



GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

Abstract

Forest & Wildlife Department - Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 - Diversion of 0.249 ha of forest land in Wayanad (South) Division for laying Optical Fiber Cable from Mananthavady to Pulpally, Panamaram to Bhootdanam and Bathery to Panamaram - Stage I Approval - Orders Issued - regarding.

FOREST & WILDLIFE (C) DEPARTMENT

G.O.(Rt)No.454/2022/F&WLD Dated, Thiruvananthapuram, 25-10-2022

Read Letter No. FC1-2782/2022 dated 14.10.2022 from the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Nodal Officer, Thiruvananthapuram.

ORDER

The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Nodal Officer as per the letter read above has recommended and forwarded the proposal in Form A under section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 0.249 ha of forest land in Wayanad (South) Division for laying Optical Fiber Cable from Mananthavady to Pulpally, Panamaram to Bhootdanam and Bathery to Panamaram. Jio Digital Fibre Private Limited, Uttar Pradesh is the user agency.

2. As per the Site inspection Report, the project is for laying Optical Fibre Cable for 8.3 Km with a width of 30 cm in 5 sites and installation of Manhole in roads under the jurisdiction of Chedleth Range under the Wayand (South) Forest Division. No trees are to be felled. The proposed area does not form part of any National park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Elephant corridor and Tiger Reserves. The requirement of forest land proposed by the User Agency is unavoidable and barest minimum. Since the area falls under one of the major human wildlife conflict zone, it was recommended that suitable field operations vehicle for the use of the Rapid Response Team may be made available

to Chedleth Range by the User Agency(Jio) for driving away the wild animals straying into the alignment proposed and the inhabited areas including adjoining Adivasi settlements and also for rescue and rehabilitation operations in the area. The optical fiber will facilitate better internet connectivity to the remote villages and also to the various camp offices of Forest Department. No displacement of families is necessary for this project. On the face of it, the project does not adversely affect the flora and fauna of the area. The proposed area does not form part of any protected area/archaeological/heritage site/defense establishment. The proposal was recommended by Divisional Forest Officer and Chief Conservator of Forests (Northern Circle) Kannur.

3. The proposal is uploaded in Union Ministry's website vide No.FP/KL/OFC/155906/2022 and due procedures have been completed.

4. In the circumstances, Government have examined the proposal under the general approval powers of the State Government vide 4.3 of F(C) Act,1980 guidelines, and are pleased to accord Stage I (in- principle) approval subject to the following conditions:

1. Legal status of the forest land shall remain unchanged.
2. The boundary of the diverted forest land shall be suitably demarcated on ground at the project cost, as per the directions of the concerned Divisional Forest Officer.
3. Additional amount of Net present Value 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, they will meet up the requirement as above within the time frame specified.
4. 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/>).
5. Necessary certificates/ documents under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 as per the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change vide letter No. 11-9/1998-FC(pt) dated 05.07.2013 shall be furnished before Stage-II

clearance.

6. The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without prior approval of Central Government.

7. No labour camp shall be established on forest land.

8. No additional or new path will be constructed inside the forest area for transportation of construction materials for execution of the project work.

9. The forest area shall be used only for the purpose for which it is granted. The total forest area utilized for this project shall not exceed 0.249 ha.

10. The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agency, department or person without the prior approval of Government of India.

11. The User Agency shall enter into an agreement with Divisional Forest Officer incorporating all the conditions imposed by the Central/ State Government in this regard and lease rent as decided by the State may be remitted.

12. The compliance report shall be uploaded on e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>).

13. The User Agency shall apply for renewal after 25 years.

14. Any other condition that the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change may stipulate from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection and development of forests & wildlife.

15. Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Forest(Conservation) Act, 1980 and action would be taken as per guidelines issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change vide F.No. 11-42/2017-FC dated 29/01/2018.

16. The User Agency shall provide for a 4x4 vehicle for RRT under Chedleth Range to facilitate securing the inspection path along the OFC alignment and in the surrounding areas as it happens to be a intense conflict zone on the man-animal front.

17. The User Agency shall provide free internet connectivity to the forest establishments to facilitate live surveillance and real time GIS analysis in the landscape carried at reducing the conflict prevailing in the region.

(By order of the Governor)
K R JYOTHILAL
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY

To:

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, Thiruvananthapuram.

The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Nodal Officer, Thiruvananthapuram.

The Chief Conservator of Forests (Northern Circle), Kannur.

Divisional Forest Officer, Wayanad.

Jio Digital Fibre Private Limited, Uttar Pradesh.

The Principal Accountant General (A&E)/Audit, Thiruvananthapuram.

I&PR (Web & New Media) Department.

Stock File.

Forwarded /By order

Section Officer

Copy to : PS to Hon'ble Chief Minister,

PS to Hon'ble Minister (Forest)