

By online / E-mail.

TAMILNADU FOREST DEPARTMENT

From

Thiru Syed Muzammil Abbas, I.F.S.,
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,
(Head of Forest Force)
Panagal Maaligai, Saidapet,
Chennai - 15.

To

The Additional Chief Secretary to
Government,
Environment, Climate Change and
Forests Department,
Secretariat, Chennai 9.

C. No. TS3/17316/2021 Dated: 16.06.2022.

Madam,

Sub: Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 –Proposal for diversion of 1.569 ha of forest land in Nanmangalam RF for Chennai Metro Rail Limited Phase II C5-06 Madhavaram to Sholinganallur corridor in Nanman+galam forest land for elevated Metro Station in Chengalpattu District in Chennai Forest Division area in favour of Chennai Metro Rail Limited, Koyambedu, Chennai – Additional details called for by the Government of India - Regarding.

- Ref: 1 Online application uploaded by the Chennai Metro Rail Limited Chennai, Admin Building, Poonamalle High Road, Koyambedu Chennai 107 - Proposal No. FP/TN/Rail/141594/2021
- 2 Part-II of Form-A uploaded by the District Forest Officer, Chennai Division on 07.10.2021 and EDS replies
- 3 Part-III of Form-A uploaded by the Conservator of Forests Chennai Circle on 03.11.2021 and EDS replies
- 4 Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Ref. No. TS3/17316/2021, dated 13.12.2021 and 07.02.2022
- 5 Government letter No. 22539/FR-10/2021-2 dated 08.02.2022
- 6 Government of India, IRO Chennai letter No.TNB080/2022-CHN/222, dated 24.02.2022
- 7 Government letter No. 22539/FR.10/2021-3, dated 07.03.2022

With reference to the Government letter 7^h cited above, I wish to furnish the additional details called for by the Government of India vide the reference 6th cited as follows.

a) *The State Government reported that out of 1.569 ha, an extent of 1.4537 ha under Nanmangalam RF and an extent of 0.1153 ha area provided to Quaid –E-Milleth Educational Trust. However, details not submitted regarding when the forest area over an extent of 0.1153 ha was handed over to Quaid-E-Milleth Educational Trust i.e. prior to 1980 or diverted under Forest Conservation Act at 1980. Hence, needs clarification that whether 0.1153 ha it is a leased area having status of Reserve Forest any dis-reservation has been made?*

The aforesaid area of 0.1153 ha comes under the 'Leased area' of Nanmangalam Reserve Forest assigned to Quaid-E-Milleth Educational Trust vide G.O Ms No. 479, Forest and Fisheries Department dated 17.05.1975 prior to Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Till now the aforesaid 0.1153 ha area comes under the legal status of Reserved Forests and no dis-reservation proposal have been made so far.

b) *The NPV Rate needs to be revised as per Ministry's Guideline No.5-3/2011 – FC (Vol-01) dated : 06.01.2022 and clarification issued vide letter dated 19.01.2022.*

As per the details uploaded under Section4(i) of Part-II of Form-A, proposed forest diversion area is comes under Eco-class of IV with density of 0.4.

As per the revised NPV rate communicated in Government of India letter F.No.5-3/2011-FC(Vol. I) dated 06.01.2022, NPV will be collected from the user agency @ Rs. 8,61,390/- per ha and the same will be informed to the user agency while communicating the Stage-I approval of Government of India issued for the project proposal.

c) *The State Forest Department shall explore possibility translocation of indigenous trees (in the proposed 112 trees to be felled and removed) either inside the Nanmangalam Reserve Forest or any nearby places.*

The 112 no. of trees in the proposed area, proposed for felling, is having the average girth of about 110 cm. Hence the removal of trees from the present location to the site of translocation, requires the use of heavy machineries and therefore causes damage to the nearby trees in the form of 'Root Shock' as well as disturb the existing eco-system. Further, allowing the heavy machineries inside the Reserve Forests not only requires destruction of existing compound wall for providing access into the Reserve Forest but also damage the existing ground vegetation while creating pathway for the movement of machineries for translocation of trees.

In addition, the translocation of trees also requires excavation of soil in the site of transplantation, which again affects the root zone of the existing vegetation.

Keeping in view of the above reasons as well as to conserve the existing local vegetation in the vicinity, the possibility of translocating the 112 trees from the existing Forest area ruled out by the District Forest Officer, Chennai Division.

d) As reported by the DFO, the proposed area is prone/susceptible to splash and rill erosion due to poor density of trees. Hence suitable Soil Conservation Plan may be prepared and submitted.

The Poor density of the trees in the area proposed for diversion is mainly due to the pressure created by various urban – centric development such as frequent movement of vehicles, loss of habitat due to rapid urbanization, various forms of Pollution, etc., that results in change in vegetation type and land degradation.

In order to overcome the above factors and to improve the existing biodiversity and other forest resources in Nanmangalam Reserve Forest – suitable site specific mitigation measures such as **Raising suitable trees of indigenous species** that has the capacity to withstand/adapt for the local anthropogenic pressure as well as existing edaphic features; **Creation of soil and Moisture conservation works** viz., Formation of catch water pits around every seedling planted; construction of Check Dams, percolation pond, etc., have been carried out under various schemes such as TANII Scheme, Intensive Plantation Scheme, MTP, etc.

During 2021-2022, 10 no. of check dams have been constructed under Nagar Van scheme 2021-22.

The above interventions results in reducing the runoff and prevents the removal of nutrient-rich top soil from the Forest area in addition to increasing the ground water table especially during monsoon period.

Due to the above, the factors responsible for the poor growth of the trees in the Nanmangalam RF has been addressed and suitable site specific measures shall also continue to be executed under suitable scheme in future too.

e) As per the direction of Hon'ble NGT, State Government / User Agency may submit the outcome of report/ recommendations that have been suggested by the expert agency through which they have conducted the Environment Impact Assessment and Biological Diversity Assessment.

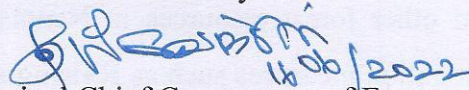
The User agency, the CMRL, has carried out the Environmental Impact Assessment and accordingly submitted a report "Biodiversity Assessment and Biodiversity Management Plan for Nanmangalam Reserve Forest" prepared by the subject expert, Dr. C. Arivazhagan, Indo American Wildlife Society, Ecologist, Urapakkam West, Chennai-603211.

I am enclosing herewith copy of EDS replies furnished by the District Forest Officer, Chennai Division and Conservator of Forests, Chennai Circle along with copy of report on Environment Impact Assessment carried out by the subject expert engaged by the user agency.

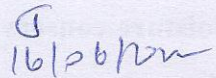
I request that the report may be forwarded to the Government of India for its consideration.

Encl: As stated above.

Yours faithfully

 16/06/2022

For Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Head of Forest Force)

 16/06/2022