

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
FOREST DEPARTMENT

From: Dr. Mohd. Ilyas Rizvi, IFS., Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force), Andhra Pradesh, "Aranya Bhavan", K.M. Munshi Road, Guntur-522004.	To, The Prl. Secretary to Government, Environment, Forests, Science & Technology Department, Andhra Pradesh Secretariat, Velagapudi, Amaravathi.
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Rc.No.10611/2017/FCA-1, Dated: 20.09.2018

Sir,

Sub:- APFD - F (C) Act, 1980 - M/s. Reliance JioInfocomm Ltd.,
Visakhapatnam - Laying of underground Optical Fiber Cable
along the road within the Right of Way (RoW) in Chintur
Division over an extent of 2.72 Ha. for providing 4G
communications in the State of Andhra Pradesh - Proposals -
Submission off - Reg.

- Ref:-
1. Reliance Jio Online Proposal No.
FP/AP/Others/33896/2018, Dt.30.05.2018.
 2. PCCF (HoFF), A.P., Guntur Ref.No. 10611/2017/FCA-1,
Dt.08.06.2018.
 3. Reliance JioInfocomm Ltd. Lr.No.RJIL/OFC/ROW
/NLD/AP/APFD/CHINTOOR/2018-
19/039,Dt.11.06.18.
 4. PCCF (HoFF), A.P., Guntur Ref.No. 10611/2017/FCA-1,
Dt.14.06.2018.
 5. CF, Rajamahendravaram Rc.No.1592/2018-D1,
Dt:29.08.2018.

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It is submitted that, M/s. Reliance JioInfocomm Ltd., Visakhapatnam vide reference 1stcited has submitted the proposals through online for diversion of forest land to an extent of 2.72Ha for laying of underground Optical Fiber Cable along the road within the Right of Way (RoW) passing through forest Chintur Division for providing 4G communications in the State of Andhra Pradesh as per the license granted by Government of India.

The proposal was sent to the Divisional Forest Officer, Chintur and Conservator of Forests, Rajamahendravaram vide this office reference 4thcited for processing as per guidelines envisaged under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and amendments thereon. Accordingly, the Conservator of Forests, Rajamahendravaram vide reference 5thcited has submitted the proposal duly processed under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 guidelines and amendment thereon for diversion of 2.72 Ha. of forest land as per the field inspection.

The details of proposal are as follows:-

The user agency has furnished the following information in Part-I:

- This proposal is for laying of Optical Fiber Cable along the Road within in the existing Right of Way passing through forests in Chintur Division for

providing 4G communications in the State of Andhra Pradesh as per the license granted by Government of India.

- For locating this project on forest land, the User Agency has justified that the Optical Fiber Cable is generally laid along the admitted RoW of State / National Highway roads. Such road side area is declared as the Protected Forest under the Indian Forest Act. The area requested for laying of the Optical Fiber Cable is the bare minimum considering the requirements and also 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 general 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 User Agency has stated that, this Optical Fiber Cable system will fulfill the needs of Telecommunication circuits and Wireless Broadband Services and other Data for the Government, Industries, Defence and Society. This telecom Infrastructure shall lead to growth in economy and hence more employment and better living conditions of the geography/state/Country.
- This new scheme of laying optical Fiber Cable is most modern and state of art Technology in the field of Digital Telecommunication. Moreover the same cable will provide most of new value added services as well as it will cater for the needs of Integrated Services Digital Network.
- The cost of the project is Rs.220.00 Lakhs approximately.
- The User agency has submitted that the Employment likely to be generated is 37,034 man days approx.
- Purpose-wise break-up of the total land required is an extent of 2.72 Ha. (i.e., 37,034mts. length x 0.7 mts. Width approx.)
- The User agency has submitted undertaking to bear the cost of raising and maintenance of compensatory afforestation, NPV, Additional NPV, tree Extraction charges and escalation charges, if any, as per the scheme prepared by the State Government.
- In regarding the certificate under RoFR Act-2006, the user agency has submitted that as per the GOI Lr.No. F.PNo. 11-9/98-FC (pt) dt.5.2.2013, proposals like construction of roads, canals, laying of pipe lines / Optical fiber and transmission lines etc., where linear diversion of use of forest land in several villages are involved the Grama Sabha resolution may not be required until unless recognized rights of PTG/PAC are being affected, are exempted from the requirement of obtaining consent of the Gram Sabha(s) as stipulated in clause © read with clause (b), (e) and (f) in second para of the Ministry's said letter dated 03.08.2009. The user agency has certified that the proposal for laying of underground OFC does not involve recognized rights of Primitive Tribal Groups/Pre-Agricultural communities (PTG/PAC) and also given an undertaking that the consent of Grama Sabha will be submitted, if it is found otherwise, at any point of time.
- The user agency has submitted the authenticated DGPS surveyed map for the area proposed for diversion.

The Divisional Forest Officer, Chinturhas furnished the information in Part-II as follows:

- This proposal is for Diversion of 2.72 Ha. of forest land for laying of underground Optical fiber cable along the road within the existing Right of Way passing through forest land in LakkavaramRange of ChinturDivision in favor of M/s. Reliance JioInfocomm Limited, Visakhapatnam.
- The legal status of forest land notified under Forest Acts is as follows.

Notified U/s.16 of Madras Forest Act.				
1	Lakkavaram RF	G.O.Ms.No.781 & 781A, Dt:03.10.1990		
2	R.H.R.F	G.O.Ms.No.178, 178A Rev, Dt:27.04.1896		
3	Marriguda RF	G.O>Ms.No.1025A, Dt:30.12.1889		
4	Nelakota RF	G.O.Ms.No.230 & 230A, Dt:27.03.1890		
5	Devarapally RF	G.O.Ms.No.436, Dt:30.11.1934		
Notified U/s.15 of A.P.Forest Act, 1967.				
6	MarrigudaExtn-I RF	G.O.Ms.No.424, Dt:09.09.1974	F&RD	(For.III)
7	MarrigudaExtn-II RF	G.O.Ms.No.303 Dt:05.12.1975	F&RD	(For.III)

- The density of the vegetation is less than 0.10.
- The Divisional Forest Officer has stated that there is no requirement of trees felling involved along the length and width of proposed OFC path.
- The Divisional Forest Officer has stated that the no forest area will be effected to erosion.
- The Divisional Forest Officer has stated that the area proposed is unavoidable and barest minimum for the project.
- The Divisional Forest Officer has stated that there are no endangered / unique species of flora and fauna found available in the proposed area.
- The Divisional Forest Officer has stated that the proposed area does not form part National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant Corridor etc., there are no protected archeological / heritage site / defense establishment or any other important monument located in the area.
- The Divisional Forest Officer has stated that the GOI, MoEF (FC Division) vide F.no.11-9/98-FC, dt:07-09-2015has accorded general approval under section (2) of F(C) Act, 1980 for diversion of forest land for underground laying of optical fibre cables, telephone lines, drinking water supply Pipelines, CNG/PNG pipelines within existing Right of way of roads and petroleum pipelines.
- The Divisional Forest Officer, Chinturhas inspected the proposed land for laying of Optical Fiber Cable (OFC) along the existing right of way passing through Lakkavaram Range of ChinturDivision alongwith Forest Range Officer, Lakkavaram Range and officials of M/s. Reliance JioInfocomm Limited, Visakhapatnam on 16.07.2018 and 11.08.2018.

- The Divisional Forest Officer, Chinturhas stated that there is no violations to the provisions under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 within the proposed forest areas.
- The Divisional Forest Officer, Chinturhas certified that the area is not covered under any VSS area.
- The Divisional Forest Officer, Chinturhas recommended the proposal in Part-II.

The Conservator of Forests, Rajamahendravaramhas furnished the information in Part-III as follows:-

The Conservator of Forests, Rajamahendravaramhas not inspected the proposed area and agreed with the information provided by the Divisional Forest Officer, Chinturin Part-II and also recommended the proposal in Part-III.

Both, the Divisional Forest Officer, Chinturand Conservator of Forests, Rajamahendravaramhave recommended the proposal.

The proposal has been uploaded in the Ministry's website and unique proposal No. FP/AP/Others/33896/2018, Dt. 30.05.2018 generated and the acknowledgement slip generated on the web portal is enclosed herewith.

As per the guidelines issued by the GOI, MoEF& CC, New Delhi F.No. 11-09/98-FC, Dt. 16.10.2000 & 07.11.2014, proposal for Diversion of 2.72 Ha. of forest land for laying of underground Optical fiber cable along the road within the existing right of way passing through forests in Lakkavaram Range of Chintur Division in favor of M/s Reliance JIO Info comm Ltd. duly recommended in Part-IV, is submitted herewith in duplicate for consideration of the proposal and accord stage-I approval as deemed fit.

Encl:- As above.

Yours faithfully,
Sd/- Dr. Mohd. Ilyas Rizvi,
Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests
(Head of Forest Force)

//True Copy//


for Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests
24/9/18


24/09/18

Proposed for diversion of 2.72 Ha of Best land towards laying of DFC along the road within ROWs in Chintur Division in the M/s. Reliance Jio Infocom Ltd., Visakhapatnam.

PART-IV

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

Detailed opinion and specific recommendation 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

Signature

Dr. Mohd Iyas Rizvi IFS.,
Name : **Pri. Chief Conservator of Forests**
(Head of Forest Force)
Official Seal **Andhra Pradesh, Guntur.**

Date:

Place:

