

I/593475/2022

**GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
FOREST DEPARTMENT**

<p>From Sri N. Prateep Kumar, IFS., Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, Andhra Pradesh, Guntur - 522 004.</p>	<p>To The Spl. Chief Secretary to Government, Environment, Forests, Science & Technology Department, Andhra Pradesh Secretariat, Velagapudi - 522 503.</p>
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Ref.no.EFS02-15026/15/2020-FCA-SEC-PCCF/FCA-3,
dated:21/06/2022.

Sir,

Sub APFD - F (C)Act, 1980 - Diversion of 0.19 ha of forest land between Udayagiri - Duttalur in Nellore Division for laying of Optical Fiber Cable (OFC) along the road within the existing Right of Way (RoW) for providing 4G communication in favour of JIO DIGITAL FIBRE PRIVATE LIMITED- Submission of proposal under F(C) Act, 1980 - Clearance under Section-2 of F(C)Act, 1980- Requested - Reg.

Ref: 1. Online proposal no. FP/AP/OFC/62261/2020, dated: 24.11.2020.
2. PCCF & HoFF , A.P, Guntur Rc. no. EFS02 -15026/15/2020- FCA- SEC PCCF/FCA-3, dated:24.03.2021.
3. CCF, Guntur Rc. no. 209/2021-TO, dated: 04.04.2022.

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It is submitted that, the Authorized Signatory, M/s. JIO DIGITAL FIBRE PRIVATE LIMITED, in the reference 1st cited, has uploaded the proposal in PARIVESH portal for diversion of 0.19 ha of forest land between Udayagiri - Duttalur in Nellore Division for laying of Optical Fiber Cable (OFC) along the road within the existing Right of Way (RoW) for providing 4G communication in favour of JIO DIGITAL FIBRE PRIVATE LIMITED.

Accordingly, the Chief Conservator of Forests, Guntur, in the reference 3rd cited, has submitted the proposal for diversion of 0.19 ha of forest land in-between Udayagiri - Duttalur in Nellore Division for laying of Optical Fiber Cable (OFC) along the road within the existing Right of Way (RoW) for providing 4G communication in favour of JIO DIGITAL FIBRE PRIVATE LIMITED processed under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

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The User Agency has furnished the following information in Part-I.

- Forest area to an extent of 0.19 ha is required for laying of Optical Fiber Cable (OFC) along the Road within the existing Right of Way (RoW) in-between Udayagiri - Duttalur for providing 4G communications in the Stage of Andhra Pradesh in favour of JIO DIGITAL FIBRE PRIVATE LIMITED.
- Cost of the project is mentioned as Rs.127 lakh.
- The user agency has justified that, the area requested for laying of the Optical Fiber Cable is the bare minimum considering the requirements and considering the safety of the cables so laid. Since the telecommunication cables also carry the communication from the Government offices, Defense & Strategic establishments and from different industrial organizations apart from the 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 40 cms width. The strip of trench will be reinstated to its original condition and no structure will be erected on the cable route.
- The user agency has furnished undertakings for payment of NPV, Addl. NPV, CA etc.
- The area proposed for diversion is 0.19 ha. Hence Cost benefit analysis does not arise.
- No human displacement is involved in this project.
- No loss of public facilities involved in this project.
- Employment likely to be generated is temporary employment (Number of person-days) 9766 days will be generated.
- The user agency has stated that, clearance under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 is not required.

The District Forest Officer, SPSR Nellore has submitted the following information in Part-II.

- Forest land to an extent of 0.19 ha is required in compartment no 491 & 488 of Udayagiri East-Appasamudram RF & Venkatampet RF and compartment no.479 of Duttalur RF for laying of underground Optical Fibre Cable in favour of M/s JIO DIGITAL FIBRE PRIVATE LIMITED
- Legal Status of the forest is RF.
- The density of vegetation is 0.4 Eco-Class-IV (Tropical thorn forests and tropical dry ever green forests) open scrub forest..
- No tree felling is required for laying optical fiber cable
- The proposed Reserve forest is not vulnerable to erosion.
- The proposed laying of underground Optical Fiber Cable is linear in nature and falls in Duttalur RF, Venkatampet and Udayagiri East-Appasamudram RFs of udayagiri Range.
- The alignment of under ground OFC cable in Duttalur RF, Venkatampet and Udayagiri East-Appasamudram RFs of Udayagiri Range does not fall in Wildlife Sanctuary / Eco-Sensitive Zone.
- No rare/ endangered/unique species of fauna found in adjacent RF areas.
- No protected archaeological heritage sites / defense establishment or any other important monument is located in the area.
- The requirement of forest land proposed by the user agency is unavoidable and barest minimum for the project.

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- No violation has been carried out by the User Agency.

The Location map in (S.I) Sheet in 1:50,000 scale, authenticated DGPS maps are furnished.

The District Forest Officer, SPSR Nellore has inspected the area proposed for diversion on 18.12.2021. Site inspection report of the District Forest Officer, SPSR Nellore is enclosed herewith.

The CCF, Guntur Circle, Guntur has reported that the proposed OFC cable passing through the following existing roads;

- 1) Nellore - Seetharampuram Raod in Udayagiri East- Appasamudram RF
- 2) Udayagiri to Nellore road in Venkampeta RF
- 3) Duttalur - Bata road in Duttalur RF (excluded from Reservation)

Accordingly, in column no. 13 of Part -II, the District Forest Officer, SPSR Nellore has **Recommended** the proposal.

In part -III, the Chief Conservator of Forests, Guntur has agreed with the information furnished by the District Forest Officer, SPSR Nellore and **Recommended** the proposal for diversion of forest land

In Part-IV, the Nodal Officer (FCA), Andhra Pradesh has **Recommended** the proposal.

As per Government of India, MoEF & CC, New Delhi F. no. 5-2/2017-FC, Dt. 28.03.2019, under RoFR Act, 2006, the user agency has uploaded the RoFR Certificate issued by the District Collector, SPSR Nellore District in the prescribed format for evidences for having initiated and completed the process of settlement of rights under the Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (RoFR) Act, 2006. The certificate is enclosed with the proposal.

Further, it is to submit that as per the guidelines issued by the Gol, MoEF, New Delhi this proposal has been uploaded in the Ministry's web portal (www.parivesh.nic.in) & a unique proposal number no. **FP/AP/OFC/62261/2020** has been generated for this proposal. A copy of the Acknowledgment slip generated by the Ministry's web portal is enclosed herewith.

In this regard it is to submit that, as per para 4.2 of Chapter-4 of Comprehensive guidelines issued by the Gol, MoEF&CC, New Delhi vide F.no. 5-2/2017-FC, dt. 28.03.2019 in supersession of all guidelines issued in the past, for effective and transparent implementation of the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, the subject project falls under general approval category .

Further, as per Chapter 2.6 of Comprehensive guidelines issued by the Gol, MoEF&CC, New Delhi vide F.no. 5-2/2017-FC, dt. 28.03.2019 in supersession of all guidelines issued in the past, for effective and transparent implementation of the provisions of Forest(Conservation) Act, 1980, Compensatory Afforestation is not required towards diversion of forest land upto 1.00 ha. However, cost of

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plantation (including ten years maintenance) of ten times the number of trees likely to be felled or specified number of trees as may be specified in the order for diversion of forest land (subject to a minimum number of 100 plants) shall be levied from the user agency towards compensatory afforestation.

In view of the above, the statutory proposal along with necessary enclosures in (3) sets, for diversion of 0.19 ha in compartment no 491 & 488 of Udayagiri East-Appasamudram RF & Venkatampet RF and compartment no.479 of Duttalur RF for laying of underground Optical Fibre Cable in favour of M/s JIO DIGITAL FIBRE PRIVATE LIMITED duly recommended in Part-IV, subject to the conditions stipulated in GoI, MoEF&CC, New Delhi in F. no.5-2/2017 (FC Division) Dt. 28.03.2019 is submitted herewith for taking further action as deemed fit in the matter.

Encl:- (3) sets of proposals

Yours faithfully,
N Prateep Kumar I F S
Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests &
Head of Forest Force

Copy to the Chief Conservator of Forests, Guntur and the District Forest Officer, SPSR Nellore for information.

Copy to the Authorized Signatory, M/s JIO DIGITAL FIBRE PRIVATE LIMITED, 6th Floor, Vinayagar Trade Centre, Above Pantaloons Showroom, VIP Road, Visakhapatnam-530003 for information and necessary action.

Signed by N Prateep Kumar

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Date: 21-06-2022 17:15:45

Reason: Approved

PART-IV

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

Diversion of 0.19 ha in compartment no 491 & 488 of Udayagiri East-Appasamudram RF & Venkatampet RF and compartment no.479 of Duttalur RF for laying of underground Optical Fibre Cable in favour of M/s JIO DIGITAL FIBRE PRIVATE LIMITED....

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.
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Date:28/04/2022

Signature

Place : Guntur

Name:Anand Kumar Jha

Office Seal:

A.K. JHA
Principal Chief Conservator
of Forests (FCA) & Nodal Officer

Signed by Anand Kumar Jha

Date: 28-04-2022 17:46:30

Reason: Approved