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सत्यमेव जयते

भारतसरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
पर्यावरण , वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS &
CLIMATE CHANGE
Regional Office

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F.No.4-TNB106/2023-CHN/ 919

Date 31st July, 2023

To

The Additional Chief Secretary to the Government of Tamil Nadu,
Environment & Forests Department,
Secretariat, Fort St. George, Chennai - 600 009

Subject: Diversion of 0.1266 ha of forest land in Villupuram Forest Division for laying of underground Optical Fiber Cable along road side of Sankarapuram to Arakandanallur Road section from Kulathur to Nariyandhal across Kaduvanur RFs (2.00 km length - 0.06 ha) and Swamimalai RFs (2.22 km length-0.0666 ha) in Kallakuruchi District in favour of M/s. Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited, Chennai.- Reg.

Sir,

Please refer to the State Government's letter 2245/FR.10/2023-2 dated 17.07.2023, and online proposal No.FP/TN/Others/36379/2018, seeking prior approval of the Central Government for diversion of forest land in accordance with Section '2' of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for the above mentioned project.

After careful consideration of the proposal of the State Government, I am hereby directed to convey the Central Government's in-principle approval **(Stage-I)** under Section '2' of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 0.1266 ha of forest land in Villupuram Forest Division for laying of underground Optical Fiber Cable along road side of Sankarapuram to Arakandanallur Road section from Kulathur to Nariyandhal across Kaduvanur RFs (2.00 km length-0.06 ha) and Swamimalai RFs (2.22 km length-0.0666 ha) in Kallakuruchi District in favour of M/s. Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited, Chennai, **for a period of 25 years**, subject to the following conditions:-

- (i) Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged;
- (ii) Demarcation of the proposed forest area shall be carried out by erecting 4 feet high cement concrete pillars duly numbered at

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- the appropriate distance as decided by the DFO concerned, at the cost of User Agency;
- (iii) The State Forest Department shall carryout plantation of 254 numbers of saplings with maintenance for a period of 10 years in the DFL area over an extent of 0.2532 ha identified in Thagarai RF Kallakurichi Range, at the cost of the User Agency. **The CA shall be carried out as per the time line provided in the FC Rules 2022;**
 - (iv) Full exemption of NPV is allowed in case of laying of underground OFC cable provided no felling of trees is involved and area proposed for diversion is outside of Protected Area as per the MoEF&CC Guidelines. But in case an amount of the Net Present Value (NPV) of the diverted forest land if any, becoming due after revision of the same by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in future, shall be charged by the State Government from the User Agency. The User Agency shall furnish an undertaking to this effect;
 - (v) **The maximum size of the trench shall not exceed 2.00 mtrdepth, 4.22 km length and 0.30 mtr width. The forest land shall be restored to its original state after laying the same;**
 - (vi) The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government;
 - (vii) No labour camp shall be established on the forest land.
 - (viii) Disturbance shall be kept minimal by creating labour camps outside the forest area as far as possible and it will be the responsibility of the User Agency to ensure that the machinery, labourers & staff engaged in execution of work shall not destruct nearby forest flora & fauna;
 - (ix) Sufficient firewood, preferably the alternate fuel, shall be provided by the User Agency to the labourer after purchasing the same from the State Forest Department or the Forest Development Corporation or any other legal source of alternate fuel.
 - (x) **No tree felling shall be carried out by the User Agency;**
 - (xi) **RoFR certificate to be obtained from the competent authority and same shall be ensured by the State Govt. before execution of project work, as per the provision made under FC rules 2022;**

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- (xii) The forest land proposed for diversion shall under no circumstances be transferred or sublet to any other agency, department or person without prior approval of the Central Government;
- (xiii) The total forest area utilized for the project shall not exceed **0.1266 ha** and the forest area diverted shall not be used for any purpose other than those shown in the diversion proposal;
- (xiv) User Agency and the State Government shall ensure compliance to provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations and Guidelines, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project;
- (xv) Any other conditions that the Central Government or Deputy Director General of Forests (Central) of the Regional Office, Chennai may impose from time to time in the interest of afforestation, conservation and management of flora and fauna in the area, shall be complied by the User Agency;
- (xvi) In the event of failure to comply with any of the above conditions the user agency is liable for penal action as per the provisions in Ministry's guidelines.

After receipt of the compliance report on above mentioned conditions, the proposal will be considered for final approval. Where compliance of condition imposed in the 'In-principle' approval is awaited from the Union territory Administration, as the case may be, for more than two years, the 'In-Principle' approval shall be deemed to be null and void.

Signed by Karthikeyan

Karuppiiah

Date: 31-07-2023 09:52:15

Reason: Approved

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-**(K.Karthikeyan)**

Assistant Inspector General of Forests (Central)

Copy to:-

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Forest Department, Guindy-Velachery Main Road, Guindy, Chennai - 32
2. The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests/Nodal Officer (FCA), Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Forest Department, Guindy-Velachery Main Road, Guindy, Chennai - 32
3. IGF, ROHQ, MoEF&CC, New Delhi -110003 for information please
4. M/s Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited, No.89 Dr Radhakrishnan Salai, Mylapore Chennai, Tamil Nadu-600004.
balsamy.thirunagalingam@ril.com
5. Guard file.

Sd/-**(K.Karthikeyan)**

Assistant Inspector General of Forests (Central)