

I/425492/2022

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

Dated: 13/09/2022

To,

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

Subject:- Diversion of 1.036 ha. Of Forest land for laying of optical fiber cable from Mansa to Budhlada via Jawharke, Barnala, Narinder Pura & Ahemadpur, Total Length =22950 Meter under Forest Division Mansa, Punjab. FP/PB/OFC/49542/2020.

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 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**" diversion of **1.036 ha** of forest land for digging of trenches measuring **22950 mtrs.** long and **0.45 mtrs** wide along the road for **laying of optical fiber cable from Mansa to Budhlada via Jawharke, Barnala, Narinder Pura & Ahemadpur, Total Length =22950 Meter under Forest Division Mansa** 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 and MoEF & CC File no. 5-3/2011-FC (Vol-I) Dated 06.01.2022 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.
5. The User Agency shall provide NOC from Irrigation Department as per undertaking.
6. The User Agency shall provide certificate regarding Scheduled Tribes and Traditional Forest Dwellers Recognition of Forest Rights Act, 2006 from the concerned Deputy Commissioner to Divisional Forest Officer.
7. User Agency has given Undertaking about Bank Guarantee of Rs. 5,85,000/- to

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Divisional Forest Officer Mansa.

8. 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.
9. It is mandatory for the User Agency not to exceed the permissible trench limit of 0.45 meter in width and 1.65 meter in depth.
10. This approval is subject to the clearance of the proposal under relevant local Acts/Rules/Court's Rulings/instructions etc. as applicable.
11. The User Agency shall seek prior permission from the **DFO, Mansa** for carrying out any maintenance operation.
12. 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.
13. The State Forest Department may revoke/suspend this approval, if any of the above conditions is not satisfactorily fulfilled by the User Agency.
14. An undertaking is tendered by the User Agency for abiding all the aforesaid conditions.
15. 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/ Agency.
16. 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.
17. DFO, Mansa shall ensure fulfillment of the above conditions and CF, South Circle will supervise it.

Manjit Kaur
UNDER SECRETARY
13/09/2022

C.C.:-

1. Deputy Director General of Forests (C), Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Chandigarh.
2. Conservator of Forests, South Circle, Patiala/DFO Mansa.
3. Sh. KESHAV CONSTRUCTION CO., SECTOR 11A, Hanumangarh, Rajasthan.