



सत्यमेव जयते

भारतसरकार  
**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
 पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय  
**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS &  
 CLIMATE CHANGE**  
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F.No 4-TNB077/2022-CHN/ 519  
 Date; 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2023

To

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

**Subject: Diversion of 2.3824 ha of forest land for formation of Madurai-Natham road for preparation of DPR for development of Economic Corridors, Inter Corridors, Feeder Routes and Coastal Roads to improve the efficiency of freight movement in India in favour of the Project Director, National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), Madurai-Reg.**

Sir,

Please refer to the State Government's letter No. 6885/FR.10/2021-4 dated 28.12.2021 and 6885/FR.10/2022-6 dated 20.10.2022 online application No.FP/TN/ ROAD/29470/2017, 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 letter dated 15.11.2022. The State Government letter No. 6885/FR.10/2021-9 dated 27.03.2023, have reported compliance to the conditions stipulated in the in-principle approval;

After careful consideration of the compliance report submitted by the State Forest Department, I am directed to convey the Central Government's approval (**Stage-II**) under Section '2' of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of **2.3824 ha** of forest land for formation of Madurai-Natham road for preparation of DPR for development of Economic Corridors, Inter Corridors, Feeder Routes and Coastal Roads to improve the efficiency of freight movement in India in favour of the Project Director, National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), Madurai, **for a period of 20 years**, subject to the following conditions:-

- (i) Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged;

- (ii) 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;
- (iii) **With regard to the road within the proposed alignment which is claimed to be not part of notified RF, it is specifically informed that, if the legal status of the said portion is mentioned as a forest in revenue record or any such legal status which attracts FCA, 1980, the State Government shall not allow the User Agency to utilize such forest area even if it is not a part of notified RF without prior approval of Govt. of India under FCA, 1980;**
- (iv) The State Forest Department shall carry out compensatory **afforestation over** an extent of **3.50 ha** of Degraded Forest Land identified at Alagarmalai RF , Azhagarkovil Range and an extent of **5.00 ha** of Degraded Forest Land identified at Kiluvamalai RF, from the amount which has already been realized from the User Agency;
- (v) Identified CA area and CA scheme shall not be changed without prior approval of Central Government;
- (vi) 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;
- (vii) The User Agency shall construct retaining walls and check walls wherever required, by consulting the DFO concerned, at the project cost;
- (viii) The User Agency shall carryout avenue plantation and its maintenance on sides of the road at the cost of the project;
- (ix) **The User Agency and the State Government shall strictly comply with the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India / CEC for felling of tree of spontaneous origin;**
- (x) **Trees required to be felled, shall be felled under the strict supervision of DFOs concerned;**
- (xi) **Approved wildlife mitigation plan shall be implemented from the amount which has already been realized from the User Agency;**

- (xii) 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;
- (xiii) 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;
- (xiv) The dug out material / overburden shall be dumped outside the forest area. Storage of any material shall not be done in the forest area;
- (xv) The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government;
- (xvi) 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;
- (xvii) 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;
- (xviii) The total forest area utilized for the project shall not exceed **2.3824 ha (with the condition that the wherever space left for Avenue Plantation within the area of 2.3824 ha, existing trees shall be retained and if required in view of road safety, then such trees may be pruned as per requirement with the approval of DFOs concerned and forest area proposed for future widening within 2.3824 ha, shall not be utilized for non forestry purpose at present and whenever required for future widening, the User Agency may request for concurrence from IRO, Chennai to utilize such area earmarked for future utility purpose within 2.3824 ha).**The forest area diverted shall not be used for any purpose other than those shown in the diversion proposal. The User Agency shall furnish an undertaking to this effect;
- (xix) 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;

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- (xx) 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;
- (xxi) Any other conditions that the Central Government or Regional Officer (Central) of Integrated 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;
- (xxii) In the event of failure to comply with any of the above conditions the User Agency is liable for penal action as per the rules / guidelines issued under FCA, 1980;

Yours faithfully,

**Sd/-**

**(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. Inspector General of Forests (Central), MoEF&CC, Indira Paryavaran Bhavan, JorBagh Road, Aliganj, New Delhi-110003 **for information.**
4. National Highway Authority of India, 307, Melur Main Road, KK Nagar, Madurai, Tamil Nadu 625020 [nhai\\_madurai\\_piu@yahoo.co.in](mailto:nhai_madurai_piu@yahoo.co.in)
5. Guard file

**Sd/-**

**(K.Karthikeyan)**

Assistant Inspector General of Forests (Central)