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भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
पर्यावरण वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS &
CLIMATE CHANGE

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F.No. 4-TNC099/2022-CHN /05
Date 01st Jan, 2024

To,

The Additional Chief Secretary to the Government of Tamil Nadu,
Environment & Forests Department,
Secretariat, Fort St. George, Chennai – 600 009.

Subject: Diversion of 14.029 ha of forest land in Tiruvallur Forest Division for construction of six lane highways from Chittoor to Thatchur road (NH 716 B) lies in 3.4186 ha of area in Thirumalairajupettai Reserved Forests and 10.6103 ha of forest area in Nediya RFs of Tiruvallur District in favour of the Project Director, National Highways Authority of India, PIU-Kancheepuram, Chennai-Reg.

Sir,

Please refer State Government's letter Nos.17849/FR.10/2022-2 dated 18.11.2022 and online proposal No.FP/TN/ROAD/53276/2020 seeking prior approval of the Central Government for diversion of forest land in accordance with Section'2' of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for the above mentioned project. The project was accorded in-principle approval (Stage-I) by the Central Government vide 4-TNC099/2022-CHN/1382 dated 21.12.2022. The State Government vide letter No. 17849/FR.10/2022-5 dated 07.12.2023 has reported compliance to the conditions stipulated in the in-principle approval.

After careful consideration of the proposal of the State Government, I am directed to convey the Central Government's approval (**Stage-II**) under Section "2(1)" of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of **14.029 ha** of forest land in Tiruvallur Forest Division for construction of six lane highways from Chittoor to Thatchur road (NH 716 B) lies in 3.4186 ha of area in Thirumalairajupettai Reserved Forests and 10.6103 ha of forest area in Nediya RFs of Tiruvallur District in favour of the Project Director, National Highways Authority of India, PIU-Kancheepuram, Chennai, **for a period of 25 years**, subject to the following conditions:-

- Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged;
- Demarcation of the proposed forest area shall be carried out by erecting 4 feet high cement concrete pillars duly numbered at an interval of 20 meters at the cost of the User Agency;
- The State Forest Department shall carry out compensatory afforestation over

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- an extent of 28 ha of DFL area i.e. 10.45 ha in Mylarwada RF, 7.12 ha in Konasamuthiram Extension Reserved Forest and 10.488 ha area in Konasamuthiram Reserved Forest, at the cost of the User Agency;
- iv. Identified CA area and CA scheme shall not be changed without prior approval of Central Government;
 - v. Additional amount of the Net Present Value (NPV) of the diverted forest land if any, becoming due after revision of the same by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in future, shall be charged by the State Government from the User Agency. The User Agency shall furnish an undertaking to this effect;
 - vi. Provision of addition one year for removal of grass in 28.00 ha of DFL area identified for CA purpose as against proposed four years may be made in the CA scheme, if required and the State Forest Department shall ensure successful plantation in the identified DFL area;
 - vii. The State Forest Department shall ensure at least 15% of trees of fruit bearing species to be raised in the DFL area identified for CA purpose;
 - viii. Wildlife conservation plan shall be implemented by the User Agency / State Forest Department at the cost of the project;
 - ix. The User Agency / the State Forest Department shall raise and maintain avenue plantation and its maintenance on both sides of the road, at the cost of the project;
 - x. The User Agency shall construct retaining walls and check walls wherever required, by consulting the DFO concerned, at the project cost;
 - xi. Construction of culverts / bridges, if any, over the natural streams/rivers/canals shall be done in such a manner that it does not hamper the natural course of water, does not give rise to water-logging, and also does not hamper movement of wild animals;
 - xii. Roadside cuttings and fillings which require engineering support shall be provided as per the instructions of the DFO concerned so as to stabilize the soil;
 - xiii. The dug out material / overburden shall be dumped outside the forest area. Storage of any material shall not be done in the forest area;
 - xiv. The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government;
 - xv. The User Agency shall provide fire wood preferably alternate fuel to labourers working at the site to avoid damage/tree felling and no labour camp shall be established inside the forest area;
 - xvi. Disturbance shall be kept minimum by creating labour camps outside the forest area as far as possible and it shall be the responsibility of the User Agency to ensure that the labourers & staff engaged in execution of work do not destruct nearby forest flora & fauna;
 - xvii. The total forest area utilized for the project shall not exceed 14.029 ha and the forest area diverted shall not be used for any purpose other than those shown in the diversion proposal;
 - xviii. The forest land proposed for diversion shall under no circumstances be transferred or sublet to any other agency, department or person without prior approval of the Central Government;
 - xix. The User Agency and the State Government shall ensure compliance to provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations and Guidelines, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project;

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- xx. Any other conditions that the Central Government or Regional Officer (Central) of Regional Office, Chennai may impose from time to time in the interest of afforestation, conservation and management of flora and fauna in the area, shall be complied by the User Agency;
- xxi. Violation of any of the above conditions will amount to violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and action would be taken as per rules and guidelines issued under the Adhiniyam;

Yours faithfully,

Signed by Karthikeyan

Karuppiah

Date: 01-01-2024 14:58:13

Reason: Approved

(K.Karthikeyan)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests (Central)

Copy to:-

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Forest Department, Guindy Velachery Main Road, Guindy, Chennai – 32
2. The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests/Nodal Officer (FCA), Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Forest Department, Guindy Velachery Main Road, Guindy, Chennai – 32
3. The IGF, RO(HQ) Division, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhavan, Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj, New Delhi – 3
4. Project Director, National Highways Authority of India, Sri Towers 3rd Floor, DP 34 SP Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai-600032.
email: piuchittoor@nhai.org
5. Guard File.

Sd/-

(K.Karthikeyan)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests (Central)