

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
FOREST, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE DEPARTMENT**

No. FE-DIV-FLD-0003-2022- 10977 /FE&CC, Date 30.05.23
10F (Cons)-04/2022

From

Shri Lingaraj Otta
OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Government

To

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Odisha,
Bhubaneswar.

Sub: Application dt.14.12.2021 of M/s Jio Digital Fibre Pvt. Ltd. requesting for laying of Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) along Bhawanipatna-Gunupur-Kashipur Road under jurisdiction of Kalahandi (South) Division for launching 4G network in the State of Odisha.

Sir,

With reference to your letter No.1217/9F (MISC)-347/2022, dt.20.01.2023 on the subject cited above, I am directed to say that the Application dt.14.12.2021 of M/s Jio Digital Fibre Pvt. Ltd. requesting laying of Optical Fibre Cables along Bhawanipatna-Gunpur-Kashipur Road under jurisdiction of Kalahandi South Division within the RoW passing through forest area over a total length of alignment of 34.40 Km (forest patch 21.1 Km + non-forest patch 13.3 Km) 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, letter F.No.6-175/2017 WL dt.19.02.2018, 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 & letter File No.FC-11/43/2022-FC dt.22.08.2022 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.

As intimated, underground optical fibre cable of M/s Jio Digital Fibre Pvt. Ltd. is proposed to be laid along the Bhawanipatna-Gunpur-Kashipur PWD road within the RoW is over a length of 34.40 Km (forest patch 21.1 Km + non-forest patch 13.3 Km) in Kalahandi (South) Forest Division of Kalahandi District. This route is coming under Thuamul Rampur North Range and Karlapat (Sanctuary) Range and is under Eco-Sensitive Zone of Karlapat Wildlife Sanctuary. The proposed underground laying of Optical Cable Route along the PWD road as intimated has been shown in Survey of India Topo Sheet No.E44F1 & No.E44F2 in Scale 1:50,000. The depth and width of trench where the OFC is to be laid is stated as a maximum dimension of 1.65mt. depth and 0.3mt. width of the ground.

It is intimated that the project proponent envisages laying underground Optical Fibre Cable along the roads and within the existing RoW without felling of trees.

As reported, the length of OFC alignment falling in different categories of forest/ non-forest as well as RoW of existing PWD/SH Roads in Kalahandi District is as under.



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Alignment:

The proposed road length particulars for laying of Optical Fibre Cable in different road within the RoW as reported are as follows:

Sl. No.	Particular of alignment route (Name of the Road)	Total Length of alignment within Kalahandi (South) Division (in KM)	Range Wise Length of alignment (in Km)	Length of alignment in forest patches		Length of alignment in non-forest area (in KM)
				Name	Length (in Km)	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Bhawanipatna - Gunpur - Kashipur Road	34.400	Karlapat Sanctuary Range	Nehela RF	7.200	8.300
				Karlapat RF	12.700	
				Krishnamali PRF	0.200	
			Thuamul Rampur North Range	Goelkhoj RF	1.000	5.000
				Total	21.100	13.300

As reported the details of length covered in forest land, non-forest land and area to be utilized for laying of OFC is given below:-

Sl. No.	Name of the Range	Location	Length in Km	Area in ha
1.	Karlapat Sanctuary Range & Thuamul Rampur Range	Nehela RF	6.240	0.249
2.		Non-forest	3.330	0.133
3.		Karlapat RF	12.7	0.454
4.		Nehela RF	0.96	0.012
5.		Krishnamali PRF	0.20	0.010
6.		Goelkhoj RF	1.0	0.040
7.		Non-forest	9.97	0.979
Total Forest land			21.10	0.765
Total non-forest land			13.30	1.112
Grand Total			34.40	1.877

The PCCF (FD&NO, FC Act), O/o the PCCF & HoFF, Odisha in his letter dt.10.05.2023 has reported that the proposed route is coming under both sanctuary area and eco-sensitive zone of Karlapat (WL) Sanctuary. The details of the length of route coming under Karlapat (WL) Sanctuary and its Eco-sensitive zone are as follows:

Sl. No.	Details of ESZ/ Sanctuary	Forest Patch (Km)	Non-forest patch (Km)	Total (Km)
1.	Passing through Sanctuary area	18.191	0	18.191
2.	Passing through ESZ area	1.007	8.452	9.459
3.	Passing through outside Sanctuary and ESZ	1.902	4.848	6.750
Total		21.100	13.300	34.400

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NOC/ Permission from the projects

The Superintending Engineer, Kalahandi (R&B) Division, Bhawanipatna vide letter No.10695 dated 30.10.2021 has accorded permission for laying Optical Fibre Cable along the roads in the Row of PWD Roads under the jurisdiction of Kalahandi (R&B) Division with certain terms and conditions. The user agency may be allowed for underground laying of Optical Fibre Cable after submission of NOC/ Permission for concerned Road Authority and permission from State Board for Wildlife.

The DFO, Kalahandi (South) Division, RCCF, Bhawanipatna Circle and PCCF & HoFF, Odisha have recommended the proposal for laying of OFC by M/s Jio Digital Fibre Pvt. Ltd. along the PWD/SH roads passing through various forest/ non-forest areas in Kalahandi (South) Forest Division in Kalahandi District.

In view of the essentiality involved for use of forest land for laying of underground OFC by M/s Jio Digital Fibre Pvt. Ltd. along the PWD/SH roads within the RoW passing through the forest areas under Kalahandi (South) Division in Kalahandi District for their Tunneling & Ducting (T&D) activities and general approval of Government of India, MoEF&CC vide 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 & letter File No.FC-11/43/2022-FC dt.22.08.2022 of MoEF&CC, Govt. of India, New Delhi, State Government have been pleased to grant permission in favour of the M/s Jio Digital Fibre Pvt. Ltd., 1st Floor, Fortune Towers, A&B Wing, Chandrasekharapur, Bhubaneswar-23 for laying of Optical Fibre Cables (OFC) beside the PWD/SH roads within the RoW passing through forest area covering a length of 21.10 Km over a total length of alignment of 34.40 Km (Bhawanipatna-Gunpur-Kashipur) within Kalahandi (South) Forest 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 fulfilment 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/non-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 under ground 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, 34.30 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. The user agency shall ensure that the channels dug for underground laying are duly filled up and compacted to avoid source of constant soil erosion.
10. The User Agency shall ensure that in no case digging of trench will be permitted beyond the RoW of the road.
11. The User Agency shall ensure that the trench to be dug for a maximum depth of 1.65 mtr and

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width of 0.3 mtr will be maintained for laying of OFC.

12. Since, the proposed area falls in RoW of the road passing through Wildlife Sanctuary, general approval is subject to requisite permissions from the State Board for Wildlife shall be obtained.
13. NPV of forest land, as applicable, shall be paid by the User Agency.
14. The User Agency shall ensure that the length of the trench dug at a time does not exceeds 500 mt., filled up and compacted before digging next stretch of 500 mt.
15. The User Agency shall start execution of work only after receipt of final NOC/ Permission from concerned authorities.
16. The User Agency shall ensure that the proposed alignment for underground laying of Optical Fibre Cable is to be laid along the roads and within the existing RoW.

The DFO, Kalahandi (South) Forest 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 & HoFF, 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,

de 29/5/2023

OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Government

Memo No. 10978/FE&CC, Date 30.05.23

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 Road, Aliganj, New Delhi - 110003 for information and necessary action.

de 29/5/2023

OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Government

Memo No. 10979/FE&CC, Date 30.05.23

Copy forwarded to Deputy Director General of Forests (Central), Government of India, MoEF&CC, Integrated Regional Office, A/3, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar-751023 for information and necessary action.

de 29/5/2023

OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Government

Memo No. 10980/FE&CC, Date 30.05.23

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

de 29/5/2023

OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Government

Memo No. 10981/FE&CC, Date 30.05.23

Copy forwarded to Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (WL) & Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha/ Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (FD&NO), FC Act, O/o PCCF & HoFF, Odisha/ Regional Chief Conservator of Forests, Bhawanipatna Circle/ Divisional Forest Officer, Kalahandi (South) Forest Division for information and necessary action.

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

de 29/5/2023

OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Government

Memo No. 10982 /FE&CC, Date 30.05.23

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

dt 29/5/2023

OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Government

Memo No. 10983 /FE&CC, Date 30.05.23

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

dt 29/5/2023

OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Government

Memo No. 10984 /FE&CC, Date 30.05.23

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 FE&CC Department in the website of FE&CC Department **immediately** for information of all concerned.

dt 29/5/2023

OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Government

Memo No. 10985 /FE&CC, Date 30.05.23

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

dt 29/5/2023

OSD-cum-Special Secretary to Government