



**ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE
& FORESTS(FR.10) DEPARTMENT,
SECRETARIAT, CHENNAI 9.**

Letter No.20187/FR.10/2021-1, Dated :10.01.2022

From
Tmt.Supriya Sahu, IAS.,
Additional Chief Secretary to Government.

To

The Additional Director General of Forests (Central),
Government of India,
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change,
Integrated Regional Office,
1st Floor, Additional Office Block for GPOA,
Shastri Bhawan, Haddows Road,
Nungambakkam, Chennai-600 006 (w.e).

Sir,

Sub: Forests – Theni Forest Division – SMTR, Madurai – Forest
(Conservation) Act, 1980 – Proposal for diversion of Forest
land of 0.022 ha for laying underground Optical Fiber cable
along the road side across Paramasivankoil Karadu RL
(0.365 km) and Valkaradu RF (0.373 km) in Theni Taluk, Theni
District to a distance of 0.738 km for providing 4G wireless
Broadband - Regarding.

Ref: From Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Chennai letter
No: TS4/37431/ 2019, dated 01.11.2021.

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I am directed to state that the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests has informed that the District Forest Officer, Theni has inspected the proposed area applied for diversion of Forest land on 16.03.2021 and stated that the area requested by the User Agency (M/s.Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd, Chennai) is 0.022 Ha for laying of underground Optical Fiber Cables (OFC) for a distance of 0.738 kms with a width of 0.30 mt. The proposed area is forest land of Valkaradu Reserved Forest (0.373 km) along the road side from Bus Stand to Sivaji Nagar, and Paramasivankoil Karadu Reserved land (0.365 km) along existing roadside from Bus Stand to District Collector office. The area is side of the road devoid of vegetation with no tree growth and no important monuments. The distance from the proposed project location to Kodaikanal Wildlife division is around 13.30 km and Megamalai Wildlife Division is 11.20 km.

2. The District Forest Officer, Theni in his recommendation has stated that the project site does not fall in Eco Sensitive Zone of Megamalai and Kodaikanal Wildlife sanctuaries and also does not fall under Ecologically sensitive areas. The District Collector has certified that there is no alternate non forest land and the User Agency has not carried out any work in violation of Forest Conservation Act 1980.

Since the project aims to provide improvement of communication infrastructure and Hon'ble Prime Ministers Vision of Digital India, the diversion of 0.022 ha of forest land may be permitted. In Part-II the District Forest Officer, has stated that the density of the vegetation in the proposed area is zero and Eco class 3 and no tree growth is available and has not insisted Compensatory Afforestation scheme, as the project area is only 0.022 ha and no tree felling is involved.

3. The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Madurai has inspected the proposed area for laying underground Optical Fiber Cable (OFC) on 24.06.2021 and stated that the underground Optical Fire Cable (OFC) proposed to be laid on the right side of the existing road from Theni new Bus Stand to Sivaji Nagar across Valkaradu Reserved Forest (0.373 km) and along existing roadside from Bus Stand to District Collector's office in Paramasivankoil Karadu Reserved land (0.365 km). The proposed width of the trench is 0.30 m and to a depth of 1.2 m. There is no felling of trees involved in this proposal hence, the diversion of forest land to an extent of 0.022 ha may be considered. The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Madurai in his recommendation has stated that the underground OFC proposed to be laid to a distance of (0.373 km) in Valkaradu Reserved Forest and 0.365 km in Paramasivankoil Karadu Reserved land. There is no felling of trees involved in this proposal and the location is doesn't fall in Eco Sensitive Zone (ESZ) of Megamalai and Kodaikanal Wildlife Sanctuaries and tiger corridors of Mathikettan Shola National Park and Pamban Shola National Park of Kerala State. This project is essential for the development of communication infrastructure of the said area and hence the diversion of forest land to an extent of 0.022 ha may be recommended. He has also stated in Part-III of Form A proposal that the proposed area for diversion does not have any important monuments of Archeological, Heritage site, Defense establishment etc and the project is location specific and the area requested for the project is barest minimum and recommended the proposal for underground Optical Fire Cable in Valkaradu Reserved Forest and Paramasivankoil Karadu RL of Theni Forest Division to a distance of 0.738 km length and trench width of 0.30 m to improve the communication facilities.

4. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests has sent the proposal, duly recommended in the Part IV format by the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (FCA) / Nodal Officer (Forest Conservation Act).

5. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests has therefore recommended and requested the Government to forward the proposal for diversion of 0.022 ha of forest land for laying Optical Fibre Cable along road side of the existing road from Theni new Bus Stand to Sivaji Nagar across Valkaradu Reserved Forest 0.373 km and from Bus Stand to District Collector's office in Paramasivankoil Karadu Reserved land (0.365 km). in Theni division, Theni district for a period of 20 years in favour of M/s. Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd, Chennai, subject to the following conditions:-

1) The legal status of the land shall remain unchanged and shall remain as Reserved Forests.

2) The demarcation of the proposed forest area shall be carried out by erecting 4 feet height cement concrete pillars duly numbered at an interval of 20 mts at the cost of User Agency.

3) The User Agency shall be responsible for any loss to Flora and Fauna in the surroundings and shall take all possible measures to conserve the same.

4) The forest land shall not be used for any other purpose other than that specified in the proposal.

5) The lease rent should be realized from the User Agency as per G.O.Ms.No.272, E&F(FR.XIII) Dept. dated 15.04.1991.

6) The period of lease is 20 years.

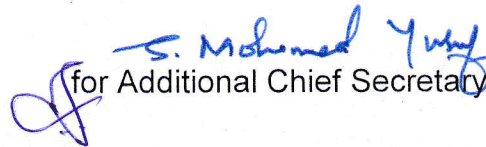
7) The User Agency should send renewal proposal one year before expiry of lease.

8) The Conservator of Forests & Field Director, SMTR, Madurai and District Forest Officer, Theni may impose any other condition in the interest of conservation/ protection/ land development of forests.

6. The Government have examined the proposal of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Dept) for diversion of 0.022 ha of forest land for laying Optical Fibre Cable along road side of the existing road from Theni new Bus Stand to Sivaji Nagar across Valkaradu Reserved Forest 0.373 km and from Bus Stand to District Collector's office in Paramasivankoil Karadu Reserved land (0.365 km). in Theni division, Theni district in favour of M/s. Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd, Chennai for a period of 20 years under section-2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and decided to forward the same to Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India for concurrence.

7. I am, therefore, directed to request you to kindly obtain the concurrence of the Competent Authority and communicate the same to this Government, early.

Yours faithfully,

 13/11/2022
for Additional Chief Secretary to Government

Copy to:-

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,
Chennai-15.

M/s.Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited,
Mylapore,
Chennai-4.

PART – V

(To be filled in by the Secretary in charge of Forest Department or by any other authorized officer of the State Government not below the rank of an Under Secretary)

Proposal for diversion of 0.022 ha of forest land for laying Optical Fibre Cable along road side of the existing road from Theni new Bus Stand to Sivaji Nagar across Valkaradu Reserved Forest 0.373 km and from Bus Stand to District Collector's office in Paramasivankoil Karadu Reserved land (0.365 km) in Theni division, Theni district for a period of 20 years, in favour of M/s.Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd, Chennai under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

18. Recommendation of the State Government - *Recommended* -

(Adverse comments made by any officer or authority in Part-B or Part – C or Part – D above should be specifically commented upon)

Signature

S. Rajan
(S. RAJAN)
Under Secretary to Government
Environment, Climate Change and
Forest Department
Secretariat, Chennai-600 009.

Name & Designation
(Official Seal)

Date : 10.01.2022

Place : Chennai-9.