



भारत सरकार

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS & CLIMATE CHANGE

Integrated Regional Office, Vijayawada

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F.No. 4-APB148/2022-VIJ /271

Date 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2022

To,

The Addl Chief Secretary to the Government of Andhra Pradesh,  
Environment, Forests, Science & Technology Department,  
Government of Andhra Pradesh, Room No.268, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, 4<sup>th</sup> Block,  
Andhra Pradesh Secretariat, Velagapudi, Amaravati Guntur District-522503

**Subject: Diversion of 0.48 ha (i.e., 0.09 ha in Compartment No.206 of Ragimanupenta RF, Chittoor West Range, 0.16 ha in Compartment No.311 of Jagamerla RF, Palamaner Range, 0.10 ha in Compartment Nos.245 & 246 of Thotakanuma RF, Palamaner Range and 0.13 ha in Compartment Nos. 345 & 346 of Kangundi RF, Kuppam Range) of forest land in Chittoor West Division in favour of Sr.General Manager, M/s. BBNL, Vijayawada, for laying optical fibre cable to provide connectivity to Grama Panchayats covered in Chittoor District under Bharat Net Project -Reg.**

Sir,

Please refer to the State Government's letter No.2313/Section,II/2022(1643003) dated 23.03.2022 and online proposal No. FP/AP/OFC/112287/2020 received on 29.03.2022, seeking prior approval of the Central Government for diversion of forest land in accordance with Section '2' of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for the above mentioned project.

After careful consideration of the proposal of the State Government, I am hereby convey the Central Government's approval (*Stage-I*) under Section '2' of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of **0.48 ha** (i.e., **0.09 ha** in Compartment No.206 of Ragimanupenta RF, Chittoor West Range, **0.16 ha** in Compartment No.311 of Jagamerla RF, Palamaner Range, **0.10 ha** in Compartment Nos.245 & 246 of Thotakanuma RF, Palamaner Range and **0.13 ha** in Compartment Nos. 345 & 346 of Kangundi RF, Kuppam Range) of forest land in Chittoor West Division in favour of Sr.General Manager, M/s. BBNL, Vijayawada, for laying optical fibre cable to provide connectivity to Grama Panchayats covered in Chittoor District under Bharat Net Project, 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) The State Government shall realize cost towards plantation of 100 numbers of trees and its maintenance for a period of 10 years from the User Agency. Plantation may be carried out in the degraded forest area and map along with DGPS co-ordinates and CA scheme shall be furnished along with the compliance report;
- (iv) 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 of Protected Area. **However, part of the proposed forest area i.e 0.16 ha and 0.13 ha in Jagamerla RF and Kangundi RF respectively are falls in the areas of Elephant corridor / Eco-Sensitive Zone of Koundinya Wildlife Sanctuary,** the State Government may realize Net Present Value of the diverted forest land measuring **0.48 ha** from the User Agency, **if required** as per the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 28.03.2008 and 09.05.2008 in IA Nos.826 in 566 with related IA's in Writ Petition (Civil) No.202/1995 and **revised NPV as per the Ministry's guideline No.5-3/2011-FC(Vol-I) dated 06.01.2022 and clarification issued vide letter dated 19.01.2022;**
- (v) Additional 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. The User Agency shall furnish an undertaking to this effect;
- (vi) **The maximum size of the trench shall not exceed 2.00 mtr depth. The forest land shall be restored to its original state after laying the same;**
- (vii) **As part of the proposed forest area i.e 0.16 ha and 0.13 ha in Jagamerla RF and Kangundi RF respectively falls in the areas of Elephant corridor / Eco-Sensitive Zone of Koundinya Wildlife Sanctuary. Approval may be obtained from the competent authority under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, if required;**
- (viii) The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government;
- (ix) No labour camp shall be established on the forest land.

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- (x) 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 & staff engaged in execution of work shall not destruct nearby forest flora & fauna;
- (xi) 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.
- (xii) **No tree felling shall be carried out by the User Agency;**
- (xiii) The forest land proposed for diversion shall under no circumstances be transferred or sublet to any other agency, department or person without prior approval of the Central Government;
- (xiv) The total forest area utilized for the project shall not exceed **0.48 ha** and the forest area diverted shall not be used for any purpose other than those shown in the diversion proposal;
- (xv) 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;
- (xvi) Any other conditions that the Central Government or Regional officer(Central) of the Integrated Regional Office, Vijayawada 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;
- (xvii) In the event of failure to comply with any of the above conditions the user agency is liable for penal action as per the provisions in Ministry's guidelines.

After receipt of the compliance report on above mentioned conditions, the proposal will be considered for final approval. This in-principle approval shall be valid for a period of 5 years from the date of issue of this letter. In the event of non-compliance of the above conditions, this in-principle approval shall automatically stand revoked after 5 years.

Yours faithfully,



**(N.S.Murali)**  
Inspector General of Forests (Central)

**Copy to;**

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests &HoFF, Forests Department, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, AranyaBhavan, K.M. Munshi Road, Nagarampalem Guntur-522004
2. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests/Nodal Officer (FCA), Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Forests Department, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, AranyaBhavan, K.M. Munshi Road, Nagarampalem, Guntur-522004
3. Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL), Office of Sr General Manager BBNL, D7, BSNL office complex, Tikkle road, MoghalRaj Puram, Vijayawada- Andhra Pradesh 520010 [gmbbnlvj@gmail.com](mailto:gmbbnlvj@gmail.com)
4. Guard file



**(N.S.Murali)**  
Inspector General of Forests (Central)