

Government of Odisha
Forest and Environment Department

No. 10F(Con) 217/2016

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F&E dated 07-08-18

From

Sri Debidutta Biswal, IFS
Special Secretary to Govt.

To

The PCCF, Odisha

Sub- Application dt. 16.7.2016 of M/s Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited requesting laying of Optical Fibre Cable along the NHAI/NH/PWD roads within the RoW passing through forest area in Deogarh Forest Division over a length of 172.98KM to complete Tunneling and Ducting(T&D) activities pertaining to their 4G broadband network in the State of Odisha.

Sir,

With reference to your letter No. 12854 dt. 13.6.2018 and subsequent letter No.15826 dt. 21.7.2018 on the subject mentioned above, I am directed to say that the Application dt. 16.7.2016 of M/s Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited requesting for laying of Optical Fibre Cable(OFC) along the NHAI/NH roads within the RoW passing through forest area of various Reserved Forests/Proposed Reserved Forests/Revenue Forests in Deogarh Forest Division in Deogarh district over a total length of 97.906Km(out of total 172.98Km) to complete Tunneling and Ducting(T&D) activities as a part of their 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 dt. 16.10.2000 and No. 11-568/2014-FC dt. 2.2.2015 in the matter of development of infrastructures of public importance including laying of underground telephone lines/optical fibre cables 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 97.906Km through forest areas along the NHAI/NH roads within their RoW in Deogarh Forest Division of Deogarh district which comes within total OFC alignment of 172.98Km to be laid by the Company in Deogarh district under this project. The depth and width of trench where the OFC is to be laid is stated to be 1.65mt. and 0.4mt. respectively. As reported, the length of OFC alignment falling in different categories of forest/non-forest as well as RoW of existing NH/ NHAI roads in Deogarh district is as under.

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 Deogarh district in	Length of alignment in RF(KM)	Length of alignment in Rev. Forests	Length of alignment in non-forest (KM)
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				Km		(KM)	
Gopalpali - Tileibani- Bainjhari	Bainjhari to Tileibani	NH-6	PD, NHAI, Sambalpur	24.18	Pravasuni RF- 8.292	14.977	0.911
	Tileibani to Gopalpali	NH-49	EE, NH Division, Jharsuguda				
Deogarh- Khulundi -pani	Deogarh to Barkote	NH-6	PD, NHAI, Keonjhar	60.69	Badtoila RF- 3.644 Mandasila RF-4.103 Pradhanpat RF-0.482	14.437	38.024
	Barkote to Khulundipani	NH-23	PD, NHAI, Rourkela				
Deogarh- Khindo	Deogarh- Kundheigola	NH-53	EE, NH Division, Deogarh	88.11	Kankarkhol PRF- 2.236 Kundheigola PRF- 8.652	34.856	36.139
	Kundheigola to Khindo	NH-53	EE, NH Division, Deogarh				
Total				172.98	33.636	64.27	75.074

It is also observed that no tree felling is involved for laying of the said optical fibre cable and area where OFC is to be laid, is not within any Protected Area. It is also observed that the applicant Company has taken steps for obtaining permission from NHAI/NH authorities for allowing them laying of the underground OFC along NH-6/NH-49/NH-23/NH-53 Roads within their ROW in Deogarh district. PD, NHAI, Rourkela vide their letter dt. 7.1.2017 has permitted the applicant Company for laying OFC within RoW of NH-23 in Deogarh district subject to fulfillment of conditions prescribed therein including forest permission. The Executive Engineer, NH Division, Deogarh vide their letter No. 1715 dt. 3.6.2016 and No.1866 dt. 22.6.2016 has permitted the Company for laying of OFC within RoW of NH-53. As per MoRTH, GOI guidelines dt. 7.8.2013 for laying of OFC within RoW of various Road projects, the applicant Company has applied before Executive Engineer, NH Division, Jharsuguda, PD, NHAI, Sambalpur and PD, NHAI, Keonjhar with necessary Bank Guarantee seeking his permission for laying OFC within RoW of NH-49/ NH-6/NH-6 in Deogarh district. The Company has also undertaken to submit NOC/permission of the respective road authorities before execution of OFC laying activities within the RoW of such roads.

It has been reported by PCCF, Odisha that the stretches of roads along which the underground OFC is proposed to be laid by the applicant Company in Deogarh district include (i) Bainjhari to Tileibabani which is part of Tileibani-Sambalpur Section of NH-6 where Stage-I approval for diversion of forest land has been accorded by ERO, MoEF&CC vide letter dt.