

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
FOREST AND ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

No. FE-DIV-FLD-0041-2021- 9296 /F&E, Date 18.05.21
10F (Cons) 22/2021

From

Sri Jitendra Kumar, IFS
Special Secretary to Government

To

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Odisha,
Bhubaneswar.

Sub: Application dtd.29.06.2019 of M/s Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited requesting laying of Optical Fibre Cables beside the NHAI/NH/PWD Roads within the RoW passing through forest area over a total length of alignment of 85.06 Km (Govindpur to Kuchinda & Lad to Jamankira) within Bamra (WL) Division for launching of 4G broadband network in the State of Odisha.

Sir,

With reference to your letter No.964 dtd.15.01.2021 on the subject cited above, I am directed to say that the Application dtd.29.06.2019 of M/s Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited requesting laying of Optical Fibre Cables beside the NHAI/NH/PWD Roads within the RoW passing through forest area over a total length of alignment of 85.06 Km (Govindpur to Kuchinda & Lad to Jamankira) within Bamra (WL) Division for launching of 4G broadband network in the State of Odisha, was examined as per guidelines prescribed by the Government of India, MoEF&CC vide their letter F.No.11-9/98-FC dtd.16.10.2000, No.11-568/2014-FC dtd.02.02.2015 and Para 4.2 of Handbook of FC Act, 1980 & FC Rules, 2003 (Guidelines & Clarifications) issued vide letter F.No.5-2/2017-FC dtd.28.03.2019 of MoEF&CC, Govt. of India, New Delhi in the matter of laying of underground Optical Fibre Cables (OFC), Telephone Lines, Drinking Water Supply Pipelines, Electricity Cables, CNG/ PNG and Slurry Pipelines through forest land.

It is observed that underground Optical Fibre Cable of M/s Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited is proposed to be laid over a length of 85.06 Km through forest areas along the NHAI/NH/PWD roads within their RoW in Bamra (WL) Division of Sambalpur District by the Company under this project. The depth and width of trench where the OFC is to be laid is stated to be 1.65mtr. and 0.3mtr. respectively. As reported, the length of OFC alignment falling in different categories of forest/non-forest as well as RoW of existing NH/ NHAI/ PWD roads in Sambalpur District is as under.

Alignment:

The proposed road length particulars for laying of Optical Fibre Cable in different road within the RoW are furnished below:



As reported by DFO, Bamra (WL) Division, the total length of alignment along NHAI/NH/PWD roads within Bamra (WL) Division is 85.06 Km (17.026 Km. RF/PF/Other Forest land + 68.034 Km. Non-Forest land) comprising of 42.85 Km. (9.826 Km. RF/Other Forest + 33.024 Km. Non-Forest land) in Govindpur – Kuchinda (SH-24) Road, Lad to Lad Chowk of 5 Km. Non-Forest land in NH-49, 32 Km. (7.2 Km. PF/Other Forest + 24.8 Km. Non-Forest land) in Lad Chowk to Saindpathar (SH-24) Road and Saindpathar to Jamankira of 5.21 Km. Non-Forest land in Teleibani to Sambalpur (NH-6) Road.

Sl. No.	Name of the Road	Particulars/ Patch of road along which OFC is to be laid within RoW	Details of NH along which OFC is to be laid within the RoW	Competent Authority	Total length of alignment in Bamra (WL) Division (in KM)
1	i. Bamra to Kuchinda Main Road	Govindpur to Kuchinda (Part)	SH-24	Executive Engineer, Sambalpur R&B (II) Division	15.61
	ii. Bamra to Kuchinda Main Road	Govindpur to Kuchinda (Balance)	SH-24	Executive Engineer, Sambalpur R&B (II) Division	27.24
				Total	42.85
2	i. Kuchinda to Teleibani	Lad to Lad Chowk	NH-49	Executive Engineer, NH Division, Jharsuguda	5.0
	ii. Lad to Saindpathar	Lad Chowk to Saindpathar via Phasimal	ODR	Executive Engineer, Sambalpur R&B (II) Division	32.0
	iii. Teleibani-Sambalpur	Saindpathar to Jamankira	NH-6	PD, NHAI, Sambalpur	5.21
				Total	42.21
				Grand Total	85.06 KM

Sl. No.	Particular of alignment route (Name of the Road)	Total Length of alignment within Bamra (WL) Division (in KM)	Length of alignment in forest patches		Length of alignment in Non-forest area (in KM)
			Name	Length (in Km)	
1.	(i) Govindpur-Kuchinda SH-24	27.24	Solabaga RF	0.726	20.237
			Parimunda-Natimal	3.245	
			Other Forest	3.032	
			Total	7.003	
	(ii) Govindpur-Kuchinda SH-24	15.61	Other Forest	2.823	12.787
	Total	42.85 Km		9.826 Km	33.024 Km
2.	(i) Lad to Lad Chowk NH-49	5.0	-	-	5.0

P. Jena

(ii)Lad Chowk to Saindpathar via Phasimal ODR	32.0	Ghorabandhuni PF	2.33	24.80
		Other Forest	4.87	
(iii)Saindpathar to Jamankira NH-6	5.21	-	-	5.21
Total	42.21 Km	-	7.20 Km	35.01 Km
Grand Total	85.06 Km	-	17.026 Km	68.034 Km

As reported by the DFO Bamra (WL) Division, the user agency has furnished an undertaking that the underground Optical Fibre Cables are to be laid along the roads and within the existing RoW.

As reported by DFO, Bamra (WL) Division, the total length of alignment along NHAI/ NH/ PWD roads within Bamra (WL) Division is 85.06 Km. (17.026 Km. RF/PF/Other Forest land + 68.034 Km. Non-Forest land) comprising of 42.85 Km. (9.826 Km. RF/Other Forest + 33.024 Km. Non-Forest land) in Govindpur – Kuchinda (SH-24) Road, Lad to Lad Chowk of 5 Km. Non-Forest land in NH-49, 32 Km. (7.2 Km. PF/Other Forest + 24.8 Km. Non-Forest land) in Lad Chowk to Saindpathar ODR Road and Saindpathar to Jamankira of 5.21 Km. Non-Forest land in Teleibani to Sambalpur (NH-6) Road.


The DFO Bamra (WL) Division has reported that **the route Lad to Khairdih Road is coming within both Eco-Sensitive Zone and Protected Area of Badrama Wildlife Sanctuary.** Underground laying of Optical Fibre Cable along the roads will require digging of trenches of maximum dimension **1.65 mtr depth and 0.3 mtr width.** The said project will traverse over 17.026 Km length of Forest land in Bamra (WL) Division under the jurisdiction of Bamra (WL), Kuchinda (WL) and Jamankira (WL) Range.

The user agency has furnished an undertaking to start execution of work only after receipt of final NOC/ Permission for concerned Road Authorities. The User Agency has furnished an undertaking that the proposed alignment for underground laying of Optical Fibre Cable are to be laid along the roads and within the existing RoW.

NOC/ Permission from the projects/ Recommendation by the DFO, Bamra (WL) Division.

1. Govindpur-Kuchinda:

As reported by DFO Bamra (WL) Division, the Executive Engineer Sambalpur (R&B) Division-(II) Sambalpur vide his letter No.2906 dtd.07.10.2020 has accorded NOC/ permission for laying of Optical Fibre Cables from Patrapali Chhak to Bamra on SH-24 of Ch.154/00 Km to Ch.196/332 Km for a total length of 42.332 Km under jurisdiction of Sambalpur (R&B) Division. The User Agency may be allowed for underground laying of OFC cable.



2. Lad to Lad Chowk:

The User Agency has already applied to Executive Engineer, NH Division Jharsuguda vide his letter No.833 dtd.25.03.2016 for laying OFC from Ch.299/000 Km (Kuchinda) to Ch.335/736 Km (Teleibani) for a total length of 36.736 Km along NH-49 in the State of Odisha as reported by the DFO, Bamra (WL) Division. The proposed laying of OFC from Lad to Lad Chowk over a length of 5.0 Km is a part of Kuchinda to Teleibani Road of total length of 33.736 Km along NH-49 under jurisdiction of NH Division Jharsuguda. As such the User Agency may be allowed for underground laying of Optical Fibre Cable after submission of NOC/ Permission from concerned road authority and permission from State Board for Wildlife.

3. Lad Chowk to Saindpathar:

As reported by DFO Bamra (WL) Division, the Executive Engineer Sambalpur (R&B) Division-(II) Sambalpur vide his letter No.2463 dtd.19.08.2020 has accorded NOC/ permission for laying of Optical Fibre Cables beyond the toe line of embankment of the subjected road from Lad chowk 0/00 Km to Saindpathar 32/00 Km on ODR for a total length of 32.0 Km under jurisdiction of Sambalpur (R&B) Division-II. The User Agency may be allowed for laying of Optical Fibre Cable after submission of permission from State Board for Wildlife.

4. Saindpathar to Jamankira:

The User Agency has already applied to Project Director, NHAI, Sambalpur Odisha vide his letter No.780 dtd.30.03.2016 for laying of OFC from Ch.490/000 Km (Teleibani) to Ch.566/000 Km (Ainthapalli Chhak, Sambalpur) for a total length of 76.0 Km along NH-6 in the State of Odisha. The proposed laying of OFC from Saindpathar to Jamankira over a length of 5.21 Km is a part of Teleibani to Sambalpur Road of total length of 76.0 Km along NH-6 under jurisdiction of Project Director NHAI Sambalpur where Stage-I approval has been accorded vide letter No.5-ORA310/2017-BHU dtd.23/24.05.2017 of Govt. of India, MoEF&CC, ERO Bhubaneswar. As such the User Agency may be allowed for underground laying of Optical Fibre Cable after submission of NOC/ Permission from concerned road authority and permission from State Board for Wildlife.

The User Agency may be allowed for underground laying of Optical Fibre Cable after submission of NOC/ Permission from concerned road authority and permission from State Board for Wildlife.

The DFO, Bamra (WL) Division, RCCF, Sambalpur Circle and PCCF, Odisha have recommended the proposal for laying of OFC by M/s Reliance Jio Infocomm along the NHAI/NH/PWD roads passing through various forest areas in Bamra (WL) Forest Division in Sambalpur District.

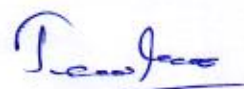
The Government of India, MoEF&CC as per guidelines vide their letter F.No.11-9/98-FC dtd.16.10.2000 and No.11-568/2014-FC dtd.02.02.2015 and Para 4.2 of Handbook of FC Act, 1980



& FC Rules, 2003 (Guidelines & Clarifications) issued vide letter F.No.5-2/2017-FC dtd.28.03.2019 have granted general approval under the provisions of Forest Conservation Act, 1980 for laying of underground Optical Fibre Cables (OFC), Telephone Lines, Drinking Water Supply Pipelines, Electricity Cables, CNG/PNG and Slurry Pipe Lines along the roads within existing Right of Ways not falling in National Park and Wildlife sanctuaries without felling of trees where the maximum size of the trench is not more than 2mt. of depth and 1mt. wide subject to fulfillment of conditions prescribed therein under approval of the State Forest Department under the local Act/Rules.

In view of the essentiality involved for use of forest land for laying of underground OFC by M/s Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited along the NHAI/NH/PWD roads within the RoW passing through the different kinds of forest /non-forest areas under Bamra (WL) Division in Sambalpur District for their Tunneling & Ducting (T&D) activities and general approval of Government of India, MoEF&CC vide their letter F.No.11-9/98-FC dtd.16.10.2000, No.11-568/2014-FC dtd.02.02.2015, and as per Para 4.2 of Handbook of FC Act, 1980 & FC Rules, 2003 (Guidelines & Clarifications) issued vide letter F.No.5-2/2017-FC dtd.28.03.2019 of MoEF&CC, Govt. of India, New Delhi, State Government have been pleased to grant permission in favour of the M/s Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd, 1st Floor, Fortune Towers, A&B Wing, Chandrasekharapur, Bhubaneswar-23 for laying of Optical Fibre Cables (OFC) beside the NHAI/NH/ PWD roads within the RoW passing through forest area over a total length of alignment of 85.06 Km (17.026km-RF/PF/Other forest land+68.034Km non forest land) (Govindpur to Kuchinda & Lad to Jamankira) within Bamra (WL) Division for launching of 4G broadband network in the State of Odisha for their T&D activities as per provision of Sub-Section 6(a) of Section 27 of Orissa Forest Act, 1972 subject to fulfillment of the following conditions.

1. The user agency will make good the land after use/maintenance.
2. The user agency shall make good any loss to forest/environment.
3. Not a single tree will be felled for laying of proposed underground OFC in forest/not-forest land.
4. The user agency shall seek permission from the local Forest Department authority for carrying out any maintenance.
5. The user agency shall obtain prior permission from respective NHAI/NH/PWD road authorities before commencement of laying of underground OFC within the RoW of respective roads including in forest area.
6. In case, portion of stretch of road presently indicated to be having non-forest land where the OFC is to be laid under the project, is found to be forest/sabik-kisam forest as on



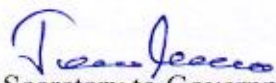
25.10.1980, laying of OFC within such stretch of road shall be subject to prior permission of Forest Department.

7. Since 85.06 Km of road having different stretches along which OFC is also to be laid, is different category of forest land, laying of OFC in such stretch shall also be subject to approval of competent authority under appropriate Revenue law.
8. After completion of the project the area under RoW should be reclaimed suitably.
9. Since the proposed area falls in RoW of the road passing through National park & Wildlife Sanctuaries, general approval is subject to requisite permissions from the State Board for Wildlife shall be obtained.
10. In case, the proposed area falls in the RoW of the road passing through Tiger Reserves, General approval is subject to requisite permissions from the National Board for Wildlife/ NTCA shall be obtained.

The DFO, Bamra (WL) Division may be asked to supervise the laying of OFC work during execution of the project and any deviation to the stipulations mentioned above by the User Agency shall be reported by him to the PCCF, Odisha/State Government/ Integrated Regional Office, MoEF&CC along with action taken report.

The Nodal Officer, FC Act shall submit quarterly progress report on the extent of such approvals accorded by the State Government for infrastructure projects under the general approval order of MoEF&CC, Govt. of India to the Ministry as well as to the Integrated Regional Office.

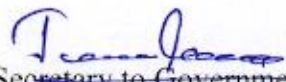
Yours faithfully,


Special Secretary to Government

Memo No. 9297 /F&E Date 18.05.21

18/5/21

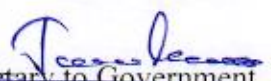
Copy forwarded to Assistant Inspector General of Forests, Govt. of India, Ministry of Environment & Forest and Climate Change, (F.C. Division), Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh, Aliganj Road, New Delhi -110003 for information and necessary action.


Special Secretary to Government

Memo No. 9298 /F&E Date 18.05.21

18/5/21

Copy with copy of Application of the Company with other annexures forwarded to Deputy Director General of Forests (Central), Government of India, MoEF&CC, Integrated Regional Office, A/3, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar for information and necessary action.


Special Secretary to Government

Memo No. 9299 /F&E Date 18.05.21

18/5/21

Copy forwarded to R&DM Department/ Electronic and IT Department/ Science & Technology Department/ Collector, Sambalpur for kind information and necessary action.

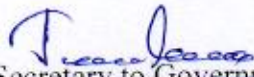

Special Secretary to Government

18/5/21

Memo No. 9300 /F&E Date 18.05.21


Copy forwarded to Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (WL) & Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha/ Regional Chief Conservator of Forests, Sambalpur Circle/Divisional Forest Officer, Bamra (WL) Division for information and necessary action.

Strict supervision may be made by the DFO, Bamra (WL) Division during laying of OFC work of the project and after.


Special Secretary to Government
18/5/21

Memo No. 9301 /F&E Date 18.05.21

Copy forwarded to the Private Secretary to Hon'ble Minister of Forest & Environment for kind information of Hon'ble Minister.


Special Secretary to Government
18/5/21

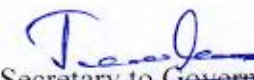
Memo No. 9302 /F&E Date 18.05.21

Copy forwarded to the Authorized Signatory, Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd, 1st Floor, Fortune Towers, A&B Wing, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar-23 for information and necessary action.


Special Secretary to Government
18/5/21


Memo No. 9303 /F&E, Date 18.05.21

Copy forwarded to the Head, State Portal, I.T. Centre, Odisha Secretariat, Bhubaneswar for information and necessary action. He is requested to upload this letter of State Government in Forest & Environment Department in the website of Forest & Environment Department immediately for information of all concerned.


Special Secretary to Government
18/5/21

Memo No. 9304 /F&E, Date 18.05.21

Copy forwarded to the Under Secretary to Government, Office Establishment Section, Forest & Environment Department for information and necessary action with reference to their letter No.12939/F&E dtd.16.07.2016.


Special Secretary to Government
18/5/21