

F.No. 11-9/98 - FC  
Government of India  
Ministry of Environment and Forests  
F.C. Division

Paryavaran Bhawan,  
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road,  
New Delhi - 110 003.  
Dated: 15.06.2004

To

The Secretary (Forests),  
(All States/UTs).

**Sub: Guidelines for diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 - clarification thereof.**

Sir,

In continuation of Ministry of Environment & Forests letter of even number dated 19-09-2003 on the abovementioned subject wherein a general approval was granted under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 by the Central Government for diversion of forest land for underground laying of optical fiber cables, underground electric cables, underground laying of telephone lines and underground laying of drinking water supply pipelines subject to certain conditions, the following clarification is hereby issued for further necessary action:

*"Government of India has granted general approval under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of forest land for such public utility projects and delegated the power to the State / UT Governments, to expedite the disposal of such projects of public utility, subject to fulfillment of certain conditions as stipulated in the letter of even number dated 16-10-2000. Since, this general approval was given with the condition that such projects should not involve tree felling, therefore, the question of compensatory afforestation does not arise. In case tree felling is involved and the diverted forest area is up to 1 ha., plantation of 10 times the number of trees likely to be felled will have to be carried out by way of compensatory afforestation".*

Yours faithfully,



(ANURAG BAJPAI)

Asstt. Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:-

1. All PCCFs/Nodal Officers (All States/UTs)
2. All Regional Offices
3. Director(FC), AIGs(FC).