

TAMILNADU FOREST DEPARTMENT

From

To

Thiru Syed Muzammil Abbas, I.F.S.,
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,
(Head of Forest Force)
Panagal Maaligai, Saidapet,
Chennai - 15.

The Additional Chief Secretary to
Government,
Environment, Climate Change and
Forests Department,
Secretariat, Chennai 9.

C. No. TS3/7037/2021 Dated: 16.05.2022.

Madam,

Sub: Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 – Proposal for diversion of 0.54 ha of forest land in Villupuram Forest Division for laying of underground Optical Fiber Cable to a length of 17.99 km length along Vadakkananthal to Thumbal road section in Parigam RF in Kallakuruchi District in favour of M/s Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited, No. 89, Radhakrishnan Salai, Mylapore, Chennai – 4 - Forwarding of - Regarding.

- Ref: 1. Online forest clearance proposal uploaded by the User Agency - M/s Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited, No. 89, Radhakrishnan Salai, Mylapore, Chennai - 4 Proposal No. FP/TN/Others/38130/2019, dated 19.01.2019 and Re-submission of proposal on 16.02.2019, 10.02.2021 and 15.04.2021
2. Part-II of Form-A uploaded by the District Forest Officer, Villupuram Division on 04.08.2021 and EDS reply
3. Part-III of Form-A uploaded by the Conservator of Forests, Villupuram Circle on 30.12.2021 and EDS reply

I wish to inform that, M/s Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited, No. 89, Radhakrishnan Salai, Mylapore, Chennai - 4 has uploaded online forest clearance proposal under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 0.54 ha of forest land in Villupuram Forest Division for laying of underground Optical Fiber Cable to a length of 17.99 km length along Vadakkananthal to Thumbal road section in Parigam RF in Kallakuruchi District area of erstwhile Villupuram District.

- 1) The User Agency has uploaded the proposal in the prescribed format of Form A - Part I - under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of fresh forest area.

i) In the short narrative of the proposal for which forest land is required, the User Agency has reported that diversion of forest land is required for laying of underground OFC along road side of Vadakkanathal Thumbal road section via Parigam, Kondiyanantham across Parigam RF in Villupuram District.

ii) M/s Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited, having Office at No. 89, Dr. Radhakrishnan Salai, Mylapore, Chennai-4 has applied forest clearance proposal and for applying forest clearance proposal, authorisation has been issued to the State Coordinate Officer.

iii) Diversion of 0.54 ha of forest has been requested in Villupuram Forest Division area in erstwhile Villupuram District (now in Kallakuruchi District). Name of the village reported as Parigam for 0.54 ha forest area and component wise break up reported as Linear.

iv) Location map of the forest land proposed to be diverted in kml file of google earth, Scanned copy of Survey of India topo sheet indicating the boundary of forest land proposed to be diverted, Scanned copy of Geo referenced location map has been furnished.

v) The user agency has proposed forest area diversion for laying of underground Optical Fibre Cable along the road side of Vadakkanathal Thumbal road section via Parigam, Kondiyanantham across Parigam RF in Villupuram District to a length of 17.99 km to trench width of 0.30m. (Area 5400 sq.m or 0.54 ha).

vi) The user agency has stated that the project or part thereof is not located in any protected area or their Eco sensitive zone.

vii) The User Agency has furnished the certificate issued by the District Collector, Kallakuruchi District about completion of process for settlement of rights under Forest Rights Act, 2006 on the forest land proposed for diversion in Ref. No. B7/494/2020, dated 05.02.2021

viii) The user agency has furnished certificates/ undertakings/ details under additional Information details section.

a) Certified that, there is no work in violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been carried out in the project area.

b) Certified that forest land requested is the minimum required for the project and all other alternatives have been examined and found not feasible.

c) Undertaking to pay the Net Present Value of forest land required for the project.

d) Undertaking to pay the additional amount of Net Present Value of forest land demanded subsequently.

e) To bear the cost of raising and maintenance of compensatory afforestation and or penal compensatory afforestation as well as cost of protection of plantation as per the scheme prepared by the Government of Tamil Nadu in lieu of RF land diverted for the project and to deposit additional amount if any suggested as amended owing to change in planting technique, enhancement in FSR etc.,

f) Undertaking to pay the cost along with any escalation for exploitation of trees if any available in the alignment path.

g) Undertaking to bear the cost of felling of trees and transportation cost of the trees to be removed if any available in the alignment path.

h) Undertaking to lay the lease rent as fixed by the Forest Department at the time of sanction along with any escalation for the subsequent years.

i) Certificate obtained from the District Collector, Kallakuruchi about non-availability of non-forest land for the project in Ref. No. B7/494/2020, dated 05.02.2021

j) Area requirement for the project reported as 17.99 km length and 0.30m width ie., 5400 sq.m or 0.54 ha.

2) The District Forest Officer, Villupuram Division has forwarded the proposal along with Site Inspection report and recommendation of the proposal to the Conservator of Forests, Villupuram Circle on 04.08.2021 through online.

In the Part-II of Form A, the District Forest Officer, Villupuram Division has furnished following details.

i) The legal status of the proposed site of diversion of 0.54 ha of forest land requested for the project is Reserved Forests.

As per the site inspection report and recommendation of the project uploaded by the District Forest Officer, Villupuram Division, name of the forest land reported as Parigam RF.

ii) Density of the forest area is 0.2 and Eco class of forest area is four.

iii) Species wise and girth class wise enumeration of trees in the area reported as NIL.

iv) On vulnerability of the forest land proposed for diversion, the District Forest Officer has reported proposed area is in Kalryan hill, there is no erosion its is gentle sloped existing road side proposed in the permitted portion.

v) The District Forest Officer has reported that Spotted deer, Wild boar, Peacock, Mangoos, bison etc., are present in and around the forest land proposed for diversion. The forest area proposed for diversion is not part of National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant corridor, Wildlife migration corridor etc., and not located within the eco-sensitive zone of the protected area notified under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and not located within 1 km boundary of NP/WLs etc., for the forest land proposed for diversion. There is no rare/ endangered / unique species of flora and fauna found in the area.

vi) There is no protected archaeological/ heritage site/ defense establishment or any other important monument is located in the area.

vii) Requirement of forest land as proposed by the User Agency is unavoidable and bare minimum for the project and no work in violation of the Act or guidelines has been carried out.

viii) Forest area proposed for diversion is 0.54 ha and there is no felling of trees involved.

For the proposed diversion of 0.54 ha of forest land in Parigam RF for laying of Underground OFC along the roadside of Vadakkananthal to Thumbal road section in Parigam RF, compensatory afforestation has been proposed in 1.08 ha of degraded forest area of Parigam RF by planting of 1080 number of misc seedlings of 16x30 cm polythene container seedlings along with maintenance of plantation over a period of 10 year period at a cost of Rs. 10.00 lakhs and furnished the cost estimate of the CA scheme and area marked in the Survey of India topo sheet and surveyed sketch of the proposed CA area. Site suitability certificate of the CA area has also furnished by the District Forest Officer.

ix) In the site inspection report, the District Forest Officer has stated that, site inspection carried out on 29.07.2021. Laying of Optical Fibre Cable proposed along the high way road side from Vadakkananthal to Thumbal road section over a distance of 17.99 km in Parigam RF in Kallakuruchi District. It is existing older high way road. There is no tree felling involved in this project with conservation of forests ecology. There is no hindrance to the flora and fauna. There is no

spontaneous tree species. There is no elephant corridor. Length of the OFC falls in forest area is 17990m and trench size is 0.30m width, thus area required for the project is 5397 sq.m or 0.54 ha.

x) In the specific recommendation, the District Forest Officer, Villupuram Division has reported that it is public project, this project is very useful to effective function of the net work communication in future, hence recommended.

3) The Conservator of Forests, Villupuram Circle has inspected the area on 10.09.2021 and in his recommendation has stated that the work proposed for laying of OFC falls adjacent to existing road in Parigam RF, hence this proposal is recommended.

4) The User Agency has requested forest area diversion for a period of 99 years. The District Forest Officer, Villupuram Division has recommended the period of diversion for the year 2021-22 and the Conservator of Forests, Villupuram Circle has recommended the diversion of forest area for a period of 25 years.

Based on the recommendations made by the Conservator of Forests, diversion of forest land for laying of underground Optical Fiber Cable work in the forest area is recommended for a period of 25 years.

5) In Government of India guidelines of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in F. No. 5-3/2007-FC, dated 05.02.2009, full exemption for payment of Net Present Value for underground laying of Optical Fibre Cable has been allowed for areas falling outside National Park/Sanctuary and there is no felling of trees is involved. Since there is no tree felling is involved in this project proposal and area falls outside National Park/ Sanctuary, payment of Net Present Value of forest area may not be insisted.

6) State Government may accord diversion of forest land of less than one hectare in each case for non forestry purposes under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, for creation of critical development and security related infrastructure of Government Departments under the general approval of Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 guidelines.

In this case, though the forest area diversion is less than one hectare, the project proponent/user agency is a private company, hence, approval of

Government of India is required under Forest Conservation Act, 1980 for forest area diversion to private entity.

7) Based on the recommendation made by the District Forest Officer, Villupuram Division and Conservator of Forests, Villupuram Circle, proposal received from the M/s Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited Chennai for diversion of 0.54 ha of forest land in Villupuram Forest Division for laying of underground Optical Fiber Cable to a length of 17.99 km length along Vadakkananthal to Thumbal road section in Parigam RF in Kallakuruchi District seeking approval under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is recommended to the Government for consideration and obtaining orders from the Government of India subject to following conditions.

- a) The legal status of the diverted forest land remains unchanged.
- b) The demarcation of the proposed forest land shall be carried out by the User Agency by erecting 4 feet high cement concrete pillars duly numbered at an interval of 20 meters at their cost.
- c) The user agency has to pay the cost towards compensatory afforestation scheme over an extent of 1.08 ha of degraded forest area as per the Compensatory afforestation including maintenance for a period of 10 years
- d) The User Agency has to bear the additional amount of Net Present Value which will be fixed as per the guidelines of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India as fixed by Forest Department in future.

e) Amount of Compensatory afforestation scheme under the project shall be transferred/ deposited to CAMPA fund only through e-portal. (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>)

f) The User Agency has to pay the cost towards annual lease rent for the forest area diversion period as fixed by the Forest Department at the time of sanction along with any escalation for the forest land to be diverted of the above project in future for the entire project period.

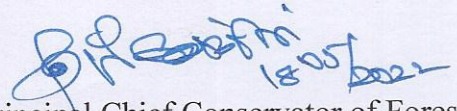
g) The total forest area utilized for the project shall not exceeds 0.54 ha for laying Optical Fibre Cable to a length of 17.99km with a width of 0.30 m in Parigam RF along the road side of existing high way road of Vadakkananthal to Thumbal road section in Parigam RF.

h) Period of lease can be twenty five (25) years. The User Agency has to apply renewal proposal before one year of expiry of lease with the State Forest Department.

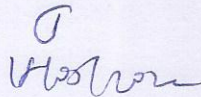
8) The proposal is sent herewith duly recommended by the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (FCA) / Nodal Officer, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. I request that the proposal may kindly be considered and forwarded to the Government of India for obtaining concurrence for diversion of 0.54 ha of forest land in Villupuram Forest Division for laying of underground Optical Fiber Cable to a length of 17.99 km length along Vadakkananthal to Thumbal road section in Parigam RF in Kallakuruchi District in favour of M/s Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited, No. 89, Radhakrishnan Salai, Mylapore, Chennai -4 for a period of 25 years.

Encl: As stated above.

Yours faithfully



For Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Head of Forest Force)



Proposal No. FP/TN/Others/38130/2019.

Proposal for diversion of 0.54 ha of forest land in Villupuram Forest Division for laying of underground Optical Fiber Cable to a length of 17.99 km length along Vadakkananthal to Thumbal road section in Parigam RF in Kallakuruchi District in favour of M/s Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited, No. 89, Radhakrishnan Salai, Mylapore, Chennai - 4.

PART - IV

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

17	Detailed opinion and specific recommendation of the State Forest Department for acceptance of 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

Signature :

Name, Designation :

Mrs. V. Karunapriya, I.F.S.,
Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Forest Conservation Act),
O/o the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Head of Forest Force) Chennai -15

Date : 02-04-2022

Place : Chennai-15

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