



ANNEXURE-9

CERTIFICATE FOR MINIMUM USE OF FOREST LAND.

Under the National optical Fiber Network (NOFN) project (now known as BHARAT NET) of Government of India, RailTel Corporation of India Ltd. (RCIL) is implementing the phase I of the project in Gujarat state to connect 5315 Gram Panchayats of 11 districts of Gujarat, by laying approx. 10071 Kms of optical fiber cable (OFC), under the supervision and on behalf of Bharat Broadband Nigam Limited (BBNL), an SPV of Department of Telecom (DoT). RCIL is connecting Block Headquarters with Gram Panchayats, by utilizing the already laid existing OFC of PSUs (BSNL, PGCIL and RCIL) and then laying incremental OFC, where PSU OFC does not exist. The block-wise survey work for NOFN project has been approved by BBNL to ensure best possible utilization of existing OFC of PSUs and minimum laying of incremental OFC.

The cables are always laid along the road side for easy supervision, quick and low cost of maintenance. This department does not need an acquisition of land for this purpose as the road side land belongs to either SH/ NH. ROW (right of way) permission for the same is already issued by Government of Gujarat for laying of the OFC. While laying of cable, trench will be done in such a way that no tree will be required to be cut.

The cable laying work will be carried out in phased manner in such a way that after the PLB / Protection pipes are laid for OFC and the trench is reinstated, the land in question need not require to be handed over to the BBNL/ RCIL for its exclusive use. Thus minimum land shall be used during the work. After the reinstatement of trench, the land area affected may very well be utilized for plantation and development of forest.

Place : Ahmedabad
Date : 11.02.2016


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