

**OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS (HEAD OF
FOREST FORCE), MAHARASHTRA STATE, NAGPUR**
ADDITIONAL PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS AND NODAL OFFICER, MAHARASHTRA STATE, NAGPUR,
First Floor, 'B' Wing, Van Bhavan, Civil Lines, Nagpur-440001.
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Sub:-Proposal for diversion of 0.316 ha. forest land under Forest
(Conservation) Act, 1980 favour of M/s Reliance
JioInfocommLtd., for laying underground Optical Fiber
Cable line along with Ghatbori-Sawarkhed Road in village
Sawarkhed Road in village Sawargaon Dist. Akola in the
State of Maharashtra.

No. : Desk-17/Nodal/Amravati/I.D-12782/ /2021-22 **12179**
Nagpur – 440 001, Dated **24/01/2022**

To,
The Principal Secretary (Forests),
Revenue & Forest Department,
Mantralya, Mumbai – 400032

M/s. Reliance JIO InfocommLtd., Nagpur, Maharashtra has submitted the Proposal for diversion of 0.316 ha. Forest land for laying underground Optical Fiber Cable line along with Ghatbori-Sawarkhed Road in village Sawargaon Dist Akola in the State of Maharashtra. The details of forest land proposed for diversion is as given below: -

Nam e of work	Villag e Name	Taluk a	Comp tt.No	Gut. No./s ur.No)	Width x Length (mtr)	Area in Sq.mtr	Area in Ha.	Legal Status of land	Non-forest land in ha.
Layin g underg round OFC line along with Ghatb ori- Sawar khed Road in village Sawar gaon	Sawar gaon	Patur	1	228	1x25	25.00	0.00	--	0.0025
				178	1x40	40.00	0.00	--	0.004
				265	1x425	425.00	0.0425	RF	0.00
				266	1x75	75.00	0.00	--	0.0075
				267	1x360	360.00	0.0360	RF	0.00
				268	1x380	380.00	0.0380	RF	0.00
				182/1 83	1x50	50.00	0.00	--	0.005
				299	1x380	380.00	0.0380	RF	0.00
			2	185	1x40	40.00	0.00	--	0.004
				186	1x100	100.00	0.00	--	0.01
				196	1x50	50.00	0.00	--	0.005

				197	1x100	100.00	0.00	--	0.01
				198	1x40	40.00	0.00	--	0.004
				199	1x815	815.00	0.0815	RF	0.00
				295	1x800	800.00	0.0800	RF	0.00
				Total		3680.00	0.316		0.052

3. The project for underground OFC line from Ghatbori-Sawarkhedroadin village SawargaonDist Akola has been initiated by M/s. Reliance Jio, Infocomm Ltd., the project is pursuant to the directives issued by the Government of India vide letter No.10-31/2011-CS-III, dt.23/11/2011.

3.00 Following documents as prescribed in Government Circular, Revenue and Forest Department No.FLD-1081/2041/(A)/F-3, dated 20/03/1982 and according to Government of India's instructions issued from time to time are enclosed in three copies.

3.1 Prescribed form dated 10/01/2003.

3.2 Certificate regarding minimum demand of forest land for the project,

3.3 Area Statement,

3.4 Index map in suitable scale,

4.00 The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Akola Forest Division, Akola has certified that:-

- 4.1 No suitable alternate land is available and the forest land required is lowest minimum
- 4.2 The area belongs to Eco-value class-III and having density is below 0.40 comes under Southern Tropical Dry Deciduous.
- 4.3 There is no cutting and felling of trees involved in this project.
- 4.4 The area involved in the project does not form part of any existing National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Nature Reserve etc.
- 4.5 Proposed project is not likely to affect any monumental site of cultural, historical, religious, archeological or recreational importance.
- 4.6 There is no violation of Forest (Conservation) Act 1980.
- 4.7 The proposed area for the project is beyond 29.00 km from the boundary of the protected area (Sanctuary and National Park).

- 4.8 Site Inspection Report by the Deputy Conservator of forest Akola Division, Akola .Indicating his observation is enclosed.
- 4.9 The non-forest area covered under the project is not under the provision of Maharashtra Private Forest (Acquisition) Act 1975 by virtue of application of Section 35 of Indian Forest Act 1927 and are not recognized as deemed reserved forest as well as not included in the area identified as “forest” as per dictionary meaning of forest as intimated to the expert committee appointed under interim judgment of the Hon’ble Supreme Court dated 12/12/1996.
- 4.10 Proposed Compensatory Afforestation over 1.00 ha. from Compt No 2 of village Sawargaon Tah. Patur Dist land for compensatory afforestation and it is contiguous, suitable for afforestation and management purpose and it is free from encroachment and an encumbrances.

5.5. The User Agency has submitted an undertaking that:-

- i) The user agency has submitted an undertaking to defray the cost of compensatory afforestation of the forest land proposed for diversion.
- ii) The user agency has submitted an undertaking to defray the cost of Net present Value of the forest land proposed for diversion.
- iii) The user agency has given undertaking for laying of Optical Fiber Cable is along the existing road & within the road width & hence alternative examination is not required.
- vi) The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Akola Forest Division, Akola and Conservator of Forest (T), Amravati have recommended the proposal for diversion of 0.316ha. of forest land.

In view of this, the proposal is recommended for approval under the section -2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 subject to the following conditions: –

- i) The legal status of the land shall remain unchanged.
- ii) As per Government of India guidelines No.FC-11/165/2019, FC dt.27/7/2020 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 insisted upon the User Agency.
- iii) Net Present Value is exempted for laying of underground Optical Fiber Cable as per the Government of India guidelines.
- iv) 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.

- v) 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.
- vi) 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.
- vii) The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than specified in the proposal.
- viii) No felling of trees shall done during the implementation of project.
- ix) 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, 1980.
- x) No new forest area beyond the Right of Way of existing road should be broken for laying Optical Fiber Cable.
- xi) No labour camps shall be established on the forest land.
- xii) The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without prior approval of the Central Government.
- xiii) The sanction will be subject to final clearance as per the directives issued by the Government of India, Ministry of Communication & IT Department of Telecommunication vide their letter No. 222/2008,dt.19/09/2008 and concerned PWD authorities of the project.
- xiv) 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.
- xv) All the conditions stipulated by the Forest Department shall be binding on the User Agency.
- xvi) All other conditions as may be mandatory under relevant Act, Rules and Guidelines shall be complied with by the User Agency.
- xvii) 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.
- xviii) The User Agency will make good the land after use/maintenance.

8.00 In view of above, it is requested that the Government of Maharashtra may kindly accord general approval for diversion of forest land 0.316 ha. in favour of M/s Reliance Jio limited for laying of underground Optical Fiber Cable along with Ghatbori-Sawarkhed Road in village Sawargaon Dist. Akola in the State of Maharashtra under section 2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Encl. :- Proposal 1 Copy

 24/1/21

(Naresh Zurmure)
Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of
Forests & Nodal Officer

Copy to the Chief Conservator of Forests (T), Amravati for information.

Copy to the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Akola Forest Division, Akola for information.

Copy to the M/s. Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd., Nagpur 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 0.316 ha. Forest land under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 favour of M/s RealianceJioInfocomm Ltd., for laying underground Optical Fiber Cable line along with Ghatbori-Sawarkhed Road in village SawaragonDist.Akola in the State of Maharashtra.The details of the forest land proposed for diversion are as under.

Name of work	Village Name	Taluka	Comptt. No	Gut.No. /sur.No.	Width x Length(mtr)	Area in Sq.mtr	Area in Ha.	Legal Status of land	Non-forest land in ha.
Laying underground OFC line along with Ghatbori-Sawarkhed Road in village Sawargaon	Sawar gaon	Patur	1	228	1x25	25.00	0.00	--	0.0025
				178	1x40	40.00	0.00	--	0.004
				265	1x425	425.00	0.0425	RF	0.00
				266	1x75	75.00	0.00	--	0.0075
				267	1x360	360.00	0.0360	RF	0.00
				268	1x380	380.00	0.0380	RF	0.00
				182/183	1x50	50.00	0.00	--	0.005
				299	1x380	380.00	0.0380	RF	0.00
			2	185	1x40	40.00	0.00	--	0.004
				186	1x100	100.00	0.00	--	0.01
				196	1x50	50.00	0.00	--	0.005
				197	1x100	100.00	0.00	--	0.01
				198	1x40	40.00	0.00	--	0.004
				199	1x815	815.00	0.0815	RF	0.00
				295	1x800	800.00	0.0800	RF	0.00
				Total		3680.00	0.316		0.052

Specific recommendation of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF) MS Nagpur is attached.

(Signature) 24/1/22

(NareshZurmure)

Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
& Nodal Officer

Date: /1/2022

Place: Nagpur

**Proposal for diversion of 0.316 ha. forest land under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980
favour of M/s Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd., for laying underground Optical Fiber Cable
line along with Ghatbori-Sawarkhed Road in village Sawargaon Dist.Akola in the State of
Maharashtra.**

**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.**

1) The Proposal for diversion of 0.316 ha. forest land under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 favour of M/s Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd., for laying underground Optical Fiber Cable line along with Ghatbori-Sawarkhed Road in village Sawargaon Dist.Akola in the State of Maharashtra.

2) The details of the forest land proposed for diversion are as under:-

Name of work	Village Name	Taluka	Compt t.No	Gut.No. o./sur. No.)	Width x Length (mtr)	Area in Sq.mtr	Area in Ha.	Legal Status of land	Non-forest land in ha.
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				Total		3680.00	0.316		0.052

P-48

3. The project for underground OFC line from Ghatbori-Sawarkhed roadin village Sawragaon Dist Akola has been initiated by M/s. Reliance Jio, Infocomm Ltd., the project is pursuant to the directives issued by the Government of India vide letter No.10-31/2011-CS-III, dt.23/11/2011.

4.00 The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Akola Forest Division, Akola has certified that:-

- 4.1 No suitable alternate land is available and the forest land required is lowest minimum P/42
- 4.2 The area belongs to Eco-value class-III and having density is below 0.40 comes under Southern Tropical Dry Deciduous. P/35
- 4.3 There is no cutting and felling of trees involved in this project. P/34
- 4.4 The area involved in the project does not form part of any existing National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Nature Reserve etc. P/37
- 4.5 Proposed project is not likely to affect any monumental site of cultural, historical, religious, archeological or recreational importance. P/38
- 4.6 There is no violation of Forest (Conservation) Act 1980. P/40
- 4.7 The proposed area for the project is beyond 29.00 km from the boundary of the protected area (Sanctuary and National Park). P/33
- 4.8 Site Inspection Report by the Deputy Conservator of forest Akola Division, Akola .Indicating his observation is enclosed. P/26
- 4.9 The non-forest area covered under the project is not under the provision of Maharashtra Private Forest (Acquisition) Act 1975 by virtue of application of Section 35 of Indian Forest Act 1927 and are not recognized as deemed reserved forest as well as not included in the area identified as "forest" as per dictionary meaning of forest as intimated to the expert committee appointed under interim judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 12/12/1996.
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5. The User Agency has submitted an undertaking that:-


- i) The user agency has submitted an undertaking to defray the cost of compensatory afforestation of the forest land proposed for diversion. P/41


- ii) The user agency has submitted an undertaking to defray the cost of Net present Value of the forest land proposed for diversion. P/36
- iii) The user agency has given undertaking for laying of Optical Fiber Cable is along the existing road & within the road width & hence alternative examination is not required. P/32
- vi) The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Akola Forest Division, Akola and Conservator of Forest (T), Amravati have recommended the proposal for diversion of 0.316 ha. of forest land.


In view of this, the proposal is recommended for approval under the section -2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 subject to the following conditions: –

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- xvi) All other conditions as may be mandatory under relevant Act, Rules and Guidelines shall be complied with by the User Agency.
- xvii) 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.
- xviii) The User Agency will make good the land after use/maintenance.


(G. Saiprakash)
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Head of Forest Force)
Maharashtra State, Nagpur


18/11/22


18/11/2022