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**ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS(FR.10)
DEPARTMENT, SECRETARIAT,
CHENNAI 9.**

Letter No.17780/FR.10/2020-1, Dated: 08.02.2021

From
Dr. Sandeep Saxena, I.A.S.,
Additional Chief Secretary to Government .

To
The Additional Director General of Forests (Central),
Government of India,
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change,
Integrated Regional Office,
1st & 2nd Floor, HEPC Building,
No.34, Cathedral Garden Road,
Nungambakkam, Chennai-34.(w.e.)

Sir,

Sub: Forests - Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 – Dindigul Circle /
Dindigul Division - Proposal for diversion of 3.708 ha in
Chinnayampattikaradu RF of Natham-Thuvarankurichi
(NH-785 extension) traverse through Natham taluk of Dindigul
District – Online proposal submission by the User Agency i.e.
National Highways Authority of India, Dindigul- Regarding.

Ref: From the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Letter No.
TS4/52452/2018, dated: 11.12.2020.

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In the reference cited, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests has stated that the User Agency, (i.e.) National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) represented by the Manager (Technical), Dindigul has submitted online application under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 3.708 ha. of forest land in Chinnayampattikaradu Reserved Forest for Natham-Thuvarankurichi (NH-785 extension) traverse through Natham taluk of Dindigul District, for a period of 20 years.

2. The User Agency has uploaded necessary documents, Certificates and Undertakings in the Online Submission.

3. The District Forest Officer, Dindigul has inspected the proposed project area situated in Chinnayampattikaradu Reserved Forest on 23.04.2020 and 09.06.2020 and furnished Part II of Form A. The District Forest Officer has furnished the details as follows:-

- a) The proposed area is 3.708 ha. land and there is no alternative land for the proposed project except forest land.
- b) The User agency has not started any work proposed in Chinnayampattikaradu RF.
- c) The project involves the formation of NH road at Chinnayampattikaradu RF. of 50+691 to 51+309 CHN distances, the total length of the road is 618 m and the total area needed is 3.708 ha.

- d) The proposed area is having plain surface and there are 783 trees in the proposed area including 455 spontaneous trees mostly comprising of *Acacia chundra*. The plantation trees are composed mostly of *Acacia Planifrons*.
- e) This project in Chinnayampattikaradu RF has minimum effects on environment and more beneficial to the public.
- f) The proposed area for diversion does not have any archeological and heritage related monuments.
- g) There are no tribal rights affected in this project.
- h) Flagship species like Tiger and Elephant are not available in this Reserved Forest. Hence there is no threat to major wildlife species. A scattered population of slender loris may be present due to the adjoining Reserved Forest.

4. The District Forest Officer has further stated that for felling of 455 no. trees of spontaneous growth, the user agency has been instructed to approach the Hon'ble Supreme court of India for granting permission for removal of 455 trees. The District Forest Officer has also proposed for raising Compensatory afforestation in double the degraded forest land in Chinnayampattikaradu Reserved Forest, Kuttupatti beat, Natham range as per Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 to an area of 8.00 ha. along with 10 years maintenance and the compensatory amount works out to Rs.1,58,39,844/-. Further regarding Compensatory Afforestation, the District Forest Officer, Dindigul has certified that with respect to the proposed diversion of forest area in Chinnayampattikaradu RF under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 an extent of 8.00 ha. area identified in Chinnayampattikaradu Reserved Forest for compensatory afforestation is a degraded forest based on the canopy density i.e., less than 40%. The District Forest Officer has revised the Compensatory Afforestation scheme for 8.00 ha. to total amount of Rs.96,93,000/-. Further the District Forest Officer has stated that this project in Chinnayampattikaradu RF has minimum effects on environment and more beneficial to the public and hence recommended the proposal.

5. The District Forest Officer has further stated that the alignment done in the field for the proposed road does not involve the Reserved Forest of Thuvarakurichi Range of Trichy division.

6. The Chief Conservator of Forests has inspected the proposed site on 12.06.2020 along with District Forest Officer, Dindigul and stated that the project involves widening of existing road in Chinnayampattikaradu RF of Natham range. As per RF notification the right of way is given at 17 chain length and 6 yards width. Already the existing road is being used by the public. The existing road involves diversion of 3.708 ha. of Reserved Forest land.

7. The Chief Conservator of Forests has stated that the proposed area of 3.708 ha. of Chinnayampattikaradu Reserved Forest for formation of four lane road from Natham to Thuvarakurichi road for development of economic corridors through NHAI and is essential for the development of this road and recommend for the acceptance of proposal.

8. In the Part-III of Form-A, the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Dindigul Circle has recommended the proposal. The proposal is also

recommended by the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980) / Nodal Officer.

9. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests has recommended the proposal for diversion of 3.708 ha forest area in Chinnayampattykaradu Reserved Forest for Natham-Thuvarankurichi (NH-785 extension) traverse through Natham Taluk of Dindigul District in favour of NHAI, Dindigul under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for a period of 20 years subject to the following conditions:-

- a) The legal status of the land shall remain unchanged and shall remain as Reserved Forests.
- b) The demarcation of the proposed forest area shall be carried out by erecting 4 feet height cement concrete pillars duly numbered at an interval of 20 mts at the cost of User Agency.
- c) The User Agency shall obtain the permission from the Supreme Court of India regarding felling of spontaneous growth in the forest area proposed for the road project before Stage-II approval.
- d) The User Agency shall remit Compensatory Afforestation amount as demanded by the Forest Department.
- e) The User Agency shall plant and maintain ten times the number of trees felled on the diverted land to maintain the green cover at the project cost, planting site for the purpose will be identified by the State Forest Department (Preferably within or in the surrounding area of the project). Only indigenous forest trees species shall be used for such plantations.
- f) The User Agency shall pay the Net Present Value of the diverted forest area at the rates stipulated by the Ministry of Environment and Forests from time to time, as per the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court Order dated 28.03.2008 and 09.05.2008 in IA Nos. 826 in 566 with related IAs in Writ Petition (Civil) No.202/1995.
- g) The fund from the User Agency towards Compensatory Afforestation and Net Present Value (NPV) under this project shall be deposited by generating chalan from the Ministry's online web portal. UTR No and date should be furnished.
- h) The 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 the effect.
- i) The User Agency shall be responsible for any loss to Flora and Fauna in the surroundings and shall take all possible measures to conserve the same.
- j) The forest land shall not be used for any other purpose other than that specified in the proposal.
- k) The lease rent should be realized from the User Agency as per G.O.(Ms.)No.272, Environment & Forests (FR.XIII) Department, dated 15.04.1991.
- l) The period of lease is 20 years.
- m) The User Agency should send renewal proposal one year before expiry of lease.
- n) The Chief Conservator of Forests and District Forest Officer may impose any other condition in the interest of conservation / protection land development of forests.

10. The Government after careful examination have decided to accept the proposal of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests for diversion of 3.708 ha. of forest land in Chinnayampattykaradu Reserved Forest for Natham - Thuvrankurichi (NH-785 extension) traverse through Natham taluk of Dindigul District, for a period of 20 years and to forward the same to Government of India for concurrence. I am, therefore to request you to kindly obtain the approval of the competent authority and communicate the same to this Government, early.

Yours faithfully,

S. Mohamed Yousuf
for Additional Chief Secretary to Government
9/2/2021

Copy to:

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Head of Department),
Chennai-15.

The Manager (Technical),
National Highways Authority of India,
Plot No:1, Aishwaryam Heights,
Indira Nagar,
Chennamanaickkanpatti Post,
Dindigul - 624 004.

PART - V

(To be filled in by the Secretary in charge of Forest Department or by any other authorized officer of the State Government not below the rank of an Under Secretary)

Proposal for diversion of 3.708 ha in Chinnayampattikaradu RF of Natham-Thuvarankurichi (NH-785 extension) traverse through Natham taluk of Dindigul District, in favour of National Highways Authority of India, Dindigul for a period of twenty years under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

18. Recommendation of the State Government

Recommended.

(Adverse comments made by any officer or authority in Part-B or Part - C or Part - D above should be specifically commented upon)

N. N. G. / 22
8/2/2021
Signature
Name & Designation
(Official Seal)

Date : 08.02.2021

Place : Chennai-9.

Deputy Secretary to Government
Environment and Forests Department
Secretariat, Chennai - 9.