

**GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
FOREST DEPARTMENT**

From:
Sri P. K. Sarangi, IFS.,
Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests
(Head of Forest Force), Andhra
Pradesh, "Sankurathri Residency",
EVR Gardens, M. G. Inner Ring Road,
Agathavarappadu, Guntur - 522509.

To,
The Prl. Secretary to Government,
Environment, Forests, Science &
Technology Department,
Andhra Pradesh Secretariat,
Velagapudi, Amaravathi.

Rc.No. 13994/2016/FCA-1, Dated: 03.10.2017

Sir,

Sub: - APFD - F(C)Act, 1980 - Diversion of 0.36 Ha. Offorest land in Sudikonda R.F for laying of Optical fiber cable along the road within in the existing right of way passing through forest land under Kakinada Division - Proposal submitted - Reg.

Ref: - 1. Proposal No FP/AP/Others/26719/2017, dt.17.06.2017.
2. PCCF's Rc.No. 13994/2016/FCA-1, Dt. 11.07.2017.
3. CF, Rajahmundry Rc.No.1312/2017/D1, dt.29.08.2017.

••<33>••

It is to submit that vide reference 1st cited M/s.Reliance JioInfocom Ltd., Visakhapatnam has submitted the proposal through online (i.e. www.forestclearance.nic.in) for Diversion of 0.36 Ha. of forest land in Sudikonda R.F for laying of Optical Fiber Cable along the road within in the existing right of way passing through forest land under Kakinada Division.

The proposal was sent to the Divisional Forest Officer, Kakinada and Conservator of Forests, Rajahmundry vide this office reference 2nd cited for processing as per guidelines envisaged under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and amendments thereon. Accordingly, the Chief Conservator of Forests, Rajahmundry (FAC) vide reference 3rd cited has submitted the proposal duly processed under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 guidelines and amendment thereon for diversion of 0.36Ha. of forest land as per the field inspection.

The details of proposal are as follows:-

The user agency has furnished the following information in Part-1:

- This proposal is for laying of Optical Fiber Cable along the Road within in the existing Right of Way passing through forest under Kakinada Division for providing LTE Voice & Data Services in the State of Andhra Pradesh as per the license granted by Government of India.
- The main aim for setting up this Optical Fiber Cable system will fulfill the needs of telecommunication circuits and Wireless Broadband Services and other Data for the Government, Industries, Defence and Society. This telecom Infrastructure shall lead to growth in economy and hence more employment and better living conditions of the geography/state/Country.
- This new scheme of laying optical Fiber Cable is most modern and state of art Technology in the field of Digital Telecommunication. Moreover the same cable will provide most of new value added services as well as it will cater for the needs of Integrated Services Digital Network.
- The cost of the project is Rs.40.00Lakhs approximately.

- Regarding Justification, it is mentioned that the Optical Fiber Cable is generally laid along the admitted RoW of State / National Highway roads. Such road side area is declared as the Protected Forest under the Indian Forest Act.
- The area requested for the laying of the Optical Fiber Cable is the bare minimum considering the requirements and also considering the safety of the cables so laid. Since the telecommunication cables also carry the communication from the Government offices, Defence & Strategic establishments, and from the different industrial organizations apart from the general public, for the safety and confidentiality of the conversation so made it is not advisable to lay such important cables on the private land belonging to different parties.
- The Cable alignment will be suitably diverted to avoid any cutting of trees and laid within the road land boundary by excavating a narrow trench of 50cms width. The same strip of trench will be reinstated to its original condition. It is also intimated that no structure will be erected on the cable route.
- The User agency has submitted that the Employment likely to be generated is 8000 man days approx.
- Purpose-wise break-up of the total land required is an extent of 0.36 Ha.is7,758mts length x 0.50 mts. (approx) width.
- The details of land required is submitted as follows

RF	Compt.no.	Area in ha
Tirumalayapalem	498	0.08 ha
Sudikonda	484	0.05 ha
Mallavaram	493	0.23 ha
Total		0.36 ha

- The User agency has submitted undertaking to bear the cost of raising and maintenance of compensatory afforestation and/or penal compensatory afforestation as well as cost for protection and regeneration of safety zone, etc., as per the scheme prepared by the State Government and the undertakings in regarding NPV, CA land, afforestation cost, may be considered for exemption.
- In regarding the certificate under RoFR Act-2006, the user agency has submitted that as per the GOI Lr.No. F.PNo. 11-9/98-FC (pt) dt.5.2.2013, proposals like construction of roads, canals, laying of pipe lines / Optical fiber and transmission lines etc., where linear diversion of use of forest land in several villages are involved the GramaSabha resolution may not be required until unless recognized rights of PTG/PAC are being affected. The user agency has given an undertaking that the consent of GramaSabha will be submitted.
- The user agency has submitted the authenticated DGPS surveyed map for the area proposed for diversion.

The Divisional Forest Officer, Kakinada has furnished the information in Part-II as follows:

- This proposal is for Diversion of 0.36 Ha. of forest land in Sudikonda R.F for laying of Optical fiber cable along the road within the existing Right of Way passing through forest land under Kakinada Division in favor of Reliance JioInfocomm Limited, Visakhapatnam.
- Area of forest land proposed for diversion (in Ha.) is

RF	Compt.no.	Area in ha
Tirumalayapalem	498	0.08 ha
Sudikonda	484	0.05 ha
Mallavaram	493	0.23 ha
Total		0.36 ha

- The Sudikonda RF, Mallavaram RF & Tirumalayapalem RF were notified under Section - 15 of A.P. Forest Act, 1967 vide G.O.No. 102, Dt.27.01.1892, G.O.No. 184, Dt.26.03.1895 & G.O.No. 705, Dt.09.12.1896 respectively.
- The density of the vegetation is Less than 0.10.
- There are no trees falling along the OFC line. Hence, enumeration of trees is not required. The vegetation in the adjoining forests of this proposed area is mainly consists of Bamboo, Teak and Misc., species at a distance of 3 to 5 mts. Hence, the enumeration list of trees may be treated as nil.
- Regarding the vulnerability forest area it is mentioned that forest area is not vulnerable to erosion.
- It is unavoidable and barest minimum for the project to that extent and user agency has also submitted certificate.
- There are no rare / endangered / unique species of flora and fauna found available in the proposed area.
- The proposed area does not form part of any protected archeological / heritage site, defence establishment or any other important monument.
- As per the guidelines issued by the GOI, MoEF (FC Division) F.no.11-9/98-FC, dt:10-12-2012 mentioned in the compendium in Chapter-3 (3.2),(viii) (b) for diversion of Forest land for creation of public utility infrastructure Govt. departments involving not more than 5 ha of Forest land in each case by the State Government for the LWE effected districts, no Compensatory Afforestation shall be insisted up on the proposals involving for Diversion of forest land up to 5Ha. The CA land is exempted.
- The Divisional Forest Officer, Kakinada on 29.07.2017 has inspected the proposed land for laying of Optical Fiber Cable (OFC) along the existing right of way passing through forest land under Kakinada Division along with Forest Section Officer and Officials of Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited, Kakinada.
- During her inspection she has submitted that the proposed OFC path is passing through Tirumalayapalem, Sudikonda and Mallavaram reserve forests in Compartment Nos. 498, 484 and 493 over an area of 0.36 Ha.
- The Divisional Forest Officer, Kakinada has submitted that no deviations were noticed in the GPS coordinates provided by the user agency in the proposals.
- As per the marking done in the field, there is no tree felling required, but small bush growth was noticed at few points within the demarcated area.
- The Divisional Forest Officer, Kakinada has stated that no violations to the provisions under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 were occurred within the forest areas, the work is yet not started.
- No impact on flora and fauna due to the project.
- The proposed OFC line as per the proposals submitted, is passing along the road side in different locations, and the trench will be closed after laying of the OFC line, hence there may not be any negative impact on forest.
- The proposed area in Narasapuram Beat, i.e. Vetakonda RF is outside the forest area.
- There is no negative impact of the project on the adjoining flora and fauna, soil erosion etc. Further, the proposed OFC area is not falling National Park / Wildlife Sanctuary or within the Eco-sensitive zone.
- The Divisional Forest Officer, Kakinada has stated that the proposed area is not in scheduled area and there are no RoFR claims, the project is exempted from requirement of obtaining consent of the concerned Grama Sabha's as stipulated in Clause (C) read with Clause (b), (e) and (f) in second Para of this ministry's letter Dt.03.08.2009.
- The Divisional Forest Officer, Kakinada has stated that the user agency has furnished justification for locating the project in the forest area. Moreover it is unavoidable & barest minimum for project as per the certificate given by user

agency. The project is recommended as there is not much loss to flora & fauna. The OFC is being laid along the road with no disturbance to environment and involves no tree felling. It is very important for the 4G communication in agency areas and is recommended for diversion for the above purpose.

The Conservator of Forests, Rajamahendravaram has furnished the information in Part-III as follows:-

The Conservator of Forests, Rajamahendravaram has agreed with the information furnished by the Divisional Forest Officer, Kakinada in Part-II and also recommended the proposal in Part-III.

Both, the Divisional Forest Officer, Kakinada and Conservator of Forests, Rajamahendravaram have recommended the proposal.

The proposal has been uploaded in the Ministry's website and unique file No. FP/AP/Others/26719/2017 dt.17.06.2017 generated and the acknowledgement slip generated on the web portal is enclosed herewith.

As per the guidelines issued by the GOI, MoEF& CC, New Delhi F.No. 11-09/98-FC, Dt. 16.10.2000 & 07.11.2014, proposal for Diversion of 0.36 Ha. of forest land in Sudikonda R.F for laying of Optical fiber cable along the road within the existing right of way passing through forest land under Kakinada Division in favor of M/s Reliance JIO Infocomm Ltd. duly recommended in Part-IV, is submitted herewith in duplicate for consideration of the proposal and accord stage-I approval as deemed fit.

Encl:- As above.

Yours faithfully,
Sd/- P.K.Sarangi,
Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests
(Head of Forest Force)

True copy

For Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests
(Head of Forest Force)

3/10/2017

PART - IV

11

(To be filled by the Nodal Officer or
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests or
Head of the Forest Department)

17	<p>Detailed opinion and specific recommendation of the State Forest Department for acceptance or other wise of the proposal with remarks.</p> <p>(While giving opinion, the adverse comments made by concerned Conservator of Forests or Deputy Conservator of Forests should be categorically reviewed and critically commented upon).</p>	<p>Recommended</p>
----	---	--------------------

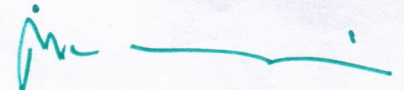
Date:

3/10/17

Place:

Guntur

Signature



Name:

P. N. SANKAR

Office Seal