

F. No. 11-9/98/FC

Dated: 15.06.2004

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

LAYING OF UNDERGROUND TELEPHONE LINES AND DRINKING WATER SUPPLY
PIPELINES

Sir,

In continuation of Ministry of Environment & Forests Lr.No. even dt: 19.9.2003 on the above mentioned 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 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 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 No. dt: 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 upto 1 Ha Plantation of 10 times the number of trees likely to be carried out by way of compensatory afforestation.

(ANURAG BAJPAI)

Asstt. Inspector General of Forests

F.No.1-14/2003-FC

Dated: 23.6.2004

Sub: Guidelines for diversion of forest land for non-forestry purpose under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 – Clarification regarding processing of proposals for **approach roads of the petrol pumps**.

Sir,

I am directed to invite your kind attention to the above-mentioned subject. In this regard, it has come to the notice of the Ministry of Environment & Forests that the proposals of approach roads for the petrol pumps at different locations/ districts in Gujarat for the same user agency are being merged by the Regional Office, Bhopal and in that way the area becomes more than one hectare. Then the user agency is being asked for the Compensatory Afforestation over non-forest land.

In this context, I am directed to clarify that the proposals of approach roads for the petrol pumps at different locations/ districts could be processed as a bunch by the State Government but cannot be considered as a single proposal and have to be given approval separately for each case. For ease of working, approval can be conveyed for each bunch in a single letter giving details of each proposal. This issues with the approval of competent authority.

(ANURAG BAJPAI)

Asstt. Inspector General of Forests