

**GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
FOREST DEPARTMENT**

From
Sri N. Prateep Kumar, IFS.,
Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests
(Head of Forest Force) (FAC),
Andhra Pradesh, 'Aranya Bhavan',
K.M. Munshi Road, Guntur-522004.

To
The Spl. Chief Secretary to
Govt.,
Environment, Forests, Science &
Technology Department,
Andhra Pradesh, Secretariat,
Velagapudi, Amaravathi.

**Rc.no.EFS02-15026/7/2018-FCA SEC-PCCF/FCA-1, Dated:
03/11/2019.**

Sir,

Sub APFD - F(C) Act, 1980 - M/s. BSNL, Tirupati - Diversion of 0.0663
:- ha. of forest land for laying new BSNL Optical Fibre Cable from Gudur
to Podalakur via Saidapuram RF in Nellore Division by digging a
trench with a length of 1658.00 m. and width of 0.4 m. - Proposals
processed under F(C) Act, 1980 submitted for clearance under
Section - 2 of F(C) Act, 1980 - Reg.

Ref: 1. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd., Online Proposal no.
- FP/AP/Others/20821/2016, Dated: 20.09.2016.
2. PCCF(HoFF), A.P., Guntur Ref. no.EFS02-15026/7/2018/FCA
SEC-PCCF/FCA-1, Dated: 21.06.2018.
3. Divisional Engineer, Optical Fibre Projects, M/s. BSNL,
Tirupati, Lr. no. DE/OFC/TRPGDR-PDKR/18-19/91,
Dated.11.07.2018.
4. PCCF(HoFF), A.P., Guntur Ref. no. EFS02-15026/7/2018/FCA
SEC-PCCF/FCA-1, Dated.14.06.2018.
5. CF, Guntur Rc. no.2146/2018/TO, Dated: 14.05.2019.

••<Ω◇∞>••

It is submitted that, the Divisional Engineer, Optical Fiber Projects,
M/s. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd., Tirupati in the reference 1st cited, has
submitted online proposal for diversion of 0.0663 ha. of forest land for
laying new BSNL Optical Fiber Cable from Gudur to Podalakur via
Saidapuram RF by digging a trench to a length of 1658.00 m. and width of
0.4 m. in Nellore Division, as per the license granted by the Government
of India.

The proposal was sent to the Divisional Forest Officer, SPSR Nellore
and Conservator of Forests, Guntur in this office reference 4th cited, for
processing as per guidelines envisaged under Forest (Conservation) Act,
1980 and amendments thereon. Accordingly, the Conservator of Forests,
Guntur in the reference 5th cited, has submitted the proposal duly

processing under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, amendments and guidelines thereon for diversion of 0.0663 ha. of forest land for the subject proposal.

The details of proposal are as follows:-

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

- This proposal is for diversion of forest land over an extent of 0.0663 ha. for laying a new BSNL Optical Fiber Cable from Gudur to Podalakur via Saidapuram RF by digging a trench to a length of 1658.00 m. and width of 0.4 m. in Nellore Division along existing R&B Road, as per the license granted by the Government of India.
- For locating this project on forest land, the User Agency has justified that, the BSNL has taken up the projects of laying Optical Fiber Cables to improve rural and urban connectivity all along the 28 Villages under the Digital India program unification of all networks i.e., Broad Band, Cell Network and core banking networks coming under Gudur-Podalakur OFC route taken up as a project to provide Broad Band connection, internet, basic telephone connection and better communication to the public. The other alternatives are not feasible except the forest land. Hence, this forest land is proposed for laying of OFC to meet the above purpose. The requirement of forest land is 0.0663 ha. and it is the minimum requirement. Further, the alignment of proposed laying of OFC along existing R&B road will be laid without causing any damage to forest property. It is in a linear patch with a length of 1658.32 m. and breadth of 0.40 m. which comes to a total area of 0.0663 ha.
- The estimated cost of the project is Rs.200.00 Lakh.
- The User agency has submitted that "no employment is likely to be generated for this project."
- Purpose-wise break-up of the total land required to an extent of 0.0663 ha. is 1650.32 m. length x 0.40 m. width.
- The User agency has submitted a certificate stating that the cost benefit analysis does not arise as the forest area proposed for diversion is 0.0663 ha. which is less than 5 ha.
- The User Agency has submitted a certificate stating that "there is no requirement of environmental clearance as the forest area proposed for diversion is meant for laying OFC which does not affect the environment."
- The User Agency has submitted a certificate stating that no additional area is impacted temporarily/permanently by constructing of the OFC line.
- The User Agency has submitted an undertaking to bear the cost of raising and maintenance of compensatory afforestation, NPV, Additional NPV, tree extraction charges, if any, as per the scheme prepared and demanded by the State Forest Department.
- The User Agency has also submitted a certificate stating that as per the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 guidelines Chapter 3.2 (viii) (b)

no compensatory afforestation shall be insisted upon in respect of the proposals involving diversion of forest land up to one hectare. Hence, Compensatory Afforestation does not arise as the proposed land for diversion is 0.0663 ha. only.

- The User Agency has submitted RoFR certificate issued by the District Collector, SPSR Nellore District.
- The user agency has submitted the authenticated DGPS surveyed map for the diversion area proposed.

The Divisional Forest Officer, SPSR Nellore has furnished the following information in Part-II:

- This proposal is for diversion of 0.0663 ha. of forest land for laying a new BSNL Optical Fiber Cable from Gudur to Podalakur Via Saidapuram RF by digging a trench to a length of 1658.00 m. and width of 0.4 m. in Nellore Division, as per the license granted by the Government of India.
- The density of the vegetation is less than 0.30 to 0.40.
- The Divisional Forest Officer has stated that there is no requirement of tree felling along the length and width of proposed OFC path.
- The Divisional Forest Officer has stated that this proposed area is not vulnerable to erosion.
- The Divisional Forest Officer has stated that the area proposed is unavoidable and barest minimum for the project.
- The Divisional Forest Officer has stated that there are no endangered / unique species of flora and fauna found available in the proposed area. Wild boar, spotted deer, wild dog, Rabbit, Reptiles and Bird species are existing in adjacent areas.
- The Divisional Forest Officer has stated that the proposed area does not form part of any National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Wildlife Corridor etc. Further, he stated that there are no protected archeological / heritage site / defense establishment or any other important monument located in the area proposed for diversion.
- The Divisional Forest Officer, SPSR Nellore has inspected the proposed area on 08.01.2019.
- The Divisional Forest Officer, SPSR Nellore has stated that there is no violation to the provisions under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 within the proposed forest areas.
- The Divisional Forest Officer, SPSR Nellore has recommended the proposal in Part-II.

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

The Conservator of Forests, Guntur has not inspected the area proposed for diversion, as the area proposed for laying OFC is below 40

ha. and agreed with the information provided by the Divisional Forest Officer, SPSR Nellore in Part-II. Further, the Conservator of Forests, Guntur has also recommended the proposal in Part-III.

Both the Divisional Forest Officer, SPSR Nellore and Conservator of Forests, Guntur have recommended the proposal.

The proposal has been uploaded in the Ministry's website with unique proposal no. FP/AP/Others/20821/2016, dated: 20.09.2016 and the acknowledgement slip generated on the web portal is enclosed herewith.

In view of the above, the proposal for diversion of 0.0663 ha. of forest land for laying new BSNL Optical Fiber Cable from Gudur to Podalakur via Saidapuram RF in Nellore Division in f/o. M/s. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd., Tirupati, duly recommended in Part-IV, is submitted in duplicate for perusal.

In this connection, it is submitted that, the GoI, MoEF&CC vide F.no. 5-2/2017-FC, dt: 28.03.2019 has issued a handbook of guidelines in supersession of the guidelines issued in the past, for effective and transparent implementation of the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 wherein, as per Para 4.2 of Chapter-4, State Government may accord clearance under Section - 2 of F(C) Act, 1980 for laying Underground Fiber Cables (OFC) along the roads within RoWs (trench size not more than two meter in depth and one meter in width) not falling in National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries without felling trees, subject to the conditions stipulated therein in addition to the general guidelines mentioned in Para 4.1 of Chapter-4 of the comprehensive guidelines.

Therefore, the Government are requested to accord clearance under Section - 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 0.0663 ha. of forest land for laying new BSNL Optical Fiber Cable from Gudur to Podalakur via Saidapuram RF in Nellore Division in f/o. M/s. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd., Tirupati, subject to conditions as stipulated in Para 4.1 and 4.2 of Chapter - 4 of Comprehensive Guidelines as indicated supra, as the proposed laying of Optical Fiber Cable is along the existing R&B Road and not falling in National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries and without felling of trees.

Early orders are solicited in the matter.

Encl:- As above.

Yours faithfully,
N.PRATEEP KUMAR
Prl.Chief Conservator of Forests
(Head of Forest Force)

Copy to the Conservator of Forests, Guntur for information.

Copy to the Divisional Forest Officer, SPSR Nellore for information.

Copy to the Divisional Engineer, Optical Fiber Projects, M/s. BSNL, Tirupati for information.

Signature Not Verified

Digitally signed by N Prateep
Kumar
Date: 2019.11.03 18:55:46 IST
Reason: Approved



Diversion of forest land of 0.0663 ha. in Nellore Division
in favor of M/s. BSNL, Tirupaty for laying optical fibre
Cable.

PART-IV

17	Detailed opinion and specific recommendations of the State Forest Department for acceptance or otherwise of the proposal with remarks (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)	Recommended.
----	---	--------------

Date 03-11-2019.

Place: Guntur.

Signature

Name

Office Seal

N. Prateep Kumar, IFS.,
Pri. Chief Conservator of Forests
(Head of Forest Force)
Andhra Pradesh