



भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS & CLIMATE CHANGE
Sub Office at Vijayawada of Regional Office, Chennai
Green House Complex, Gopal Reddy Road
Vijayawada – 520010, Andhra Pradesh
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F.No. 4-APB221/2023-VIJ /09

Dated: 16th January, 2025

To

The Special Chief Secretary to the Government of Andhra Pradesh,
 Environment, Forests, Science & Technology Department,
 Government of Andhra Pradesh, Room No.268, 1st Floor, 4th Block,
 Andhra Pradesh Secretariat, Velagapudi, Amaravati Guntur District-522503

Subject: Diversion of 1.01 ha forest land for laying of OFC along existing road under various Forest areas of Nellore Division in Andhra Pradesh in favour of M/s Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd., Visakhapatnam -reg.

Sir,

Please refer to the State Government's letter No. 1318/Section.II/2023/(2135755) dated 26.07.2023 and online proposal No. FP/AP/OFC/36007/2018 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. The project was accorded in-principle approval by the Central Government vide letter F.No. 4-APB221/2023-VIJ/1168 dated 17.08.2023. The State Government vide letter No. 1318/Section.II/2023/2135755 Dated: 20.12.2024 has reported compliance to the conditions stipulated in the in-principle approval.

After careful consideration of the proposal of the State Government, I am directed to convey the Central Government's final approval under Section '2(1)' of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of **1.01 ha** forest land for laying of OFC along existing road under various Forest areas of Nellore Division in Andhra Pradesh in favour of M/s Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd., Visakhapatnam, subject to the following conditions.

- (i) Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged;
- (ii) The boundary of the diverted forest land shall be suitably demarcated on ground at the project cost as per the directions of concerned Divisional Forest Officer;

- (iii) The State Forest Department shall carry out compensatory afforestation over an extent of i.e. 2.10 ha (within the 2.64 ha) of degraded forest area compartment no.19, Rudrakota RF, Kavali Range, Nellore Division at the cost of the User Agency;
- (iv) Identified CA area and CA scheme shall not be changed without prior approval of Central Government;
- (v) Additional 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;
- (vi) No tree felling shall be carried out in the diverted forest area;
- (vii) The forest land shall be restored to its original state after laying the same;
- (viii) As the part of the area i.e. 0.23 ha Eco-Sensitive Zone of Sri Penusita Narasimha Wild Life Sanctuary, the State Govt./User Agency shall obtain necessary approval under applicable law/rules/orders including procedural/regulatory requirements under Eco Sensitive Zone.
- (ix) Outside proposed diversion area, no tree felling/road activity should be allowed and for any temporary usage of existing forest road necessary permission from DFO may be obtained;
- (x) The dug out material / overburden shall be dumped outside the forest area. Storage of any material shall not be done in the forest area;
- (xi) The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government;
- (xii) 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;
- (xiii) 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;
- (xiv) The total forest area utilized for the project shall not exceed **1.01 ha** and the forest area diverted shall not be used for any purpose other than those shown in the diversion proposal.
- (xv) 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;
- (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 DDG (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 guidelines issued under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 shall be strictly complied with;
- (xix) Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and action would be taken as prescribed under the Act, Rules and Guidelines relevant.

Yours faithfully,

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(Balaji Kari)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests (Central)

Copy to:-

1. The Chief Executive Officer, National Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority, 4th Floor, Block No.3, CGO Complex, New Delhi - 110 003.
2. The Inspector General of Forests, ROHQ Division, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhavan, Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj, New Delhi - 110 003 for information.

3. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Forests Department & HoFF, AP Forest Department, Aranya Bhavan, P.V.S. Land Mark, Ground Floor, Opposite to IHC Corporate, Industrial Park, Mangalagiri, Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh-522503
4. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests/Nodal Officer (FCA), Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Forests Department, Aranya Bhavan, P.V.S. Land Mark, Ground Floor, Opposite to IHC Corporate, Industrial Park, Mangalagiri, Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh -522503.
5. M/s Jio Digital Fibre Private Limited, 4th Floor, Balaji's Mangalagiri Chambers, VIP Road, Siripuram, Visakhapatnam Andhra Pradesh, 530003
satya.gunturu@ril.com
6. Guard file.

(Balaji Kari)
Assistant Inspector General of Forests (Central)