

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS  
(RAILWAY BOARD)**

**No. 2003/Tele/RCIL/1 Pt.IX      New Delhi, Dated 14.01.2022**

**General Managers,  
All Indian Railways**

**Sub: Procedure for undertaking digging work in the vicinity of Signaling, Electrical and Telecommunication Cable.  
Ref: Board's Letter of even number dated 24.06.2013. (Copy Attached)**

In order to avoid incidents of cable cut, a Joint Procedure Order (JPO) regarding the digging work in the vicinity of Signaling, Electrical and Telecommunication cables was issued vide this office letter of even number dated 24.06.2013 (Telecom Circular No. 17/2013). A cable cut reduces the life of cable, degrades the quality of services running on it besides causing financial loss to Railways on account of disruption of train services.

Instances of cable cuts during construction/digging work are being noticed in Zonal Railways mainly due to lack of requisite coordination between the concerned departments. The non-adherence to the provisions of JPO and loss to public Exchequer due to non-realisation of penalty from the contractor has come under increased scrutiny of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India and has attracted adverse criticism. Audit Para No. 3.9 of C&AG's Report No.5 of 2021 and Provisional para No.26 of C&AG's report for the year ending 31st March, 2020 can be referred in this regard.

Zonal Railways are, therefore, advised that the provisions of JPO for undertaking digging work in the vicinity of Signaling, Electrical and Telecommunication cables be strictly adhered to and penalty be realised from the erring contractor by the concerned department.

Kindly acknowledge receipt.

**DA: As above**

**(Dharmendra Singh)  
Director Telecom**

**Copy to:**

- i. PCSTEs All Indian Railways.
- ii. CMD/RCIL