

File No. **17/11/2021-FC**
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Aliganj, Jor Bagh Road,
New Delhi – 110003
Dated: February, 2025

To

The Addl. Chief Secretaries of Forests/Principal Secretary (Forests),
All States Governments and Union territory Administrations

Sub: Modification of guidelines issued for allowing repair and maintenance of transmission lines in the forest area constructed prior to enactment of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 – reg.

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer the State Government of Karnataka's DO No. Energy:69:PPT: 2020 dated 7.12.2024 on the above subject wherein the State Government has sought modification of guidelines relating to repair and maintenance of transmission lines in the forest area constructed prior to 1980, as incorporated at para 10.3 of Chapter-10 of the Consolidated Guidelines issued by the MoEF&CC on 29.12.2023. In this connection, it is to inform that the issue was considered by the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 27.01.2025. The detailed minutes of the said meeting may be accessed on the website of this Ministry at <https://parivesh.nic.in>.

Based on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee and approval of the same by the Competent Authority of MoEF&CC, New Delhi, the Central Government hereby amend and substitute the para 10.3(ii), 10.3(iii) and 10.3(vii) of Chapter-10 of the Consolidated Guidelines issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 by the Ministry on 29.12.2023 with the following:

- i. Breaking of forest land limited for laying of foundation and erection of new towers can be allowed in the existing corridor permitted as per guidelines of the Central Electricity Authority.
- ii. The old dilapidated towers shall be dismantled and removed before the commissioning of new towers.
- iii. Felling of trees during the repair and maintenance of old transmission lines should be avoided to the extent possible. However, under unavoidable circumstances, limited felling of trees may be permitted subject to condition that felling of such trees shall be compensated by the user agency by paying the cost of plantation of trees, 10 times to the trees required to felled during such repair and maintenance.
- iv. The State Forest Department shall carry out the plantation, from such payments collected from User Agencies, on degraded forest lands.
- v. Repair, maintenance or upgradation of transmission in National Parks/Wildlife

Sanctuaries and Tiger Reserves and Tiger Corridors shall be undertaken in the following manner:

- a. Minor modifications and repairs of transmission lines can be undertaken without any recourse to the NBWL provided such works are covered under the scope of original permission.
 - b. In cases where the replacement of an existing transmission tower is proposed, and the construction of a new tower and laying of new transmission lines is involved, such activities shall necessitate obtaining the prior recommendations of the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife (SCNBWL), as per applicable laws and guidelines.
- vi. The work related to repair, maintenance or upgradation of the transmission lines in the forest areas shall be completed in a minimum possible time, which in any case should not exceed six months.

This issue with the approval of Competent Authority of the Ministry.

Yours faithfully,

(Charan Jeet Singh)
Scientist 'E'

Copy to:

1. PCCF & HoFF, all States Governments /Union territory Administrations
2. Dy Director (Central), Regional Office, MoEF&CC
3. Nodal Officers (Van Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan), O/o PCCF & HoFF, all States Governments /Union territory Administrations
4. Monitoring Cell, Forest Conservation Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi
5. Director, NIC (Technical) with a request to upload a copy of the Guidelines on PARIVESH
6. Guard File