



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

**Letter No.17260/FR.10/2020-1, Dated: 05.02.2021**

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

To  
The Assistant Inspector General of Forests (Central),  
Government of India,  
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change,  
Integrated Regional Office (South Eastern Zone),  
1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, HEPC Building,  
No.34, Cathedral Garden Road,  
Nungambakkam, Chennai-34.(w.e)

Sir,

Sub: Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 – Coimbatore Forest Circle/  
Coimbatore Forest Division - Proposal for diversion of 0.62 ha  
of forest land in Madukkarai Forest Block-V Reserved Land in  
Madukkarai village of Coimbatore Forest Division for burial  
ground for Christians in Madukkarai village of Coimbatore  
Corporation area in favour of the Commissioner, Coimbatore  
City Municipal Corporation, Coimbatore – Forwarded to GOI -  
Regarding.

Ref: From the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, letter  
No.TS3/42513/2020, dated: 08.12.2020.

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In the reference cited, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests has stated that the Commissioner, City Municipal Corporation, Coimbatore has uploaded online application under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 0.62 ha of forest land in Madukkarai Forest Block-V Reserved Land in Madukkarai village of Coimbatore Forest Division for burial ground for Christians in Madukkarai village of Coimbatore Corporation area in favour of the Commissioner, Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation, Coimbatore.

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

- i. The legal status of the proposed site of diversion of 0.62 ha of forest land requested for the project is Section 16 notified area. As per site inspection report, name of the forest land is "Madukkarai Forest Block V which has been handed over as a Compensatory Afforestation land in lieu of the forest land diverted to ACC limited for mining lime stone and process for notification under Section 4 of Tamil Nadu Forest Act, 1882 is in progress.
- ii. Density of the forest area is 0.25 and Eco class of forest area is three.

- iii. In the additional information details section, the District Forest Officer has reported that there is no tree growth of ecological importance in the proposed area and canopy density of vegetation is 0.2-03 with few prosopis juliflora bushes and cylindropuntia ramosissima (xerophytes)
- iv. On vulnerability of the forest land proposed for diversion, there is no possibility of land slide over.
- v. The forest area proposed for diversion is not forms part of National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant corridor, Wildlife migration corridor etc., and not located within the eco-sensitive zone of the protected area notified under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 not located within 1 km from boundary of NP/WLs etc., Elephant, wild boar, spotted deer are present in and around the forest land proposed for diversion. There is no rare/ endangered/ unique species of flora and fauna found in the area.
- 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. Since the forest area proposed for diversion is part of Compensatory Afforestation land received in lieu of forest area diverted for mining lime stone for ACC Limited, he has proposed compensatory afforestation scheme over an area of 1.24 ha non forest land identified in S.No 499/3 of Thenkarai village in Madukkarai Forest Range area. The user agency has furnished details of land identified as Compensatory land for the project.
- ix. The District Forest Officer has proposed compensatory afforestation scheme at a cost of Rs.807899/- including maintenance of plantation over a period of 10 years. Land suitability of CA land has been furnished by him.

3. The District Forest Officer, Coimbatore Division has inspected the area on 02.12.2020 and stated that the project is Creation of Christian burial ground in Madukkarai Forest block-V Reserved land. There is no tree growth of ecological importance in the proposed area and canopy density of vegetation is 0.2-03 with few prosopis juliflora bushes and cylindropuntia ramosissima (xerophytes).

4. In the recommendation of the project, the District Forest Officer, Coimbatore Division has reported that the proposed area for diversion does not have any archeological and heritage related monuments and there is no tribal right affected by this project. Flagship species like tiger is not available in this Reserved land, hence there is no threat to major wildlife species. The project has minimum effects on environment and hence he has recommended that an area of 0.62 ha of forest land in Madukkarai Forest Block-V Reserved land may be diverted for creation of Christian Burial Ground.

5. The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Coimbatore Circle in his recommendation report, has reported that the project site is situated within the Madukkarai Forest block-V which was handed over to Coimbatore Division as a

compensatory afforestation land in lieu of the forest land diverted to ACC limited for mining lime stone and under the process of notification under Section 4 of the Tamil Nadu Forest Act, 1882. The project does not involve any cutting of trees. The proposal is for public oriented purpose and very much useful for the habitations at Kovaipudur, Sugunapuram, Milekal and Madukkarai areas of Coimbatore Corporation. The forest land required for this project is the bare minimum and the project is not likely to adversely impact on forest and wildlife. Hence he has recommended the proposal. The proposal is duly recommended by the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Forest Conservation Act)/ Nodal Officer, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 (i/c) of the State of Tamil Nadu.

6. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoD) has also stated that, State Government is empowered to accord forest area diversion up to one hectare area for certain critical public utility and welfare projects undertaken by the Government. However, diversion of forest land for activities like burial ground is not find place in the list. Hence the forest area diversion of 0.62 ha for this project requires Government of India approval.

7. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Department) has recommended the proposal for diversion of 0.62 ha of forest land in Madukkarai Forest Block-V Reserved Land in Madukkarai village of Coimbatore Forest Division for burial ground for Christians in Madukkarai village of Coimbatore Corporation area in favour of the Commissioner, Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation, Coimbatore for a period of 20 years under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 subject to the following conditions and requested to forward the same to Government of India to obtain their approval:-

- 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 properly fence the CA area, transfer and mutate 1.64 ha of non-forest land identified in S.No.499/3 of Thenkarai village in Coimbatore District to the Forest Department.
- d) 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.
- e) The User Agency has to pay the amount of Net Present Value which will be fixed as per the guidelines of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.
- f) 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.
- g) The user agency shall compulsorily transfer the Compensatory Afforestation scheme cost and Net present Value of forest land proposed for diversion under the project to CAMPA funds only through e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>)

- h) 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 of the above project in future for the entire project period.
- i) The total forest area utilized for the project shall not exceeds 0.62 ha
- j) Period of lease can be twenty (20) years. The User Agency has to apply renewal proposal before one year of expiry of lease with the State Forest Department.

8. Further, it is stated that, the Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department has been requested to explore the possibility of finding alternate land for the above said proposal in order to ensure long term conservation and sustainable use done. Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department has stated that the Commissioner of Municipal Administration has informed that the District Collector, Coimbatore has certified that there is no alternate poramboke land other than forest land in Madukkarai Village. The District Forest Officer has proposed compensatory afforestation scheme over an extent of 1.24.0 hectares of non forest land belonging to Revenue Department situated on S.No.499/3 of Thenkarai Village of Madukkarai Taluk. The User Agency has also sent a proposal to District Collector, Coimbatore to transfer and mutata the above land.

9. The Government after careful examination, have therefore decided to accept the proposal of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests for diversion of 0.62 ha of forest land in Madukkarai Forest Block-V Reserved Land in Madukkarai village of Coimbatore Forest Division for burial ground for Christians in Madukkarai village of Coimbatore Corporation area in favour of the Commissioner, Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation, Coimbatore for a period of 20 years subject to the conditions mentioned in para 7 above under section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and forward the same to the Government of India for concurrence.

10. 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  
5/2/2021

Copy to:-

✓ The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoD),  
Chennai-15.

The Commissioner,  
Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation,  
Coimbatore-641 001.

**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 0.62 ha of forest land in Madukkarai Forest Block-V Reserved Land in Madukkarai village of Coimbatore Forest Division for burial ground for Christians in Madukkarai village of Coimbatore Corporation area in favour of the Commissioner, Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation, Coimbatore 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)

*M. M. G. / 5/2/2021*  
Signature  
Name & Designation  
(Official Seal)

Date : 05.02.2021

Place : Chennai-9.

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