

By Email (Scanned Copy)/Courier

TAMIL NADU FOREST DEPARTMENT

From
Tmt. R. Padmawathe, I.F.S.,
Chief Conservator of Forests and
Field Director,
Srivilliputhur Megamalai
Tiger Reserve,
Madurai - 2.

To
The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Head of Forest Force),
Forest Headquarters,
Guindy - Velachery Main Road,
Near Kannigapuram Check Post,
Guindy, Chennai - 32.

Ref.No. 6099/2022/D1 dated 03/05/2023

Sir,

Sub: Forests - Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 - Sivilliputhur Megamalai Tiger Reserve - Srivilliputhur Division - Saptur R.F. - Laying of Optical Fibre Cable along the Theni - Mallapuram route involves forest area - 0.19 ha. of forest land - Report submission of - Regarding.

Ref: (1) Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Chennai Ref.No. TS4/4382/2017 dt.27.07.2020.
(2) Deputy Director, Srivilliputhur Division Ref.No. D/2376/2018 Dt. 22.09.2022.
(3) Conservator of Forests and Field Director, SMTR, Madurai Ref.No. D1/6099/2022, dt. 27.12.2022.
(4) Deputy Director, Megamalai Division Ref.No. D1/10060/2022 Dt. 14.02.2023 and 24.03.2023.
(5) Deputy Director, Srivilliputhur Division Ref.No. D/2376/2018 Dt. 21.04.2023.

I submit my report as follows:

In the reference 1st cited, the online proposal for diversion of 0.19 ha. of forest land for laying of Optical Fibre Cable along Theni - Mallapuram route (FP/TN/Others/23908/2017) involved in forest area of Theni - Myladumparai and Mallapuram, submitted by the user agency i.e. M/s. Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited, Chennai has forwarded to the Wildlife Warden, Srivilliputhur for further action with a request to scrutinize the above proposal and upload the Part II of Form A proposal and forward the same to the Conservator of Forests through online within the time frame early.

Accordingly, the Wildlife Warden, Srivilliputhur in his reference 2nd cited, it was submitted that, the said area was inspected on 09.02.2022 along with the concerned Saptur Range staff and furnished his remarks as detailed below:

1. The total length required for laying of OFC is 6.23 km in Saptur RF. The Deputy Director, Srivilliputhur had reported that out of this 5.00 km passes in Srivilliputhur division and 1.23 km is Megamalai Division
2. The Deputy Director, Srivilliputhur has submitted the model estimate for raising Compensatory Afforestation over an extent of 0.37 ha. costing Rs.8,87,030/- for 10 years.
3. The project is proposed to be laid underground along the road from Muthalamparai village to Mallapuram village in Saptur R.F. The project area does not have any important monuments which has archaeological importance / heritage site / defence establishment etc.

The length of OFC to be laid in Megamalai Division is 1.23 km and necessary remarks have been called from Deputy Director, Megamalai along with Part II recommendation and site inspection report etc. vide this office reference D1/609/2022 dated 27.10.2022. Based on that, the Deputy Director, Megamalai in his reference 4th cited, reported that the above said area was inspected and surveyed along with Forest Settlement Officer, Bodi, Forest Range Officers of Gandamanur and Varushanadu Range along with their field staff and surveyor on 24.12.2022.

During the inspection, the boundary stones of SF No. 1313/1, 1444/1, 2, 1445/1, 2 of Kadamalaikundu Village were identified on ground and it was ascertained that the road passes through these survey numbers and the same was reported by the Forest Settlement Officer, Bodi in his letter No. 3602022 dated 30.01.2023. As per his report, the alignment identified by the user agency falls in S.F.No. 1313, 1444/1, 2, 1445/1, 2 of Kadamalaikundu village and then enters the R.F. of Madurai District, and as per the village records the S.F.No. 1313 is Un-Assessed Wasteland, S.F.No. 1445/1 is Anathinam and S.F.No. 1444/1, 2, 1445/2 are joint patta (Patta No. 4289) and hence it is submitted that the site required for the proposed OFC works in 1.23 km stretch does not fall in Megamalai Division.

Now, in the reference 5th cited, the Deputy Director, Srivilliputhur finally reported that, out of total length of 6.23 KM required for carrying out laying of Optical Fibre Cable along the Theni-Mallapuram 4.30 KM passes through sanctuary area and 1.83 KM passes through non-sanctuary area of Srivilliputhur Division and remaining 100 m falls under Eco-Sensitive Zone of Srivilliputhur Megamalai Tiger Reserve.

In Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden letter No.WL5/20666/2022 dated 16.12.2022, it was informed that, in the minutes of the 7th State Board for Wild Life, the above referred proposal has been recommended subject to the conditions imposed by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden necessary No Objection Certificate for laying of Optical Fibre Cable along the Theni - Mallapuram Route involves forest area of Theni-Myladumparai and Mallapuram to a length of 6.23 KM in Saptur R.F. by M/s. Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited, Chennai. Further, the work should commence only after getting clearance from Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and other mandatory clearances.

Terms and Conditions:

1. The project proponent shall obtain all other statutory clearance, impact mitigation and Wildlife Conservation Plan of Srivilliputhur Megamalai Tiger Reserve, Google map with GPS coordinates along with land use pattern map.
2. All the material required for the work should be prepared outside the Tiger Reserve.
3. No fire places will be created inside the Tiger Reserve.
4. The work in the sanctuary will be allowed only in the day time from 9.00 A.M. to 5.00 P.M.
5. No night camping by labour / survey personal will be allowed inside the Tiger Reserve.
6. Project personal engaged in the project work shall observe the provisions of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and rules made thereunder.
7. The legal status of the land remains unchanged.
8. While undertaking the periodical maintenance works, if any, by the project proponent shall obtain prior approval of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden, well in advance.
9. The project proponent shall submit an undertaking stating that "No disturbance will be caused to the Wildlife" during project implementation.
10. The project proponent (M/s. Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd) also should offer facility of free data connection (unlimited 4G and upgraded version then there) to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden Office / Chief Conservator of Forests and Field Director, Srivilliputhur Megamalai Tiger Reserve, Madurai and Deputy Director, Srivilliputhur office for facilitating the cause of conservation protection.

11. Any other condition stipulated by the Chief Conservator of Forests and Field Director, Srivilliputhur Megamalai Tiger Reserve, Madurai and Deputy Director, Srivilliputhur shall be followed.

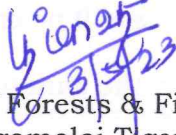
It is also submitted that, the above subject matter is one of the agenda items in the Fortnightly Regional Co-ordination Meeting. F.No.11.6/F(C)A/A/RM /2020/508 dated 27.04.2023)

Necessary **No Objection Certificate** has been issued by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden subject to the above said conditions. Since, the above proposal is for laying underground OFC along the existing Theni Mallapuram road and no tree felling involved, this proposal for diversion of 0.19 ha in Saptur RF of Srivilliputhur Division is recommended.

The connected records received from the Deputy Director, Srivilliputhur and reports from Deputy Director, Megamalai are submitted herewith for kind perusal.

Encl: As stated above.

Yours sincerely,


Chief Conservator of Forests & Field Director,
Srivilliputhur Megamalai Tiger Reserve,
Madurai.