F. No. 11-09/98-FC Government of India Ministry of Environment, Forest and Change: (Forest Conservation Division:

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan Aliganj, Jorbagh Road New Delhi - 110 001 Dated: 25th February, 2016

To

The Principal Secretary (Forests)
All States / Union Territories

Sub: General approval under section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of forest land for creation of critical public utility infrastructure by Government Departments involving not more than 5.00 hectares of forest land in each case in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected districts-reg.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to this Ministry's letters of even number dated 13th May, 2011, 10th December 2012, 1st February, 2013, 17th May 2013 and 5th March 2014 read with this Ministry's letter of even number dated 16th June 2011, on the above-mentioned subject, wherein this Ministry accorded general approval under section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of forest land for creation of critical public utility infrastructure of certain categories, as specified in these letters by Government Departments involving not more than 5.00 hectares of forest land in each case in 117 Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected districts, as specified in these letters, subject to conditions specified in these letters read with this Ministry's letter of even number dated 16th June 2011, for a period ending on 31st December 2015.

- 2. I am also directed to refer to this Ministry's letter of even number dated 4th July 2014 on the above-mentioned subject wherein this Ministry extended the said general approval to projects involving diversion of forest land, not located within the protected areas, for construction of two lane public roads by Government Departments in the said 117 LWE affected districts, irrespective of the area of forest land involved in such projects, for a period ending on 31st December 2015.
- 3. This Ministry has received representations to extend the period of validity of these general approvals.
- 4. Accordingly, after careful examination of the matter in this Ministry, I am directed to say that period of validity of the afore-mentioned general approvals has been extended till the period ending on 31st December, 2018.

100-10 ML

Electrical Executive Engineer
Transition Division