

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

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Aliganj, Jorbagh Road,
New Delhi-110003

Dated: July, 2023

To

The Addl. Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary (Forests),
All State/UT Governments

Sub: Streamlining the process of approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for laying of optical fiber cable (OFC) in the RoWs of roads - reg.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the above mentioned subject and to say that matter regarding process involved in the grant of approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for laying of OFC in the RoW of roads was reviewed in the Ministry. It is observed that OFCs are laid within the RoW of roads which has already been allowed for non-forestry use, therefore, the process of re-diversion for laying of OFC has been streamlined as under:

- i. No detail, pertaining to the approvals granted in respect of existing poles located in the RoW of the road which have been constructed prior to 1980, will be insisted by the States/UTs. Further, detail of approvals, as available with the State/UTs authorities pertaining to the existing poles located within the RoW of roads which have been constructed after 1980 will be shared with the concerned agency of the DoT in the State/UTs to enable processing of their proposals located in the RoWs of the roads.
- ii. In cases where KML files, prepared using DGPS tools are not available, the KML files prepared using GIS tools at the time of initial alignment surveys of OFC cable by the user agencies may be considered in respect of forest land involved in the re-diversion proposal for laying of OFC cable.

This issues with the approval of competent authority.

Yours faithfully,

(Charan Jeet Singh)
Scientist 'D'

Copy to:

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, All State/UT Governments
2. The Dy Director General of Forests (Central), All Regional Offices of the MoEF&CC
3. The Addl. PCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), Office of the PCCF, All State/UIT Governments
4. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF, New Delhi
5. Guard File