

By e-mail



ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE  
& FOREST(FR.10) DEPARTMENT,  
SECRETARIAT, CHENNAI 9.

Letter No.19218/ FR.10 /2022-2, dated 27.04.2023

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

To  
✓ The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
(Head of Forest Force),  
Chennai-32.

Sir,

Sub: Forests – Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 – Srivilliputhur Megamalai Tiger Reserve, Madurai Circle / Theni Forest Division - Proposal (No.FP/TN/OFC/116522/2020) for diversion of 0.193 ha of forest land for laying of underground OFC along Cumbum–Kumuli NH road from lower camp to Kumuli through Suranganur Reserved Forest in Theni division, Theni District in favour of Jio Digital Fibre private Ltd., Chennai - Regarding.

- Ref:
1. From the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF) letter No.TS4/48485/2020, dated 23.11.2022.
  2. Government letter No. 19218/FR.10/2022 – 1, dated 30.12.2022.
  3. From the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF) letter No. TS4/48485/2020, dated 20.03.2023.

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I am directed to invite your attention to the reference 1<sup>st</sup> cited, wherein you have stated that in para 3, the District Forest Officer has not proposed Compensatory Afforestation Scheme. In this connection, as per Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 guidelines under special provisions for Compensatory Afforestation for certain categories of schemes, it is mentioned that Compensatory Afforestation shall be raised and maintained at the cost of user agency on degraded forest land twice in extent of forest area diverted for laying of telephone / optical fiber cable. However, no Compensatory Afforestation scheme has been proposed in the subject proposal. I am, therefore to request you to clarify whether there is any guideline by Government in which Compensatory Afforestation is exempted for particular category of project. Further action will be taken on the above project based on clarification received.

Yours faithfully,

*M. Megala*  
27/4/2023

for Special Secretary (Forests)

*27/4/23*