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OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS (HEAD OF FOREST FORCE), MAHARASHTRA STATE, NAGPUR
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Sub:- Proposal for diversion of 0.2800 ha. forest land for construction of underground Optical Fiber Cable for High speed broadband connectivity of Gram Panchayat in Mulshi Block of Pune District in the State of Maharashtra (FP/MH/OFC/145751/2021).

No.: Desk-17/FCA-S1/PID-145751/Pune/1030
Nagpur - 440 001, Dated :- 05/07/2023

To,
The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Revenue and Forest Department,
Mantralaya, Mumbai -32

The Sub-Divisional Engineer, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, Pune has submitted Proposal for diversion of 0.2800 ha. forest land for construction of underground Optical Fiber Cable for High speed broadband connectivity of Gram Panchayat in Mulshi Block of Pune District in the State of Maharashtra.

2.0 The details of forest land proposed for diversion is as given below: -

Sr. No.	Location	Taluka	District	Survey /Gut No..	Area (in ha)	Status
1	Tamhini	Mulshi	Pune	40	0.01338	Private Forest
2	Pimpari			131	0.059124	Reserved Forest
				83	0.042642	
3	Bhambarde			318	0.072	
(A) Total Forest Area in Pune Division (in ha.)					0.187146	
4	Nive	Mulshi	Pune	47	0.0238	Reserved Forest In Tamhini Wildlife Sanctuary Pune
5	Pimpari			392	0.0331	Reserved Forest In Sudhagad Wildlife Sanctuary Thane
				393	0.0249	
6	Barpe			112	0.0104	
(B) Total Wildlife Area (in ha.)					0.0992	
Grand Total (A)+ (B)					0.279346 (0.28)	

3.0 The project has been initiated by Sub-Divisional Engineer, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, Pune for seeking approval under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for proposal is for diversion of 0.2800 ha. forest land for construction of underground Optical Fiber Cable for High speed broadband connectivity of Gram Panchayat in Mulshi Block of Pune District in the State of Maharashtra. The User Agency has highlighted that as per the policy of the Government of India, it is planned to lay Optical Fiber Cable for reliable communication from remote place to District/State Headquarters. Basic aim of the project is to provide the

people of under developed areas with reliable and high speed media connectivity. In this regard, the User Agency has submitted the proposal for diversion 0.2800 ha forest land under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

4.00 The User Agency has highlighted that the Government of Maharashtra GR No. GSD-Matsa 082/3/2018-DIP(MH), dated 17/02/2018 has given directions for single widngow clearance for Maha IT project MAHANET (A BBNL Project). The Sub-Divisional Engineer, BSNL, dated 08/06/2016 and Technical approval accorded by the CGM (West Zone), BBNL, Mumbai vide letter dated 25/06/2013 for laying underground Optical Fiber Cable for MahalT Project MAHANET (A BBNL Project) for Government of Maharashtra to provide high speed internet connectivity up to Gram Panchayats in Mulshi Block of Pune District.

5.00 The Chief Conservator of Forests (T), Pune vide letter dated 02/06/2022 has recommended the proposal for consideration alongwith following documents as per the Government of Maharashtra circular No.FLD/2015/CR-2015/C.R.08/F-10, dated 06/09/2021 and this office circular No. Desk-17/NC/17-4/C.R.92/287/2021-2022, dated 16/06/2021 and Para 4.2 Chapter 4 of the guidelines issued by Government of India, MoEF&CC (Laying of Under Ground Optical Fiber Cable (OFC), telephone lines). Dated 28.03.2019.

5.1 Details of project and Recommendation of the Chief Conservator of Forests (T),Pune and the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Pune Forest Division,Pune, Deputy Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), Pune.(P/9,P/33&34,P/41)

5.2 The Cross Section Map (P/71)

5.3 Area Statement (File P/25)

5.4 The type of Underground Optical Fiber Cable as shown of the Survey of India Toposheet Map (Toposheet No.47 F/10) (P/83)

5.5 Copy of the Administrative approval and Technical approval is enclosed herewith. (P/61,62)

6.0 The User Agency has submitted an undertaking that:-

6.1 to make good any loss to Forest/ Environment (P/44)

6.2 there are 28 tree felling involved for the proposed work. (P/45)

6.3 after completion of the project the area under RoW should be reclaimed suitably. (File P/65)

6.4 to seek permission from the local Forest Department for carrying out any maintenance in future. (P/47)

6.5 legal status of the forest land shall remain unchanged.(P/48)

6.6 the project is in ROW alongwith the State Highway, hence settlement of rights in accordance with Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 is not required.

7.00 The Deputy Conservator of Forests(Wildlife), Pune and Deputy Conservator of Forests, Pune Forest Division, Pune have certified that:-

7.1 The site inspection report of the Deputy Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), Pune is enclosed on page no 33 to 34.

7.2 Total non forest land involved in the project is 1.76 ha. (P/7).

7.3 No suitable alternate land is available and the forest land required is minimum. (P/23)

7.4 The area belongs to Eco-value class-III having density is below 0.01 (Open Forest) (P/27)

7.5 (i) There is no cutting and felling of trees involved in this project. (P/28)

(ii) There are 28 trees felling of various species and trees involved in implementation of the project. The Girth wise break up is as under:- (P/35)

Below 30 cms	31-45	46-60	61-75	76-90	91-105	106-120	121-135	Above 136	Total
0	13	11	4	0	0	0	0	0	28

7.6 Proposed project is not likely to affect any monumental site of cultural, historical, religious, archeological or recreational importance. (P/25)

7.7 (i) There is no violation of Forest (Conservation) Act 1980. (P/24)

(ii) The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Pune Forest Division, Pune has mentioned in its Part-II the User Agency has done violation. The detail violation report is enclosed herewith on page No.10 to14

7.8 The proposed area is passing through Tamhini Wildlife Sanctuary (P/26)

8.0 In view of this, the proposal is recommended as per Government of Maharashtra G.R. dated 06/09/2021 subject the following conditions:-

8.1 The legal status of the land shall remain unchanged

8.2 As per Government of India guidelines No. FC-11/165/2019/FC, dated 27/07/2020 the compensatory afforestation may not be levied in case of laying of underground Optical Fiber Cables (OFC). Therefore, the cost of compensatory afforestation may not be insist upone the User Agency.

8.3 Ne Present Value is exempted for laying of underground Optical Fiber Cable as per the Government of India guidelines.

8.4 The Optical Fiber Cable Line will be laid within maximum size of the trench of 2.00 m depth & 1.0 m width with cable line under the PVC Pipeline.

8.5 The land under project will be reclaimed by the user agency for which the agency shall submit a bank guarantee at the rate of Rs. 50/- per running meter and an undertaking to that effect shall also be submitted. If the agency fails to reclaim the land to the satisfaction of Deputy Conservator of Forests concerned, the cost for reclamation will be recovered from the bank guarantee.

8.6 If the cable is going to be laid in the formation width of the road, then additional charges in form of bank guarantee shall be given at the rate of Rs.35/- per running mtr. Similarly for reclamation of side drain and for tarred portion, the guarantee will be at the rate of Rs. 300/- per mtr. and Rs.750/- per mtr. respectively. An undertaking shall be obtained from the user agency that it has agreed to make good any loss to Forest/ Environment while laying the cable in the forest area and during maintenance of the same in future. For further maintenance of the project, the agency shall obtain permission from the Forest Department as and when required.

8.7 The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than specified in the proposal.

8.8 No felling of trees shall done during the implementation of project.

- 8.9 The user agency will be authorized to lay the Optical Fiber Cable outside the confines of the protected area after compliance of this order. Any breach of the conditions by the user agency will be treated as violation of the provision of Forest (Conservation) Act, 198
- 8.10 No new forest area beyond the Right of Way of existing road should be broken for laying Optical Fiber Cable.
- 8.11 No labour camps shall be established on the forest land.
- 8.12 The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without prior approval of the State Government.
- 8.13 The User Agency will be authorized to lay the Optical Cable only outside the confines of the Protected Area. Any breach of the said condition by the User Agency will be treated as violation of the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
- 8.14 All the conditions stipulated by the Forest Department shall be binding on the User Agency.
- 8.15 All other conditions as may be mandatory under relevant Act, Rules and Guidelines shall be complied with by the User Agency.
- 8.16 All necessary approvals required for the project as per the prevailing laws of the land would be obtained by the User Agency before statutory sanctions.
- 8.17 The User Agency will make good the land after use/maintenance.

9.00 It is therefore, requested that Government of Maharashtra may kindly recommended the proposal for approving for diversion of 0.2800 ha. forest land for construction of underground Optical Fiber Cable for High speed broadband connectivity of Gram Panchayat in Mulshi Block of Pune District in the State of Maharashtra under section 2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Encl. :- Proposal 2 copies


(Naresh Zurmure)

**Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
& Nodal Officer**

Copy to the Chief Conservator of Forest (T), Pune for information.

Copy to the Deputy Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), Pune and Deputy Conservator of Forests, Pune Forest Division, Pune for information.

Copy to the Sub-Divisional Engineer, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, Pune for information.

PART -IV

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

(Detailed opinion and specific recommendation of the State Forest Department for acceptance or otherwise of the proposal with remarks)

Sub.- Proposal for diversion of 0.2800 ha. forest land for construction of underground Optical Fiber Cable for High speed broadband connectivity of Gram Panchayat in Mulshi Block of Pune District in the State of Maharashtra (FP/MH/OFC/145751/2021). The details of land proposed for diversion is as under-

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(B) Total Wildlife Area (in ha.)					0.0992	
Grand Total (A)+ (B)					0.279346 (0.28)	

Specific recommendation of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF) Maharashtra State, Nagpur is attached on page no.

5/7/23

**(Naresh Zurmure)
Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
& Nodal Officer**

Date: 05/07/2023
Place: Nagpur



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Proposal for diversion of 0.2800 ha. forest land for construction of underground Optical Fiber Cable for High speed broadband connectivity of Gram Panchayat in Mulshi Block of Pune District in the State of Maharashtra (FP/MH/OFC/145751/2021).

**Specific Recommendation of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Head of Forest Force), Maharashtra State with regards to acceptance or
otherwise of the proposal supported by reasons.**

Proposal is for diversion of 0.2800 ha. forest land for construction of underground Optical Fiber Cable for High speed broadband connectivity of Gram Panchayat in Mulshi Block of Pune District in the State of Maharashtra (FP/MH/OFC/145751/2021).

2.00 The details of the forest land proposed for diversion are as under:- (P/25)

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- 8.16 All necessary approvals required for the project as per the prevailing laws of the land would be obtained by the User Agency before statutory sanctions.
- 8.17 The User Agency will make good the land after use/maintenance.

9.0 Keeping in view facts mentioned in above para this proposal for diversion of 0.2800 ha. forest land for construction of underground Optical Fiber Cable for High speed broadband connectivity of Gram Panchayat in Mulshi Block of Pune District in the State of Maharashtra is recommended for approval under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.



(Y. L. P. Rao)

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests

(Head of Forest Force)

Maharashtra State, Nagpur

03/07/2023
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