

By e-mail



ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE  
& FOREST(FR.10) DEPARTMENT,  
SECRETARIAT, CHENNAI 9.

Letter No.16791/FR.10/2022-1, dated 31.10.2022

From  
Tmt.Supriya Sahu, IAS.,  
Additional Chief Secretary to Government.

To

✓ The Assistant Inspector General of Forests (Central),  
Government of India,  
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change,  
Integrated Regional Office,  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Additional Office Block for GPOA,  
Shastri Bhawan, Haddows Road,  
Nungambakkam, Chennai-600 006 (w.e).

Sir,

Sub: Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 – Proposal (FP/TN/Others/  
30206/2017) for diversion of 0.76 ha of forest land (0.477 ha in  
Dharmapuri Forest Division and 0.315 ha in Hosur Wildlife  
Division) for laying of underground Optical Fiber Cable along  
Dharmapuri to Anchetty road of Hogenakkal stretch in  
Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri Districts in favour of M/s Reliance  
Jio Infocomm Limited, Chennai – 4 - Proposal forwarding off –  
Regarding.

Ref: From the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest  
Force), letter No.TS3/ 7005/2020, dated 21.09.2022.

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I am directed to enclose a copy of the reference cited and to state that, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force) in his letter cited has stated that, M/s Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited, Chennai-4 has uploaded online forest clearance proposal under section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 0.477 ha of forest land in Dharmapuri Forest Division and 0.315 ha of forest land in Hosur Wildlife Division for laying of underground Optical Fiber Cable along Dharmapuri to Anchetty road of Hogenakkal stretch in Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri Districts.

2. In the Part-II of Form-A by the District Forest Officer, Dharmapuri Division and Wildlife Warden, Hosur Division respectively, has furnished the following details:-

**I. Dharmapuri Division areas**

- i. The legal status of the proposed diversion of 0.445 ha of forest land is Reserved Forests. Area of forest land involved is 0.445 ha comprising of following area: Segment-I of 0.370 ha of forest area lies in Pennagaram Reserved Forest (0.341 ha) and Woddapatty RF (0.029 ha) and Segment-II of 0.075 ha of forest area lies in Woddapatty RF (0.075 ha).



- ii. Density of the forest area is 0.4 and Eco class of forest area is three.
- iii. Species wise and girth class wise enumeration of trees in the area is NIL. Hence there is no felling of planted or spontaneous trees involved.
- iv. On vulnerability of the forest land proposed for diversion, no heavy erosion occurs.
- v. The forest area proposed for diversion does not form part of National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant corridor, Wildlife migration corridor etc., and not located within the eco-sensitive zone of the protected area notified under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and not located within 1 km boundary of NP/WLS etc., for the forest land proposed for diversion. There is no rare/ endangered/ unique species of flora and fauna found in the area. Details of wildlife present in and around the forest land proposed for diversion reported as seasonal movement of wildlife is found in summer.
- vi. There is no protected archaeological/ heritage site/ defense establishment or any other important monument is located in the area.
- vii. Requirement of forest land as proposed by the User Agency is unavoidable and bare minimum for the project and no work in violation of the Act or guidelines has been carried out.
- viii. Forest area proposed for diversion is 0.445 ha and there is no felling of trees involved.
- ix. For the proposed diversion of 0.76 ha of forest area in Dharmapuri Forest Division area and Hosur Wildlife Division area, combined Compensatory Afforestation scheme has been proposed at a total cost of Rs.32.755 lakhs for planting of 1520 number of taller seedlings in 1.52 ha of area (@ 1000 No per ha) in Masakkal Reserved Forest of Pennagaram Range with maintenance of plantation over a period of 10 years including chain link fencing around the plantation to prevent biotic pressure (@ Rs. 8,73,620) and engaging protection mazdoor for three year period (@ Rs.7,48,260). Certificate regarding suitability of compensatory afforestation land furnished.
- x. In the site inspection report and recommendation of the project, the District Forest Officer, Dharmapuri Division has stated that, site inspection carried out on 09.02.2021. This proposal is for linear project and it has been proposed along the stretches of Pennagaram-Anchetty road, which is passing through the Pennagaram Reserved Forest and Woddapatty Reserved Forest of Hogenakkal Range. The proposed alignment of laying Optical Fiber Cable lies along one side of the existing black topped road from Bevanur Check post to Hogenakkal and again from Ootamalai to Billigundu. The alignment of the proposed Optical Fiber Cable does not involve any tree felling, there would be no disturbance to wild flora and fauna. The Optical Fiber Cable is proposed to be laid underground along the side of the road by way of digging trench of size 0.30m width and 0.60m depth.
- xi. In the recommendation of the project proposal, the District Forest Officer, Dharmapuri Division has reported that, as the proposed alignment of laying Optical Fiber Cable lies along one side of the existing black topped road, the negative impact of project is very minimal. Based on the field condition, diversion of 14.80km length involving 0.445 ha for the Optical Fiber Cable project has been recommended. The User Agency agreed to fill the



excavated earth immediately after laying cables. The work will be permitted after strict supervision of forest officers. Possible damage to wild flora and fauna due to this project is very low and there is no tree felling involved. Considering the above facts and field observation, the proposal has been recommended for seeking diversion of land.

## **II. Hosur Wildlife Division areas**

- I. The legal status of the proposed diversion of 0.315 ha of forest land is Reserved Forests. Name of the forest land reported as "Woddapatty and Biligundulu Reserved Forest's of Anchetty Range" and extent of area proposed for diversion is 0.315 ha.
- II. Density of the forest area is 0.4 and Eco class of forest area is three.
- III. Species wise and girth class wise enumeration of trees in the area is NIL. Hence there is no felling of planted or spontaneous trees involved.
- IV. On vulnerability of the forest land proposed for diversion, it is a linear project along the existing road side without having to change the landscape profile, hence no soil to be eroded.
- V. The forest area proposed for diversion does not form part of National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant corridor, Wildlife migration corridor etc., and not located within the eco-sensitive zone of the protected area notified under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and not located within 1 km boundary of NP/WLS etc., for the forest land proposed for diversion. Details of wildlife present in and around the forest land reported as Elephant, Indian hare, Spotted deer, Indian guar etc., and reported that rare/ endangered / unique species of flora and fauna are found in the area.
- VI. There is no protected archaeological / heritage site / defense establishment or any other important monument is located in the area.
- VII. Requirement of forest land as proposed by the User Agency is unavoidable and bare minimum for the project and no work in violation of the Act or guidelines has been carried out.
- VIII. Forest area proposed for diversion is 0.315 ha and there is no felling of trees involved.
  - a) Since compensatory afforestation scheme has been proposed in the Dharmapuri Division area for the double the extent of forest area proposed for diversion in this project proposal, the Wildlife Warden, Hosur Division has not proposed any Compensatory Afforestation scheme for the project proposal.
- IX. In the site inspection report, the Wildlife Warden, Hosur Division has reported that, site inspection was carried out on 22.12.2020. This proposal is for diversion under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for laying underground Optical Fiber Cable to improve communication networking 4G facility to an extent of 0.315 ha is a linear project and it is proposed along the stretches of Dharmapuri-Anchetty Hogenakkal stretch, which is passing through Woddapatty and Biligundulu Reserved Forests of Anchetty Range. The proposed alignment of the laying of Optical Fiber Cable is along the side of the already existing black topped road from Hogenakkal to Anchetty. The Optical Fiber Cable is proposed to be laid underground alongside of the road by way of digging trench of size 0.30m width and 0.60m depth. The



alignment of the proposed Optical Fiber Cable does not lead to any felling of trees or disturbances to the landscape and there would be no disturbance to wild animals.

- X. In the specific recommendation, the Wildlife Warden, Hosur Division has stated that, enabling 4G connectivity through forest will help the forest department as there are plans to erect CCTV camera at the entry and exit point of the forest roads to enable monitoring of movement of traffic through live streaming using internet connectivity. Under the above circumstances he has recommended the proposal for seeking diversion of forest land.

3. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests has stated that, based on the site inspection of the District Forest Officer, Dharmapuri Division and Wildlife Warden, Hosur Division, forest areas diversion recommended for the project is as follows:-

Sl. No.	Area details	Length in (km)	Width in (m)	Area in (ha)
I	Dharmapuri Forest Division area			
	Segment-I			
1	Laying OFC in Pennagaram RF Dharmapuri Division	11.35	0.30	0.341
2	Laying OFC in Woddapatti RF Dharmapuri Division	0.95	0.30	0.029
	<b>Sub total</b>			<b>0.370</b>
	Segment –II			
3	Laying OFC in Woddapatti RF Dharmapuri Division	2.50	0.30	0.075
	<b>Sub total</b>			<b>0.075</b>
	<b>Grand total in Dharmapuri Division area</b>	<b>14.80</b>		<b>0.445</b>
II	Hosur Wildlife Division area			
4	Laying OFC in District Border to Biligunda across Woddapatti RF Hosur Division	3.50	0.30	0.105
5	Laying OFC in Biligunda to Addapallam across Biligundalu RF Hosur Division	7.00	0.30	0.210
	<b>Sub total</b>	<b>10.50</b>		<b>0.315</b>
	<b>Grand total area</b>	<b>25.30</b>		<b>0.760</b>

4. The Conservator of Forests, Dharmapuri Circle has inspected the area on 02.11.2021 and in his recommendation has stated that, the remarks offered by the District Forest Officer, Dharmapuri Division and Wildlife Warden, Hosur are agreed and the proposal seeking diversion of forest land 0.760 ha for improving communication networking 4G facility is recommended.

5. Further, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests has stated that, the User Agency has requested forest area diversion for a period of 99 years. The District Forest Officer, Dharmapuri Division has not specified any time frame for recommendation of the project. The Wildlife Warden, Hosur Division has recommended the forest area diversion for a period of 20 years. The Conservator of Forests, Dharmapuri Circle has recommended the forest area diversion for a period



of 99 years. For laying of underground Optical Fiber Cable work in the forest area, diversion of forest land are being recommended for a period of 25 years. Hence, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force) has recommended the forest area diversion for a period of 25 years.

6. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests has also stated that, in Government of India guidelines of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in F.No.5-3/2007-FC, dated 05.02.2009, full exemption for payment of Net Present Value for underground laying of Optical Fibre Cable has been allowed for areas falling outside National Park/Sanctuary and there is no felling of trees involved. Since there is no tree felling involved in this project proposal and area falls outside National Park/Sanctuary, payment of Net Present Value of forest area has not been insisted.

7. Further, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests has stated that, the proposal is sent duly recommended in the Part-IV by the Nodal Officer, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (FCA).

8. Based on the recommendation made by the District Forest Officer, Dharmapuri Forest Division and Wildlife Warden, Hosur Division and Conservator of Forests, Dharmapuri Circle, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF) has recommended the proposal for diversion of 0.76 ha of forest land in Dharmapuri Forest Division (Pennagaram Reserved Forest - 0.341 ha and Woddapatty Reserved Forest - 0.104 ha) and Hosur Wildlife Division (Woddapatty Reserved Forest - 0.105 ha and Biligundalu Reserved Forest - 0.210 ha) for laying of underground Optical Fiber Cable along road side of Dharmapuri Anchetty route Hogenakkal Stretch lies partially in Dharmapuri and Hosur Division areas in favour of M/s Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited, No. 89, Radhakrishnan Salai, Mylapore, Chennai -4, for a period of 25 years, under section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and requested the Government to forward the same to Government of India for obtaining their approval for the project proposal, subject to the following conditions:-

- a) The legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged.
- b) The demarcation of the proposed forest land shall be carried out by the User Agency by erecting 4 feet high cement concrete pillars duly numbered at an appropriate distance to be fixed by the concerned District Forest Officer and Wildlife Warden concerned at the cost of user agency.
- c) The User Agency has to pay the cost towards compensatory afforestation scheme in 1.52 ha of degraded forest area selected in Masakkal Reserved Forest of Pennagaram Range in Dharmapuri Forest Division.
- d) The User Agency has to bear the Net Present Value / additional amount of Net Present Value which will be fixed as per the guidelines of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India as fixed by Forest Department in future.
- e) Amount of Compensatory afforestation scheme under the project shall be transferred/ deposited to CAMPA fund only through e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>)
- f) The User Agency has to pay the cost towards lease rent for the forest area diversion period as fixed by the Forest Department at the time of sanction along with any escalation for the forest land to be diverted of the above project in future for the entire project period.
- g) The total forest area utilized for the project shall not exceed 0.76 ha for laying Optical Fiber Cable to a length of 14.80 km in Dharmapuri Division



area (0.445 ha) and 10.50 km length in Hosur Wildlife Division area (0.315 ha) with a width of 0.30m along the road side of Dharmapuri-Anchetty route Hogenakkal Stretch.

- h) Period of lease is twenty five (25) years. The User Agency has to apply renewal proposal before one year of expiry of lease with the State Forest Department.

9. The Government have examined and accept the proposal (FP/TN/Others/30206/2017) of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force) for diversion of 0.76 ha of forest land in Dharmapuri Forest Division (0.477 ha) and Hosur Wildlife Division (0.315 ha) for laying of underground Optical Fiber Cable along road side of Dharmapuri Anchetty route Hogenakkal Stretch lies partially in Dharmapuri and Hosur Division areas in favour of M/s Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited, Chennai-4, for a period of 25 years, under section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and decided to forward the same to Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India for obtaining their concurrence.

10. I am, therefore, directed to request you to kindly obtain the concurrence of the Competent Authority and communicate the same to this Government, early.

Yours faithfully,

M. Moga la  
01/11/2022

for Additional Chief Secretary to Government

01/11/2022

Copy to:-

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
(Head of Forest Force),

Chennai-32.

M/s Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited,

No. 89, Radhakrishnan Salai,

Mylapore, Chennai-4.

## PART – V

(To be filled in by the Secretary in charge of Forest Department or by any other authorized officer of the State Government not below the rank of an Under Secretary)

Proposal (FP/TN/Others/ 30206/2017) for diversion of 0.76 ha of forest land (0.477 ha in Dharmapuri Forest Division and 0.315 ha in Hosur Wildlife Division) for laying of underground Optical Fiber Cable along Dharmapuri to Anchetty road of Hogenakkal stretch in Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri Districts in favour of M/s Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited, Chennai – 4 for a period of 25 years, under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

### 18. Recommendation of the State Government

(Adverse comments made by any officer or authority in Part-B or Part – C or Part – D above should be specifically commented upon)

*Recommended*

*Prasanna*  
Signature 1/11/22

Name & Designation  
(Official Seal)

Date : 01.11.2022

Place : Chennai-9.

**Joint Secretary to Government  
Environment, Climate Change  
and Forest Department  
Secretariat, Chennai-9.**



The first part of the document is a letter from the Secretary of the Department of the Interior to the Secretary of the Department of the Army, dated 1911. The letter is dated 1911 and is addressed to the Secretary of the Department of the Army, Washington, D.C.

The second part of the document is a letter from the Secretary of the Department of the Interior to the Secretary of the Department of the Army, dated 1911. The letter is dated 1911 and is addressed to the Secretary of the Department of the Army, Washington, D.C.

3. Recommendation of the Department

The Department recommends that the Secretary of the Department of the Army be authorized to execute the following:

Recommendation

Recommendation

Recommendation

Joint Secretary to Government  
Environment, Climate Change  
and Forest Department  
Secretariat, Chennai

Date: 11/11/2011

Place: Chennai