

From Chief Conservator of Forests (FC) &
Nodal Officer (FCA)
Punjab, S.A.S. Nagar.

To Divisional Forest Officer,
Patiala.

Sub: - Diversion of 1.47413 ha (33000 mtrs) of forest land for laying of Optical Fiber cable OFC of Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd. on various forest strip (Passi road Patiala to fountain Chowk upto Samana) in Patiala & Samana Range (as per Annexure-A) under Forest Division and Distt. Patiala, Punjab. (M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd.).

Ref: - Your letter No. 2016 dated 31.05.2016.

Government of India has accorded general approval under the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 vide letter No. 11-9/98-FC dated 08-04-2009 dated 02.02.2015 in the cases of laying of Underground Telephone Lines, Optical Fiber Cable/Underground Laying of Drinking Water Supply Pipeline.

After careful consideration of the proposal submitted vide your letter under reference general approval of Govt. of India under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for temporary diversion of **1.47413 ha** of forest land for digging of trenches measuring 33000 mtrs. long and 0.45 mtrs wide along the road for laying of Optical Fiber Cable (**M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd.**) is hereby **conveyed with directions for strict compliance with the orders of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in O.A. 161 & O.A. 162 of 2016 dated 19.5.2016 subject to the following conditions: -**

1. Legal status of the forest land will remain unchanged.
2. The forest land will not be used for any other purpose.
3. No tree will be felled.
4. Hon'ble Supreme Court of India vide order dated 28-3-08 in I.A No. 826 in 566..... in W.P.(C) 202 of 1995 has fully exempted NPV provided: (a) no felling of trees is involved; and (b) the areas fall outside National Park/Wildlife Sanctuary.
5. User Agency has given Bank Guarantee of Rs. 8,25,000/- to DFO, Patiala.
6. The Optical Fiber Cable will be laid along the road within the existing right of way and close to the outermost edge of the forest land. The dug out land shall be restored by the User Agency and the same shall be made good immediately after the approved operation.
7. This approval is subject to the clearance of the proposal under relevant local Acts/Rules/Court's Rulings/instructions etc. as applicable.
8. The User Agency shall seek prior permission from the DFO, Patiala for carrying out any maintenance operation.
9. The User Agency shall abide by any other condition (s) that may be imposed by this Department in the interest of afforestation and protection of environment.
10. The State Forest Department may revoke/suspend this approval, if any of the above conditions is not satisfactorily fulfilled by the User Agency.
11. An undertaking is signed by the User Agency for abiding by all the aforesaid conditions.
12. If any other NOC is necessary under any Act/Rules/Guidelines etc. from other Departments, the user agency should obtain the same before the commencement of laying of Cable.
13. CF, South/DFO, Patiala shall ensure fulfillment of the above conditions.

Chief Conservator of Forests (FC) &
Nodal Officer (FCA),
Punjab, S.A.S. Nagar.

Endst. No. FCA/1980/176/2016/ 6405-09

Dated 18-7-2016

Copy to: -

1. DIG (FC), Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Paryavaran Bhawan, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi- 110003.
2. Financial Commissioner (Forests) & Principal Secretary to Govt. of Punjab, Chandigarh.
3. Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Central), Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Bays No. 24-25, Sector 31-A, Chandigarh.
4. Conservator of Forests, South Circle, Patiala w.r.t DFO, Patiala's letter No. 2016 dated 31.05.2016 for information and necessary action.
5. Master file.

Chief Conservator of Forests (FC) &
Nodal Officer (FCA),
Punjab, S.A.S. Nagar.