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Green norms relaxation in naxal areas to continue till 2018

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NEW DELHI: To expedite creation of public infrastructure in Left Wing Extremism affected areas by government departments, the Centre on Sunday extended the relaxation of green norms for these projects till December 2018.

"Realising the importance of developmental activities in the LWE affected areas, the general

approval as contained in the environment ministry letter, dated May 13, 2011, has been extended up to December 31, 2018, as per the extant terms and conditions," an environment ministry statement said.

To expedite the creation of public utility infrastructure in 60 LWE affected districts identified by the Planning Commission for implementation of the Integrated Action Plan (IAP), the ministry through its May 13, 2011 letter had accorded general approval under section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, the ministry said while elaborating on the general approval process.

This, the ministry said, was for creation of critical public utility infrastructure by government departments, not involving more than 5.00 hectares of forest land.

"This provision was further extended to a total of 117 LWE affected districts. The approval was valid upto December 31, 2015," the statement said.

The general approval was granted, keeping in view the importance of creation of public utility infrastructure including schools, dispensaries, hospitals, electric and telecommunication lines, drinking water projects, rainwater harvesting structures, and minor irrigation canals.

The infrastructure also included skill up-gradation and vocational training centres, power sub-stations, rural roads, communication posts, police establishments like police stations outposts and others border outposts in sensitive areas identified by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

It also includes underground laying of optical fibre cables, telephone lines and drinking water supply lines in Left-Wing Extremism affected areas.

A large number of road widening and improvement projects, police infrastructure projects, drinking water and power transmission projects also come under it.

It covers important projects like construction of government polytechnic at Bagodhar in Giridih, Jharkhand, construction of Kendriya Vidyalaya at Deogarh , Odisha, Sloni Kanya Ashram Project and Magarlodha Boys School Project in Dhamtari, Chhattisgarh, women ITI training centre in Kanker, Chhattisgarh and construction of government medical college at Kudwa, Gondia, Maharashtra.

Projects like Vocational Bamboo Research and Training Centre at Chandrapur, Maharashtra and establishment of Telangana School of horticulture in Medak, Telangana, have also benefited from this general approval in recent years, the ministry said.

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The report, conducted in nearly 70 countries, also demonstrates that global green building continues to double every three years.

NEW DELHI: Green building industry will grow by 20 per cent in India in the next three years, mainly on account of environmental regulation and rising demand, a report said.

The US Green Building Council (USGBC) has announced the results of the Dodge Data & Analytics World Green Building Trends 2016 SmartMarket Report, in which the USGBC is a

contributing partner.

"The new report finds that by 2018, the green building industry in India will grow by 20 per cent driven largely by environmental regulations and demand for healthier buildings," USGBC said in a statement.

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