

# PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PUNJAB

## NOTIFICATION

April 20, 2016

**No.PAP/Legis-2(119)/2016/1412.** The Punjab Forest (Amendment) Bill 2016, having been passed by the Provincial Assembly of the Punjab on April 14, 2016, and assented to by the Governor of the Punjab on April 19, 2016, is hereby published as an Act of the Provincial Assembly of the Punjab.

## THE PUNJAB FOREST (AMENDMENT) ACT 2016

### ACT XXVI OF 2016

*[First published, after having received the assent of the Governor of the Punjab, in the Gazette of the Punjab (Extraordinary) dated April 20, 2016.]*

#### An Act

*further to amend the Forest Act, 1927.*

It is necessary further to amend the Forest Act, 1927 (*XVI of 1927*) to make appropriate provisions for the use of reserved or protected forest land, where inevitable, for national projects of strategic importance.

Be it enacted by Provincial Assembly of the Punjab as follows:

**1. Short title and commencement.**— (1) This Act may be cited as the Punjab Forest (Amendment) Act 2016.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

**2. Amendment in section 27 of Act XVI of 1927.**— In the Forest Act, 1927 (*XVI of 1927*), for brevity cited as ‘the said Act’, in section 27, after subsection (2), the following subsections (3) and (4) shall be inserted:

“(3) Notwithstanding anything contained in this section, the Government, with the approval of the Provincial Cabinet, may, by notification in the official Gazette, declare a reserved forest or any part of a reserved forest as no longer reserved forest, if the organization requiring reserved forest land:

- (a) satisfies the Government with cogent reasons in writing that there is no other option but to use the proposed reserved forest land for purposes of a national project of strategic importance;
- (b) provide a substitute plant-able land agreed to by the Government, which is:
  - (i) equal to or bigger than the reserved forest land;
  - (ii) in a compact form and is, as far as possible, situated close to the reserved forest land; and
- (c) provide funds for immediate forestation and maintenance of the substitute land as may be prescribed.

(4) The Government shall, by notification, declare the substitute land provided under subsection (3) as the reserved forest.”

**3. Amendment in section 34-A of Act XVI of 1927.**— In the said Act, in section 34-A, after subsection (2), the following subsections (3) and (4) shall be inserted:

“(3) Notwithstanding anything contained in this section, the Government, with the approval of the Provincial Cabinet, may, by notification in the official Gazette, declare a protected forest or any part of a protected forest as no longer protected forest, if the organization requiring reserved forest land:

- (a) satisfies the Government with cogent reasons in writing that there is no other option but to use the proposed protected forest land for purposes of a national project of strategic importance;
- (b) provide a substitute plant-able land agreed to by the Government, which is:
  - (i) equal to or bigger than the protected forest land;
  - (ii) in a compact form and is, as far as possible, situated close to the protected forest land; and
- (c) provide funds for immediate forestation and maintenance of the substitute land as may be prescribed.

(4) The Government shall, by notification, declare the substitute land provided under subsection (3) as the protected forest.”

**4. Repeal.**— The Punjab Forest (Amendment) Ordinance, 2016 (IX of 2016) is hereby repealed.

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**Rai Mumtaz Hussain Babar**  
**Secretary**