



भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS &
CLIMATE CHANGE



क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय/ Regional Office

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F.No. 4-TNB121/2024-CHN/469

Dated: 04th April 2024

To,

The Additional Chief Secretary to the Government of Tamil Nadu,
Environment & Forests Department,
Secretariat, Fort St. George, Chennai - 600 009.

Subject: Diversion of 0.045 ha of forest land passing through Valkaradu RF, Paramsivankovil Karadu Reserved Land, Ammapuram Bit-II RF and Pinnathevanpatti Reserved Land of Theni FD to a length of 1800 m and width of 0.25 m and in depth 2m for laying of underground Optical Fibre Cable along existing road for providing Mobile Arasu Cable, Broad Bank Connectivity (OFC connectivity) between Theni-Batlagundu through rural areas at Theni District in favour of Divisional Engineer, Optical Fibre Cable Projects, BSNL, Madurai-Reg.

Sir,

Please refer to the State Government letter. No 3411/FR.10/2023-2 dated 06.03.2024 and online proposal No. FP/TN/OFC/38837/2019, seeking prior approval of the Central Government for diversion of forest land in accordance with Section 2(1) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, for the above mentioned project.

After careful consideration of the proposal of the State Government, I am hereby directed to convey the Central Government's **In-principle Approval (Stage-I)** under Section 2(1) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 0.045 ha of forest land passing through Valkaradu RF, Paramsivankovil Karadu Reserved Land, Ammapuram Bit-II RF and Pinnathevanpatti Reserved Land of Theni FD to a length of 1800 m and width of 0.25 m and in depth 2 m for laying of underground Optical Fibre Cable along existing road for providing Mobile Arasu Cable, Broad Bank Connectivity (OFC connectivity) between Theni-Batlagundu through rural areas at Theni District in favour of Divisional Engineer, Optical Fibre Cable Projects, BSNL, Madurai, subject to the following conditions:-

- (i) Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged;

- (ii) Demarcation of the proposed forest area shall be carried out by erecting 4 feet high cement concrete pillars duly numbered at the appropriate distance as decided by the DFO concerned, at the cost of User Agency;
- (iii) Full exemption of NPV is allowed in case of laying of underground OFC cable provided no felling of trees is involved and area proposed for diversion is outside the Protected Area as per the MoEF&CC Guidelines. But in case an amount of the Net Present Value (NPV) of the diverted forest land if any, becoming due after revision of the same by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in future, shall be charged by the State Government from the User Agency;
- (iv) **The maximum size of the trench shall not exceed 2.00 m depth, 1.8 km length and 0.25 m width. The forest land shall be restored to its original state after laying the same;**
- (v) The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government;
- (vi) No labour camp shall be established on the forest land.
- (vii) Disturbance shall be kept minimal by creating labour camps outside the forest area as far as possible and it will be the responsibility of the User Agency to ensure that the machinery, labourers and staff engaged in execution of work shall not destruct nearby forest flora & fauna;
- (viii) Sufficient firewood, preferably the alternate fuel, shall be provided by the User Agency to the labourer after purchasing the same from the State Forest Department or the Forest Development Corporation or any other legal source of alternate fuel.
- (ix) **No tree felling shall be carried out by the User Agency;**
- (x) The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agency, department or person without prior approval of the Central Government.
- (xi) The total forest area utilized for the project shall not exceed **0.045 ha** and the forest area diverted shall not be used for any purpose other than those shown in the diversion proposal;
- (xii) No additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for transportation of construction materials for execution of the project work.
- (xiii) The conditions required to be adhered under the Forests Right Act, 2006 as per the rules/guidelines issued under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 shall be strictly complied with.

- (xiv) User Agency and the State Government shall ensure compliance to provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations and Guidelines, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project;
- (xv) Any other conditions that the Central Government or DDG, Regional Office, Chennai may impose from time to time in the interest of afforestation, conservation and management of flora and fauna in the area, shall be complied by the User Agency;
- (xvi) Non compliance of any of these conditions will amount to violation under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and action would be taken as prescribed under the Act, Rules and Guidelines relevant.

After receipt of the compliance report on the fulfillment of the conditions mentioned above, the proposal shall be considered for final approval under Section 2(1) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. Transfer of forest land shall not be affected till final approval is granted by the Government in this regard.

Further, it may also be noted that this in-principle approval shall be valid for a period of 2 years from the date of issue of this letter. In the event of non-compliance of the above conditions within 2 years, the in-principle approval shall be deemed to be null and void.

Yours faithfully,
Signed by Karthikeyan
Karupiah
Date: 04-04-2024 10:00:07

(K.Karthikeyan)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests (Central)

Copy to:-

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Forest Department, Guindy-Velachery Main Road, Guindy, Chennai - 32
2. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests/Nodal Officer (FCA), Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Forest Department, Guindy-Velachery Main Road, Guindy, Chennai - 32
3. IGF, ROHQ, MoEF&CC, New Delhi -110003 for information please.
4. Divisional Engineer, OFC Projects, Dvn I, 3 Rd Floor, Annex Building, Emm Telephone Exchange, East Masi Street, Madurai - 625001 (email: deofcdn1ma@gmail.com)
5. Guard file.

Sd/-

(K.Karthikeyan)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests (Central)