



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

Letter No.7443/FR.10/2020-1, Dated: 03.08.2020

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,
Regional Office (South Eastern Zone),
1st & 2nd Floor, HEPC Building,
No.34, Cathedral Garden Road,
Nungambakkam, Chennai-34. (w.e.)

Sir,

Sub: Forest - Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 – Vellore Forest Circle /
Tirupathur Forest Division - Proposal for diversion of 4.47 ha of
forest land in Andiyappanur RF of Tirupathur Forest Division in
newly formed Tirupathur District for conversion of existing 11 kv
line to 33kv line for establishment of 33/11 kv new substation in
Pungampattu nadu village in favour of the Executive Engineer,
TANGEDCO - Regarding.

Ref: From the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoD), letter
No.TS3/7921/2019, dated 19.03.2020.

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In the reference cited, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests has stated that the Executive Engineer, TANGEDCO, No.34/F, Sowkathali Pettai, London Mission Road, Tirupathur-635601 on behalf of Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation (TANGEDCO), (A subsidiary of TNEB Limited) Tirupathur has submitted online application under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 4.47 ha of forest land in Andiyappanur RF of Tirupathur Forest Division in Vellore District, present newly formed Tirupathur District area for conversion of existing 11 kv line to 33kv line for establishment of 33/11 kv new substation in Pungampattu nadu village.

2. The User Agency has uploaded necessary documents, Certificates and Undertakings in the Online Submission and Monitoring of Forests Clearances Proposal (OSMFCP) portal. The User Agency has uploaded the certificate obtained from the District Collector, Vellore District stating that there is no alternate suitable non-forest land is available for the project. Further, the User Agency has uploaded the certificate issued by the District Collector, Vellore District about completion of process for settlement of rights under Forest Rights Act, 2006 on the forest land proposed for diversion.

3. In the Part-II of Form-A, the District Forest Officer, Tirupathur Division, Tirupathur has furnished the following particulars:-

- i. Density of the forest area is 0.5 and Eco class three in forest area.
- ii. There is no trees available in the forest land proposed for diversion.
- iii. On vulnerability of the forest land to erosion, the District Forest Officer has reported that the Reserved Forests proposed for diversion are not vulnerable for erosion.
- iv. The forest area proposed for diversion not forms part of National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant corridor, Wildlife migration corridor etc., and not located within 1 km boundary of NP/WLs etc., for the forest land proposed for diversion and not located within the eco-sensitive zone of the protected area notified under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- v. Indian Gaur, Wild boar, Spotted deer, Hare, Peafowl, Indian Rock Python are present in and around the forest land proposed for diversion.
- vi. There is no protected archaeological / heritage site / defense establishment or any other important monument is located in the area.
- vii. Requirement of forest land as proposed by the User Agency is unavoidable and bare minimum for the project and no work in violation of the Act or guidelines has been carried out.
- viii. For the diversion of 4.47 ha of forest land for non forestry purpose of conversion of existing 11 kv to 33 kv line for establishment of 11/33 new substation in Pungampattu Nadu village in Tirupathur Range area in newly formed Tirupathur District (old part of Vellore district area), compensatory afforestation area has been identified in the degraded forest area in the same Andiyappanur Reserved Forests in 8.94 ha.
 - a. He has uploaded the scanned copy of geo-referenced map of 8.94 ha of degraded forest area in Andiyappanur RF along with GPS readings and copy of survey of India topo sheet indicating the boundary of 8.94 ha of degraded forest area in Andiyappanur RF .
 - b) as per Government of India guidelines under Compensatory Afforestation work, CA shall be raised and maintained at the cost of the user agency on degraded forest land twice in extent of forest area diverted in the case of laying transmission lines and CA scheme shall be prepared for minimum of 1000 seedlings per hectare of identified CA land with ten-year maintenance. Based on the above guidelines, he has prepared and uploaded the revised detailed Compensatory Afforestation Scheme estimate for the work at Rs. 57,74,029/- (@Rs. 645864/- per ha) for raising and ten years maintenance of plantation.
 - c) Site suitability certificate of the Compensatory afforestation plantation area has been furnished with the CA scheme proposal.
 - d) He has also uploaded the additional information details.

4. The District Forest Officer, Tirupathur Division has inspected the site on 20.09.2019 and 30.11.2019 and has reported the followings:-

- i. The proposed site is located in Jawathu hills at an altitude of 1340 mts in Andiyappanur RF area of Tirupathur Range with coordinates N12.47457, E 78.66129, and N12.46475, E78.68463. Forest type is Southern Dry Mixed deciduous forest and Southern dry deciduous scrub forest. Density of vegetation is noted as fairly dense forest. The density of vegetation is more than 0.40 and less than 0.60.
- ii. The proposed area for diversion proposed by the user agency is as follows:-
Length in metre – 2980m
Width in metre- 15m
Total area in ha – 4.47 ha.
- iii. The user agency has given following justification for the diversion proposal:- Establishment of 33/11 KV sub-station in Pungampattu Nadu village from Singampalyam to Serkanur village in Jawadhu hills in Tirupathur forest division, Vellore District under DDUGJY Scheme. Nearly 34 villages and 4200 EB service connections will get proper streamlined power supply. Breakdowns will be minimized which ensure the Hill area people will get uninterrupted electricity.
- iv. The proposed transmission line work will have only minimum impact on wildlife in particular and biodiversity in general. The proposed area is not close to any National Park or Wildlife sanctuary. Further, this proposed project does not involve felling of any trees only side branches needs to be trimmed.

5. In the specific recommendation of the project, the District Forest Officer has stated that, the project work will have only minimum impact on the wildlife in particular and biodiversity in general. The proposed area is not close to any National Park or Wildlife sanctuary. There is no violation of provisions of Forest Conservation Act in the proposed area and there is no encroachment in the proposed area. Further, this proposed project does not involve felling of any trees only side branches needs to be trimmed. The establishment of substation is inevitable which would facilitate in improving the standard of living of the local people. Hence he has recommended the project on public interest.

6. The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Vellore Circle has inspected the area on 06.01.2020. He endorses the views of the District Forest Officer and recommended the proposal. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden and the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (FCA)-i/c - Nodal Officer, FCA, 1980 has also recommended the project.

7. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests has recommended the proposal for diversion of 4.47 ha of forest land in Andiyappanur RF of Tirupathur Forest Division in Vellore District, present newly formed Tirupathur District area for conversion of existing 11 kv line to 33kv line for establishment of 33/11 kv new substation in Pungampattu nadu village in favour of the Executive Engineer, TANGEDCO, No.34/F, Sowkathali Pettai, London Mission Road, Tirupathur-635601 for a period of 30 years under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, subject to the following conditions:-

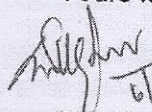
- a. The legal status of the diverted forest land remains unchanged.

- b. The demarcation of the proposed forest land shall be carried out by the User Agency by erecting 4 feet high cement concrete pillars duly numbered at an interval of 20 meters at their cost.
- c. The User Agency has to pay the cost of Raising Compensatory Afforestation / Maintenance of plantation, protection of plantation etc., as fixed by the Forest Department and willingness to deposit additional amounts if any suggested as amended owing to the change in planting technique, enhancement in the FSR etc., demanded subsequently.
- d. The User Agency has to pay the amount of Net Present Value as per the guidelines of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.
- e. The User Agency has to bear the additional amount of Net Present Value which will be fixed as per the guidelines of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India as fixed by Forest Department in future.
- f. The User Agency has to pay the cost towards lease rent as fixed by the Forest Department at the time of sanction along with any escalation for the forest land to be diverted for the above project in future for the entire project period.
- g. Period of lease can be thirty (30) years. The User Agency has to apply renewal proposal before one year of expiry of lease with the State Forest Department.

8. The Government after careful examination have decided to accept the proposal of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests for diversion of 4.47 ha of forest land in Andiyappanur Reserve Forest of Tirupathur Forest Division in Vellore District, present newly formed Tirupathur District area for conversion of existing 11 kv line to 33kv line for establishment of 33/11 kv new substation in Pungampattu nadu village in favour of the Executive Engineer, TANGEDCO, No.34/F, Sowkathali Pettai, London Mission Road, Tirupathur-635601 for a period of 30 years and to forward the same to Government of India for concurrence.

9. I am, therefore to request you to kindly obtain the concurrence of the Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change and communicate the same to this Government, early.

Yours faithfully,


6/8/2020

for Additional Chief Secretary to Government.

Copy to :-

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Head of Forest Force), Chennai-15.
The Executive Engineer,
TANGEDCO,
No.34/F, Sowkathali Pettai,
London Mission Road,
Tirupathur-635601.

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 4.47 ha of forest land in Andiyappanur RF of Tirupathur Forest Division in Vellore District, present newly formed Tirupathur District area for conversion of existing 11 kv line to 33kv line for establishment of 33/11 kv new substation in Pungampattu nadu village for a period of thirty years in favour of the Executive Engineer, TANGEDCO, No.34/F, Sowkathali Pettai, London Mission Road, Tirupathur-635601 under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

18. Recommendation of the State Government

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

- Recommended -

6.8.2020
[M. SATHISH KUMAR]

Signature

Name & Designation
(Official Seal)

Date : 06.08.2020

Place : Chennai-9.

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