

Copy of letter F.No.11-9/98-FC dated 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2006 from Shri Pankaj Asthana, Assistant Inspector General of Forests, Government of India, Ministry of Environment and Forests, F.C. Division, Paryavaran Bhawan, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003 to the Principal Secretary (Forests), All States/ UTs & copy to all PCCFs etc. Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Rajasthan, Jaipur endorsement No. F.16(Circular)2005/FP/PCCF/8903-9052 dated 13 October,2006

Sub.: Guidelines for diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980- General approval under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980- modification thereof.

Sir,

The State Government of Jharkhand has raised the issue of extending general approval granted vide this office letter of even no. dated 03.01.2005, to 33KV/11KV transmission lines also, so as facilitate laying of transmission lines in rural areas.

The Ministry has granted general approval under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservatin) Act, 1980 on 03.01.2005 for diversion of upto 1.00 ha. of forest land for various projects to be executed by the Government Departments, with a view to facilitating developmental activities in the rural areas of States. The general approval dated 03.01.2005 granted by the Central Government already includes electric lines. The State Government of Jharkhand may, therefore, lay 11 KV/33 KV Transmission Lines (TL) as per the conditions already stipulated in the general granted on 03.01.2005.

However, for laying of such TL on already diverted forest land for road, railway tracks, electric lines, no separate clearance under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 will be required. In such cases, the TL may be laid, after submission of a proposal by the user agency and after getting the approval for change in land use of already diverted forest land, from the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests/ Nodal Officer (FC) of the State Government.

All other States / Union Territories Government may also take similar action in respect of above mentioned transmission lines.