

Dated 16th Aug 2021

The Nodal Officer, FCA
And Addl. PCCF, West Bengal
Aranya Bhaban, Salt Lake City
Kolkata.

Madam,

In reply to the query raised by DFO, Jalpaiguri Division dated 29.07.21 regarding question of Compensatory Afforestation (CA), it may be mentioned that Circular of MoEF (Forest Conservation Division) File No. FC-11/165/2019-FC Dated 27th July 2020 that (Para 3) says that ... "After thorough deliberation on the issue, FCA recommended that CA may not be levied in case of laying of underground Optical Fiber Cable (OFC), telephone lines, drinking water supply pipelines, electricity cable, CNG/PNG and slurry pipelines within the ROW of existing roads (trench size not more than 2 Meters In depth and 1 Meter in width) not falling in NP / WL Sanctuaries without felling of trees. In case, proposed area falls in the ROW of the road passing through NPs / WL Sanctuaries, general approval is subject to prior approval from the State Board of Wildlife."

As proposed area of laying OFC does not fall in the ROW of the road passing through Protected Area, So, for laying OFC following Under Ground Methodology through ROW of the existing road CA may not be levied from user agency.

Otherwise in the case of laying OFC over forest land following Methodology i.e., Over Head or Underground, CA may be levied as per the ... Special Provision for CA for certain categories of project as mentioned in section 2.5(i /b) of Chapter 2 Compensatory Afforestation of Forest Conservation Rules 2003 (Guidelines & Clarification). Section 2.5 (i/b) says that, "CA shall be raised and maintained at the cost of User Agency on degraded forest land twice in extent of the forest areas diverted in the case of... (b). laying of telephone / optical fiber lines.

Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd will accept any decision of the department based on the above-mentioned rules / circular regarding Compensatory Afforestation (CA) and necessary payment will be made for CA on receipt of Demand Note.


16/8/21

Authorized Signatory
(Ashish Dasgupta)
Deputy Manager

