



सत्यमेव जयते

भारत सरकार

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

पर्यावरण, वन, एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS & CLIMATE CHANGE

क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय / Regional Office, Chennai

1st Floor Additional Office Block for GPOA, Shastri Bhawan,
Haddows Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai -600 006.

email: ro.moefccc@gov.in



F.No.4-TNB130/2024-CHN/ 1675

Date: 23rd October, 2024

To,

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

Subject: Diversion of 0.165 ha of FL for laying underground OFC to a length of 5490.66 m at 1 to 2m depth and width of 0.30m along the left side of road from Arimalam Rayavaram road stretch along Sengeerai Forest area in favour of JIO DIGITAL FIBRE PRIVATE LIMITED (online proposal No. FP/TN/OFC/117896/2020) - Reg.

Sir,

Please refer to the State Government's letter Nos. 6119/FR.10/2023-4 dated 19.09.2024 and online proposal No.FP/TN/OFC/117896/2020, seeking prior approval of the Central Government for diversion of forest land in accordance with Sec. 2(1)(ii) 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)(ii) of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, for diversion of 0.165 ha of forest land for laying underground OFC to a length of 5490.66m at 1 to 2m depth and width of 0.30m along the left side of road from Arimalam-Rayavaram road stretch along Sengeerai Forest area in favour of Jio Digital Fibre Private Ltd, 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) All the funds received from the User Agency under the project shall be transferred/ deposited to CAMPA fund only through e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>);
- (v) The State Forest Department shall raise plantation of 100 seedlings in 1.0ha of degraded forest area in Compartment No.545/1 of Sevilimalai RF of Thirumayam Range Pudukkottai Division and maintain it for 10 years at the cost of the project;
- (vi) The maximum size of the trench shall not exceed 2.00 mtr depths, 5.5 km length and 0.30 mtr width. The forest land shall be restored to its original state after laying the same;
- (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 0.165ha 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) Working permission for the linear projects if any shall be granted only after ensuring compliance of all the stipulated conditions as per the Act, Rules and Guidelines in force.
- (xvi) The 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;
- (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) 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;
- (xix) 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;
- (xx) 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) Adhinyam, 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: 23-10-2024 07:55:09
(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)