

Letter No.8793239/FR.10/2023-1, dated:14.11.2024

From
Thiru.T.Ritto Cyriac, I.F.S.,
Special Secretary (Forest).

To
The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF),
Chennai-32. (w.e.)

Sir,

Sub: Forests – Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan Adhiniyam),
1980 – Proposal (FP/TN/OFC/153781/2022) for diversion of
0.246 ha of forest land in Karuttamalai Reserved Forest,
Vellore Division for laying underground Optical Fibre Cable on
the Vellore – Tirupathur Main Road between Kuravankottai to
District Border across Karuttamalai Reserved Forest in Ambur
Taluk, Vellore District in favour of M/s Telesonic Networks
Limited, Chennai – Clarification – Requested - Regarding.

Ref: From the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (HoFF), Letter
No.TS3/9165/2022, dated: 25.10.2024.

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I am directed to invite your attention to the reference cited and to request you
to furnish the following clarification on the above proposal:-

- a) The District Forest Officer, Vellore Division in the site Inspection report
has stated that the User Agency, Telsonic Network Limited has proposed
to lay the Underground Optical Fibre Cable along the State Highways
Road, which passes through the Karattumalai Reserved Forest to a
stretch of 4.10 Km. Hence, it may be clarified that whether any forest land
were already diverted to State Highways, if so send the details of earlier
diversion.
- b) Whether the present proposal of Telesonic Network Limited for diversion
of 0.246 ha of Forest land in Karrattumalai Reserved Forest may be
considered under the category of Re-diversion.

2. I am therefore to request you to furnish your report to Government
immediately to pursue further action in this matter.

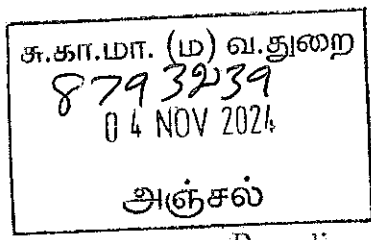
Yours faithfully,

A. Malathy
14/11/24
for Special Secretary (Forest)

Gi.
14/11/2024



Received on 4/11/24 Mr. L. mail



By online / email

TAMILNADU FOREST DEPARTMENT

From

Thiru Srinivas R. Reddy, I.F.S.,
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,
(Head of Forest Force)
Forest Head Quarters Building,
Guindy-Velachery Main Road,
Guindy, Chennai-32.

To

The Principal Secretary to Government,
Environment, Climate Change and
Forest Department,
Secretariat, Chennai 9.

C. No. TS3/9165/2022 Dated: 25.10.2024.

Sir,

Sub: Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam 1980 –
Diversion of 0.246 ha of forest land in Vellore Division for
laying underground OFC on the Vellore - Tirupathur Main Road
between Kuravankottai to District Border across Karuttamalai
R.F. in Ambur Taluk, Vellore District in favour of M/s Telesonic
Networks Limited, Chennai) Forwarding of - Reg.

- Ref: 1. Online forest clearance proposal uploaded by M/s Telesonic
Networks Limited, Mylapore Chennai-4 - Proposal No. FP/
TN/OFC/153781/2022, dated 25.03.2022 and resubmission of
proposal on 04.02.2023, 11.02.2024
2. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests letter No.
TS3/9165/2022, Dated: 19.07.2023
3. Part-II of Form-A uploaded by the District Forest Officer,
Vellore Division on 31.10.2023 and resubmission of proposal on
10.10.2024
3. Part-III of Form-A uploaded by the Conservator of Forests,
Vellore Circle on 10.10.2024.

I wish to state that, M/s Telesonic Networks Limited, Mylapore Chennai has
uploaded online forest clearance proposal under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation)
Act, 1980 for diversion of 0.246 ha of forest land in Vellore Division for laying
underground OFC on the Vellore - Tirupathur Main Road between Kuravankottai
to District Border across Karuttamalai R.F. in Ambur Taluk, Vellore District under
proposal No. FP/ TN/OFC/153781/2022,

1) Brief details of the proposal are furnished below.

i) The User Agency has uploaded the proposal in the prescribed format of Form A - Part I - under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of fresh forest area.

ii) In the short narrative of the proposal for which forest land is required, the User Agency has reported that diversion of forest land is required for laying of underground OFC on the Vellore - Tirupathur Main Road between Kuravankottai to District Border across Karuttamalai R.F. in Ambur Taluk, Vellore District.

iii) M/s Telesonic Networks Limited, No 42/147 & 44/146 Santhome high Road & Rosary Church Road, Mylapore, Chennai-4 has applied forest clearance proposal and for applying forest clearance proposal authorization has been issued to the Sr Manager of the Telesonic Networks Limited.

iv) Diversion of 0.246 ha of forest has been requested in Vellore Forest Division area in Vellore District. Proposal has been furnished for the forest area involved in the Vellore District area (Up to District border). Name of the village reported as Kuravankottai for 0.246 ha forest area and component wise break up reported as Linear.

v) Location map of the forest land proposed to be diverted in kml file of google earth, Scanned copy of Survey of India topo sheet indicating the boundary of forest land proposed to be diverted, Scanned copy of Geo referenced location map has been furnished.

vi) The user agency has proposed forest area diversion for laying of optical fiber cable along road side of Vellore - Tirupathur Main Road between Kuravankottai to District Border across Karuttamalai R.F. in Ambur Taluk, Vellore District to a length of 4100m to trench width of 0.60m. (Area 2460 sq.m or 0.246 ha).

vii) The User Agency has stated that this project does not involve displacement of people due to the project and not requires clearance under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

viii) The user agency has stated that the project or part thereof is not located in any protected area or their Eco sensitive zone.

ix) The User Agency has furnished the certificate issued by the District Collector, Vellore about completion of process for settlement of rights under Forest Rights Act, 2006 on the forest land proposed for diversion in Ref. K. Dis No. B3/E-626723/2023, dated 06.07.2023.

x) The user agency has furnished following certificates/ undertakings/ details under additional Information details section.

a) Certified that, there is no work in violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been carried out in the project area.

b) Certified that forest land requested is the minimum required for the project and all other alternatives have been examined and found not feasible.

c) Undertaking to pay the Net Present Value of forest land required for the project.

d) Undertaking to pay the additional amount of Net Present Value of forest land demanded subsequently.

e) To bear the cost of raising and maintenance of compensatory afforestation plantation.

f) Undertaking to pay the cost along with any escalation for exploitation of trees if any available in the alignment path.

g) Undertaking to bear the cost of felling of trees and transportation cost of the trees to be removed if any available in the alignment path.

h) Undertaking to lay the lease rent as fixed by the Forest Department at the time of sanction along with any escalation for the subsequent years.

i) Certificate obtained from the District Collector, Vellore about no alternate land other than the forest land is available for the proposed OFC laying project from Thenputhupattu village to Asanampattu village of Anaicut Taluk of Vellore District

j) Area requirement for the project reported as 4100m length and 0.60m width ie., 2460 sq.m or 0.246 ha.

2) Details furnished in the Part-II of Form A by the District Forest Officer, Vellore Division is furnished below.

i) The legal status of the proposed site of diversion of 0.246 ha of forest land requested for the project is Reserved Forests.

As per the site inspection report and recommendation of the project uploaded by the District Forest Officer, Vellore Division, name of the forest land reported as Karuttamalai RF.

ii) The District Forest Officer has reported that, density of the forest area is 0.4 and Eco class of forest area is three.

iii) In the Part-II of Form-A, the District Forest Officer has reported that species wise and girth class wise enumeration of trees in the area is NIL.

iv) On vulnerability of the forest land proposed for diversion, the District Forest Officer has reported that not vulnerable area.

v) The District Forest Officer has reported that no wildlife present in and around the forest land proposed for diversion. The forest area proposed for diversion is not forms part of National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant corridor, Wildlife migration corridor etc., and not located within the eco-sensitive zone of the protected area notified under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and not located within 1 km boundary of NP/WLs etc., for the forest land proposed for diversion. There is no rare/ endangered / unique species of flora and fauna found in the area.

vi) There is no protected archaeological/ heritage site/ defense establishment or any other important monument is located in the area.

vii) Requirement of forest land as proposed by the User Agency is unavoidable and bare minimum for the project and no work in violation of the Act or guidelines has been carried out.

viii) For the proposed diversion of 0.246 ha of forest land, compensatory afforestation has been proposed for planting of 492 seedlings in 0.492 ha of degraded forest area selected in Sener RF selected as compact CA plantation area in Vellore District.

Compensatory Afforestation scheme for planting of 492 number of saplings including ten year maintenance of plantation has been proposed at a project cost of Rs. 4,33,167/-. Certificate regarding suitability of compensatory afforestation land

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a [has been furnished for the 10 ha compact area selected for CA scheme (kml file area of 12.94 ha) in the Senur RF of Vellore Division.

ix) In the site inspection report, the District Forest Officer has stated that, the area requested for diversion of Forest Land for an area 0.246 ha. for laying underground OFC cable along the road side from Asanampattu to Alangayam road falls in Karuttamalai Reserve Forest was inspected on 11.09.2023 and the forest land is Dry Deciduous Forest Land type.

15 [This road is a State Highways Road which passes through Karuttamalai Reserve Forest to a stretch of 4.10 Km. The Airtel (Tele sonic Network Limited) has proposed to lay the underground OFC cable to a length of 4.10 km to a width of 60cm and to a depth of 1.65meters. The proposed alignment of the OFC cable to be laid in the forest area is along the State Highways Road which passes through Karuttamalai Reserve Forest. In the alignment proposed to lay the OFC cable there is no involvement of any felling of trees. Further due to laying of the OFC cable there will not be any disturbance to the Flora and Fauna in the area

x) The District Forest Officer, Vellore Division has reported that, as per the site inspection notes, proposal is recommended subject to fulfill the conditions force in time.

12 [3) The Conservator of Forests, Vellore Circle has recommended the proposal inspected the area on 24.11.2022 and in his recommendation has stated that the area proposed for the diversion to an extent of 0.246 ha of forest land which falls in Karuttamalai Reserved Forest of Odugathur Range for laying underground OFC along the road side of Asanampattu to Alangayam road section across Karuttamalai Reserve Forest. This road is a State Highways road which passes through Karuttamalai RF to a stretch of 4.10 Km. to a width of 0.60 mts. and to a depth of 1.00 mts. The proposed alignment of the OFC cable to be laid in the forest area is along the State Highways Road which passes through Karuttamalai Reserve Forest. In the alignment proposed to lay the OFC cable there is no involvement of any felling of trees. Further, there is no rare, endangered and unique species of flora and fauna in the forest area proposed for diversion. Hence the proposal may be recommended.

4) The User Agency has requested forest area diversion for a period of 99 years. The District Forest Officer, Vellore Division has recommended this proposal for the year 25 and Conservator of Forest, Vellore Circle has recommended the diversion of forest area for the period of year 2024.

As recommended for laying of optical fibre cable projects, diversion of forest land is recommended for a period of 25 years.

5) In Government of India guidelines of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, full exemption for payment of Net Present Value for laying of underground Optical Fibre Cable has been allowed for areas falling outside National Park/Sanctuary and there is no felling of trees is involved.

As per the details furnished by the District Forest Officer, there is no tree felling is involved in this project proposal and area falls outside National Park/Sanctuary, hence payment of Net Present Value of forest area may not be insisted.

6) The proposal is sent herewith duly recommended by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Forest Conservation Act) / Nodal Officer of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 of the State of Tamil Nadu.

7) Based on the recommendation made by the District Forest Officer, Vellore Division and Conservator of Forests, Vellore Circle, proposal received in parivesh 1.0 module from the M/s Telesonic Networks Limited, Chennai for diversion of 0.246 ha of forest land in Vellore Division for laying underground OFC on the Vellore - Tirupathur Main Road between Kuravankottai to District Border across Karuttamalai R.F. in Ambur Taluk, Vellore District is forwarded to the Government for consideration and to obtain approval from the Government of India subject to the following conditions.

- a) The legal status of the diverted forest land remains unchanged.
- b) Demarcation of the proposed forest area shall be carried out by erecting 4 feet high cement concrete pillars, duly numbered, at the appropriate distance as decided by the District Forest Officer, Vellore Division at the cost of user agency.
- c) The user agency has to pay the cost towards compensatory afforestation scheme selected in Senur RF of Vellore Division
- d) The User Agency has to bear the additional amount of Net Present Value which will be fixed as per the guidelines of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India as fixed by Forest Department in future.

Handwritten marks and a signature on the right side of the page, including a large bracket and the initials 'V.V.'.

e) Amount of Compensatory afforestation scheme under the project shall be transferred/ deposited to CAMPA fund only through e-portal.

(<https://parivesh.nic.in/>).

f) The User Agency has to pay the cost towards lease rent for the forest area diversion period as fixed by the Forest Department at the time of sanction along with any escalation for the forest land to be diverted of the above project in future for the entire project period.

g) The total forest area utilized for the project shall not exceeds 0.246 ha for laying underground Optical Fibre Cable to a length of 4100m with a width of 0.60 m in Karuttamalai RF on the Vellore - Tirupathur Main Road between Kuravankottai to District Border across Karuttamalai R.F. in Ambur Taluk, Vellore District.

h) Period of lease can be twenty five (25) years. The User Agency has to apply renewal proposal before one year of expiry of lease with the State Forest Department.

8) I request that, the proposal may be considered and forwarded to the Government of India for obtaining concurrence under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam 1980 for diversion of 0.246 ha of forest land in Vellore Division for laying underground OFC on the Vellore - Tirupathur Main Road between Kuravankottai to District Border across Karuttamalai R.F. in Ambur Taluk, Vellore District in favour of M/s Telesonic Networks Limited, Chennai for a period of 25 years.

Yours faithfully

S. Alayar
For Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Head of Forest Force)

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20/11/2024

PART - IV

(To be filled in by the Nodal Officer or Principal Chief Conservator of Forests or Head of Forest Department)

Name of the work : Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam 1980 – Diversion of 0.246 ha. of forest land in Vellore Division for laying underground OFC on the Vellore - Tirupathur Main Road between Kuravankottai to District Border across Karuttamalai R.F. in Ambur Taluk, Vellore District in favour of M/s Telesonic Networks Limited, Chennai - Proposal No. FP/TN/OFC/153781/2023

17	Detailed opinion and specific recommendation of the State Forest Department for acceptance or otherwise of the proposal with remarks
	(While giving opinion, the adverse comments made by concerned Conservator of Forests or Deputy Conservator of Forests should be categorically reviewed and critically commented upon)

Proposal is recommended.

Signature :

[Handwritten Signature]
25.10.24

Name Designation : Thiru Yogesh Singh, I.F.S.,
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Forest Conservation Act), O/o the Principal Chief
Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force), Chennai.

Date : 25 -10-2024

Place: Chennai-32.