

Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Aliganj, Jorbagh Road,
New Delhi-110003
Dated: 6th September, 2021

To
The Principal Secretary (Forests),
All State Governments/UT Administrations

Sub: Allowing reconstruction of Transmission Lines in Forest area which are constructed prior to Forest (Conservation) Act 1980 without insisting for obtaining fresh approval.- regarding.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the letter no. CM/190/GoI/2021 dated 03.07.2021 received from Government of Karnataka requesting to allow execution/ reconstruction and upgradation of transmission lines in the existing corridor in forest areas without insisting on fresh approvals.

2. In this regard it is informed that the matter was considered by the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) in its meeting held on 16.08.2021. Based on the recommendation of the FAC and approval of the same by the competent authority, it is hereby clarified that the works related to repair and maintenance of transmission lines may be carried out, with prior permission of the State Forest Department subject to fulfillment of following conditions:

- i. The transmission lines were constructed on forest land prior to 25.10.1980 (date of enactment of FC Act, 1980);
- ii. These lines fall outside the Protected Areas;
- iii. No breaking up of forest land or felling of tree shall be allowed;
- iv. While carrying out repair and maintenance of transmission lines, adequate precautions should be undertaken by the user agency to avoid any damage to flora and fauna;
- v. No crushing/breaking of stones shall be allowed inside forest areas. Ready-made materials shall be used for up-gradation of such lines and no new roads shall be constructed for the purpose of maintenance. However user agency may be allowed to use the existing forest roads and paths for the work;
- vi. No labour camp shall be allowed on the forest land;
- vii. No widening of the existing roads/paths in the forest area is allowed. The vegetation within the ROW shall not be disturbed;

viii.Any other condition the Divisional Forest Officer may impose from time to time in the interest of forest conservation and protection.

This issues with the approval of competent authority.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-

(Sandeep Sharma)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, All State Governments/UT Administrations.
2. The Regional Officers, All Integrated Regional Offices of the MoEFCC.
3. The APCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Forest Dept., All State Governments/UT Administrations
4. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF, New Delhi.