricultural land conversion to non-agriculture purposes shall necessarily happen only after realization of conversion fees and the valid orders U/S 8 of OLR Act, but not otherwise.

Yours faithfully
Sd/-

Commissioner-cum-Secretary to Government