

ACS, Forest Dept.

Reg. No. 311

10/2/23

185

**F.No.6-175/2017 WL (pt)**

Government of India

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change  
(Wildlife Division)

Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, West Bengal (IC- Reg. No. <u>203</u> Case No. .... Date: <u>15.02.2023</u>
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2nd Floor, Vayu Wing,  
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,  
Jor Bag Road, New Delhi 110003.

Date: 7th February, 2023

To,

1. Chief Secretaries all States/UTs
2. Principal Secretaries, Forest Departments, all States/UTs
3. Member Secretaries, State Boards for Wild Life and Chief Wild Life Wardens, all States/UTs

**Sub:** Delegation to State Boards for Wild Life in matters pertaining to the underground laying of OFC, power lines up to 11 kV and drinking water supply pipelines within right of way.

Sir,

The Standing Committee in its 46<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2017 had decided to delegate its powers for sanctioning proposals for underground laying of drinking water pipeline and optical fibre cables falling inside the Protected Areas (PAs) along the right of way of roads inside National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries and Tiger Reserves or any other Protected Area notified under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to the State Boards for Wild Life (SBWL) for five years. The Ministry issued an advisory to all states/UTs to this effect vide letter dated 13<sup>th</sup> February, 2018.

2. The matter was discussed by the Standing Committee in its 71<sup>st</sup> meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> December, 2022. After discussions, the Standing Committee decided to extend delegation of powers to State Boards for Wild Life for sanctioning proposals for underground laying of drinking water pipeline, optical fibre cables and power lines up to 11 kV within the allowed right of way of roads inside National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries and Tiger Reserves or any other Protected Area notified under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 for a further period of five years.

3. Accordingly, permits for underground laying of drinking water pipeline, optical fibre cables and power lines up to 11 kV within the allowed right of way of roads inside National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries and Tiger Reserves or any other Protected Area notified under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 may be granted by the Chief Wild Life Warden after recommendations of State Boards

✓ PCCF (WFF)  
CWLW  
SS

IMPORTANT  
CCF HQ & CCF  
PCCF  
Pt. put up for  
signature 11/2/23

13.02.23

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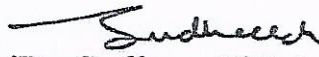
for Wild Life and approval of State/UT Governments without these proposals being referred for consideration of the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wild Life subject to the following conditions:

- i. The size of the trench will not exceed more than 2.0 m depth and 1.0 m width;
- ii. The user agency agrees to make good the land after use / maintenance;
- iii. The user agency agrees to make good any loss to forest / environment;
- iv. The user agency seeks permission from the State Forest Department for carrying out any maintenance;
- v. The diameter of drinking water pipeline shall commensurate with the width of the trench mentioned above.
- vi. No civil structures will be built with the underground laying of drinking water pipeline, power lines and optical fibre cables;
- vii. The user agency will have to submit NOC from the agency which holds the right to use the right of way;
- viii. The State Government / Union Territories shall ensure that the length of the length of trench dug at a time does not exceed 500 m, filled up and compacted before digging next stretch of 500 m;
- ix. The State Board for Wild Life shall also suggest the time frame for completing the work of underground laying of drinking water pipeline, power lines and optical fiber cables within the PAs after taking into account all the factors/issues involve in the work;
- x. The user agency shall provide water supply points within the PAs if demanded by the Chief Wild Life Warden or in-charge of PA but not more than per sq.km;
- xi. This delegation shall be valid till 31.12.2027;
- xii. The State Government / Union Territories will submit a monthly progress report on the extent of the forestland diverted for such purposes to the Ministry as well as the concerned Regional Offices.

4. The State Boards for Wild Life may further consider delegating the above powers to the Standing Committees of the State Boards for Wild Life once constituted after the commencement of Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Act, 2022.

This issues with the approval of competent authority.

Yours faithfully,

  
**(Dr. Sudheer Chintalapati)**  
Scientist 'E'  
Email: adwl-mefcc@gov.in

### Distribution

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6. Director, GEER Foundation, Gandhinagar, Gujarat
7. Prof. R. Sukumar, Member, NBWL
8. Dr. H.S. Singh, Member, NBWL
9. Pr. Secretary, Forest Department, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh
10. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Forest Force,  
All States/UTs

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to JD(WL)

*Sudheer*  
**(Dr. Sudheer Chintalapati)**  
Scientist 'E'  
Email: adwl-mefcc@gov.in

No. : 12240/CS/2M-991/19 (RV)

Dated: 24/02/2023.

### Copy forwarded for information to:

- 1) The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Wildlife & Chief Wildlife Warden, West Bengal.
- 2) The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Research, Monitoring & Development, West Bengal.
- 3) The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and CEO, CAMPA, West Bengal.
- 4) The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, General, West Bengal.
- 5) All Additional Principal Chief Conservators of Forests, West Bengal.
- 6) All Chief Conservators of Forests, West Bengal.
- 7) All Conservators of Forests, West Bengal.
- 8) All Divisional Forest Officers/ Deputy Conservators of Forests/ Deputy Field Directors/ Directors, West Bengal.

*Sudheer*  
24.02.2023  
Chief Conservator of Forests,  
Headquarters, Bengal.