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

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F.No.4-TNB101/2023-CHN / 580
Date 11th May, 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 0.0069 ha of forest land for laying of underground Optical Fiber Cable (OFC) in Vaiyampatti to Konnaiyur route through forest areas of Ammankuruchi RF to a distance of 228.60 m for providing 4G Wireless Broadband in Pudukkottai District in favour of the Jio Digital Fiber Private Limited, Chennai- Reg.

Sir,

Please refer to the State Government's letter No.1273/FR.10/2023-1 dated 03.04.2023, and online proposal No. FP/TN/OFC/118876/2021, 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 **0.0069 ha** of forest land for laying of underground Optical Fiber Cable (OFC) in Vaiyampatti to Konnaiyur route through forest areas of Ammankuruchi RF to a distance of 228.60 m for providing 4G Wireless Broadband in Pudukkottai District in favour of the Jio Digital Fiber Private Limited, Chennai, **for a period of 20 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 the appropriate distance as decided by the DFO concerned, at the cost of User Agency;

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- (iii) 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;
- (iv) **The maximum size of the trench shall not exceed 2.00 mtr depth, 228.6 mtr length and 0.30 mtr width. The forest land shall be restored to its original state after laying the same;**
- (v) The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government;
- (vi) No labour camp shall be established on the forest land.
- (vii) 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;
- (viii) 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.
- (ix) **No tree felling shall be carried out by the User Agency;**
- (x) 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;
- (xi) The total forest area utilized for the project shall not exceed **0.0069 ha** and the forest area diverted shall not be used for any purpose other than those shown in the diversion proposal;
- (xii) 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;

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(xiii) Any other conditions that the Central Government or Regional officer(Central) of the Integrated 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;

(xiv) 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. This in-principle approval shall be valid for a period of 5 years from the date of issue of this letter. In the event of non-compliance of the above conditions, this in-principle approval shall automatically stand revoked after 5 years.

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 JioInfocomm 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)