

I/531200/2023

**Government of Punjab  
Department of Forests & Wildlife Preservation  
(Forest Branch)**

**Dated: 21/03/2023**

To

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF),  
Punjab, S.A.S. Nagar.

**Sub:- Diversion of 1.877 ha. of forest land for laying OFC along the route from (1) FF road Km. 85-86 = 500 Mtr. LHS (2) DHS road km. 409-416 = 7000 Mtr. (LHS) (3) Noorshah Link road km. 4-5 = 500 Mtr. LHS (4) Fazilka Destroy RD 52-57 = 1650 Mtr. (LHS (5) FF road km 74-75 = 500 Mtr. LHS (6) Alamshah Minor RD 15-21 = 1800 mtr. LHS (7) Khrowala road RD 5-8 = 700 mtr. RHS (8) Hindumalkot road km 0-14 = 14000 mtr. KHS (9) Kehowali Dhab to Hindumalkot road km 14.200-22.030 = 7830 mtr. RHS (10) Abohar to Hindumalkot road km 19.430 to 26.200 = 6770 mtr. RHS (Total length = 41250 mtr.) on route Shamshabad-tutwala link ID 2.3.01 for Army project Ascon PH-IV, Under Forest Division Shri Muktsar Sahib (FP/PB/OFC/156219/2022).**

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Government of India has accorded general approval under the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 vide letter No. F.No. 5-2/2017-FC dated 28.03.2019 in under para 4.2 according 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 "**Stage-I approval**" of temporary diversion of **1.877 ha.** of forest land measuring 41250 mtrs. Long and 0.45 mtrs wide along the road for laying of Optical Fiber Cable is hereby conveyed subject to the following conditions:-

1. Legal status of the forest land will remain unchanged.
2. The forest land to be diverted as per "Stage-I approval" will not be used for any other purpose.
3. No tree will be felled by the user agency.
4. As per the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India dated 28-3-08 in I.A No. 826 in 566 in W.P.(C) 202 of 1995, the user agency is exempted for paying of the charges under NPV: (a) no felling of trees is involved; and (b) the areas fall outside National Park/Wildlife Sanctuary.

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5. User Agency has given Bank Guarantee of Rs. 10,31,250/- to Divisional Forest Officer Shri Muktsar Sahib.
6. It is Mandatory for the User Agency not to exceed the permissible trench limit of 0.45 meter in width, 1.65 meter in depth and 41250 meter in Length.
7. The Optical Fiber Cable will be laid along the road within the existing right of way and closed 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.
8. This approval is subject to the clearance of the proposal under relevant local Acts/Rules/Court's Rulings/instructions etc. as applicable.
9. The User Agency shall seek prior permission from the DFO, Shri Muktsar Sahib for carrying out any maintenance operation.
10. 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.
11. The State Forest Department may revoke/suspend this approval, if any of the above conditions is not satisfactorily fulfilled by the User Agency.
12. An undertaking is tendered by the User Agency for abiding all the aforesaid conditions.
13. If any other NOC is necessary for the work under any Act/Rules/Guidelines etc. from any other Departments, the user agency should obtain the same on its own before the commencement of laying of Cable.
14. This approval is granted subject to the condition that there is no court case pending in any court pertaining to the land or trees in the present FCA case. Any legal liability arising out of such case; if any, will be the sole responsibility of the land owning Department.
15. DFO, Shri Muktsar Sahib shall ensure fulfillment of the above conditions and CF, Ferozepur Circle will supervise it.

Dr. Indu Malhotra

SECRETARY

21/03/2023

**Copy to:-**

1. Deputy Director General of Forests (C), Ministry of Environment,

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Forests and Climate Change, Bays No. 24-25, Sector 31-A,  
Chandigarh.

2. Conservator of Forests, Ferozepur Circle.
3. Divisional Forest Officer, Shri Muktsar Sahib.
4. ITI Bhawan, Dorvaninagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka.