



सत्यमेव जयते

भारत सरकार

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS & CLIMATE CHANGE

क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय / Regional Office

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F.No.4-TNB135/2024-CHN/ 1830

Date: 13th November, 2024

To,

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

Subject: Trichy Circle / Pudukkottai Division - Proposal (FP/TN/OFC/119342/2021) for diversion of 0.0107 ha of forest land for laying of underground Optical Fibre Cable along Sokkanathapuram to Maravamadurai route through forest areas in Ammankurichi Reserved Forest in Pudukkottai District in favour of the Jio Digital Fibre Private Limited, Chennai-Reg.

Sir,

Please refer to the State Government's letter Nos. 1274/FR.10/2023-3 dated 28.10.2024 and online proposal No.FP/TN/OFC/119342/2021, seeking prior approval of the Central Government for diversion of forest land in accordance with Section 2(1) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for the above mentioned project.

After careful consideration of the proposal of the State Government, I am directed to convey the Central Government's **In-principle approval (Stage-I)** under Section 2(1) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, for diversion of 0.0107 ha of forest land for laying of underground Optical Fibre Cable along Sokkanathapuram to Maravamadurai route through forest areas in Ammankurichi Reserved Forest in Pudukkottai District in favour of the Jio Digital Fibre 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 an interval of 20 meters at the cost of the User Agency;
- (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 the 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;
- (iv) Cost of raising compensatory afforestation of planting 100 seedlings in degraded forest land identified in Ammankurichi Reserve Forest as per the CA scheme shall be realised from User Agency; As per kml file of the CA area, it is suggested to do planting in a concentrated area i.e. within 0.1 to 0.25 ha area by avoiding water logging area (drinking water tank) noticed in the northern side of the proposed CA area.
- (v) The modified KML file as above of the CA area and the forest area to be diverted shall be uploaded on the e-green watch portal.
- (vi) The forest land shall be restored to its original state after laying the Optical Fibre Cable;
- (vii) No tree felling shall be carried out by the User Agency;
- (viii) No additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for transportation of construction materials for execution of the project work.
- (ix) The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government;
- (x) The User Agency shall provide fire wood preferably alternate fuel to labourers working at the site to avoid damage/tree felling and no labour camp shall be established inside the forest area;
- (xi) 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.

- (xii) Disturbance shall be kept minimum by creating labour camps outside the forest area as far as possible and it shall be the responsibility of the User Agency to ensure that the labourers & staff engaged in execution of work do not destruct nearby forest flora & fauna;
- (xiii) The total forest area utilized for the project shall not exceed **0.0107ha** and the forest area diverted shall not be used for any purpose other than those shown in the diversion proposal. **The User Agency shall furnish an undertaking to this effect;**
- (xiv) 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;
- (xv) The User Agency and the State Government shall ensure compliance to provisions of all Acts, Rules, Regulations and Guidelines, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project;
- (xvi) The conditions required to be adhered under the Forests Right Act, 2006 as per the rules/guidelines issued under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 shall be strictly complied with;
- (xvii) Any other conditions that the Central Government or DDGF (Central) of 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;
- (xviii) Non-compliance / violation of any of these conditions will amounts to violation under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 and action would be taken as prescribed under the Act, Rules and Guidelines relevant.
- (xix) The State Government shall process and submit compliance report on the above conditions through online (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>);

After receipt of the compliance report on the fulfilment of the conditions mentioned above, the proposal shall be considered for final approval under

Section 2(1)) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. Transfer of forest land shall not be effected till final approval is granted by the Government in this regard.

Further, it may also be noted that this in-principle approval shall be valid for a period of 2 years from the date of issue of this letter. In the event of non-compliance of the above conditions within 2 years, the in-principle approval shall be deemed to be null and void.

Yours faithfully,
Signed by Karthikeyan
Karupiah
Date: 13-11-2024 12:01:28

(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 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. The IGF, RO(HQ) Division, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhavan, Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj, New Delhi -3.
4. Joint Chief Executive Officer, National CAMPA, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj, New Delhi-3.
5. Jio Digital Fibre Private Limited, No 89 Dr Radhakrishnan Salai Mylapore Chennai 04, (jiotn.scorow@ril.com)
6. Guard File.

Sd/-
(K.Karthikeyan)
Assistant Inspector General of Forests (Central)