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

Sir,

Detailed guidelines for submission of proposals for diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 were finalised and circulated to all the State Government/Union Territories on 25.10.1992. A constant review of these guidelines has been done from time to time.

After a recent review the Ministry vide letter of even number dated 16.10.2000 and 31.10.2001 had conveyed its general approval under section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of forest land for underground laying of optical fiber cables, underground electricity cables, underground laying of telephone lines & underground laying of drinking water supply pipelines subject to certain parameters/conditions and was initially for a period of two years w.e.f. 16.10.2000. Now, in continuation of the above mentioned letters, the period of general permission is extended for a period of one year i.e. with effect from 16.10.2002 to 15.10.2003 subject to all the stated parameters and conditions stipulated in the letters dated 16.10.2000 and 31.10.2001.