

By e-mail



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

Letter No.14963/FR.10/2022-1, dated: 30.09.2022

From
Tmt.Supriya Sahu, IAS.,
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,
1st Floor, Additional Office Block for GPOA,
Shastri Bhawan, Haddows Road,
Nungambakkam, Chennai-600 006 (w.e).

Sir,

Sub: Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 – Proposal (FP/TN/Road/147758/2021) for diversion of 5.00 ha of forest land in Pallipatti Reserved Forest, Thombakal Reserved Forest and Thombakal Extension Reserved Forest of Dharmapuri Forest Division for formation of approach road from Vachathi to Kalasapadi Road via Arasanatham and Poigundanvalasu tribal habitations of Sitheri Panchayat in Pappireddipatti Taluk in Dharmapuri District to a length of 5.173 km and to a width of 7.50m in favour of the Block Development Officer, Pappireddipatti, Dharmapuri District - Proposal forwarding off - Regarding

Ref: From the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, letter No.TS3/37648/ 2021, dated 18.08.2022.

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I am directed to enclose a copy of the reference cited and to state that, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force) in his letter cited has stated that, the Block Development Officer, Pappireddipatty Union, Pappireddipatty, Dharmapuri District has uploaded online forest clearance proposal under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 5.00 ha of forest land in Pallipatti Reserved Forest, Thombakal Reserved Forest and Thombakal Extension Reserved Forest of Dharmapuri Forest Division for formation of approach road from Vachathi to Kalasapadi Road via Arasanatham and Poigundanvalasu tribal habitations of Sitheri Panchayat in Pappireddipatti Taluk in Dharmapuri District to a length of 5.173 km and to a width of 7.50m.

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

- I. The legal status of the proposed site of diversion of 5.00 ha of forest land requested for the project is Reserved Forests and name of the forest land reported as Pallipatti Reserved Forest, Thombakkal Reserved Forest and Thombakkal Extension Reserved Forest.

- II. Density of the forest area is 0.25 and Eco class of forest area is three.
- III. Species wise and girth class wise enumeration of trees in the area reported as 16 numbers. As per section 4(ii), Specieswise and Girthwise enumeration of trees, there are 16 Nos. of trees among which 1 Vagai tree, 2 Thuringi trees, 1 Thailam tree, 2 Veppalai trees and 10 Keerai, Oduvan, Usilai Sullan, Pasilu, Yetti, Perukka, Parambai and Thanukku trees, at various girth level were listed and are spontaneous in nature and requires felling for this project.
- IV. On vulnerability of the forest area to erosion reported as the area already eroded and no soil to be eroded.
- V. Details of wildlife present in and around the forest land proposed for diversion reported as NIL. The forest area proposed for diversion is not 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 and not located within 1 km boundary of NP/WLs etc., for 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. For the proposed diversion of 5.00 ha of forest land in Pallipatti Reserved Forest, Thombakkal Reserved Forest and Thombakkal Extension Reserved Forest for formation of Vachathi to Kalasapadi road via, Arasanatham and Poigundanvalasu tribal habitations in Sitheri Panchayat in Pappireddipatti Taluk in Dharmapuri District, compensatory afforestation has been proposed in 10.00 ha of identified non forest Compensatory Afforestation land in SF No. 692/7 of Kammampatty in Nallampalli Taluk of Dharmapuri District by planting @ 600 number of trees per ha and 800 numbers per ha in 5.00 ha of degraded forest area selected in Parigam A Reserved Forest.
 - a. The District Forest Officer has reported that the non forest land has been inspected on 06.10.2021 and it is quite suitable for raising compensatory afforestation. It is also approachable and manageable on protection point of view. Naturally grown trees are existing in the identified Compensatory Afforestation land and looks like a forest. Due to lack of possibilities to plant the targeted saplings in this place, it has been decided to plant the remaining saplings in the degraded forest area of Dharmapuri Range in Parigam A Reserve Forests.
 - b. Compensatory Afforestation scheme cost proposed by the District Forest Officer is as follows:-
 - i)a) Compensatory Afforestation scheme in 10.00 ha of non-forest Compensatory Afforestation land @ 600 numbers per ha including maintenance of plantation for 10 year period Rs.64,71,569/-
 - b) Chain link fencing around plantation to prevent biotic pressure Rs.39,42,000/-

- c) Engaging protection mazdoor for 3 years period

Rs.6,66,480/-

Sub total

**- Rs.1,10,80,049/-
or Rs.1,10,80,500/-**

- ii) a) Compensatory Afforestation scheme in 5.00 ha of degraded forest Compensatory Afforestation area in Parigam A Reserved Forests @ 800 numbers per ha including maintenance of plantation for 10 year period

Rs. 21,31,370/-

- b) Chain link fencing around plantation to prevent biotic pressure

Rs. 26,28,000/-

Sub Total

**- Rs.47,59,370/-
or Rs.47,59,500/-**

Grand total of CA scheme

- Rs.1,58,40,000/-

- c. The District Forest Officer has furnished the cost estimate of the Compensatory Afforestation scheme and area marked in the Survey of India topo sheet and surveyed sketch of the proposed Compensatory Afforestation area in geo-referenced map for the non forest Compensatory Afforestation land. Site suitability certificate of the Compensatory Afforestation area.
- d. As per the guidelines issued in F.No.11-423/2011-FC, dated 22.05.2019 of Government of India, the user agency shall fence the Compensatory Afforestation land mutate the same in the name of Forest Department before handing them over to the Forest Department. However, the work has been proposed by the District Forest Officer for execution by the Forest Department by the cost to be recovered from the user agency.

3. The District Forest Officer, Dharmapuri Division has inspected the proposed site on 25.02.2022 and reported the following:-

The user agency has not yet commenced any work in the field therefore, the question of violation of the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 does not arise and there is no encroachment in this area. The forest land required for the project is not part of any National Park/Wildlife Sanctuary/Biosphere. In the alignment of the proposed road, there exists 16 numbers of trees, which are spontaneous growth in nature and requires felling. The proposed road is to be laid to a length of 5173m to a width of 7.50m.

4. In the Specific Recommendation of the project, the District Forest Officer, Dharmapuri Division has reported the following:-

In the alignment of the proposed road, no right of way was admitted in the Tamil Nadu Gazette notification of Pallipatti Reserved Forest, Thombakal Reserved Forest and Thombakal Extension Reserved Forest. The proposed road connects Vachathi to Kalasapadi via Arasanatham and Poigundualasu tribal habitations. Until now, there is no other alternative road for them to drive vehicles. This is the long lasting demand by the village people for the past ten years. This demand has also been raised in the Legislative Assembly often. The work will be permitted under strict

supervision of the Forest Officers. Possible damage to wild flora and fauna due to this project is very low. Considering the facts and field observations, the District Forest Officer, Dharmapuri Division has recommended the proposal for seeking diversion of forest land.

5. The Conservator of Forests, Dharmapuri Circle has inspected the area on 09.06.2022 and endorsed the details provided by the District Forest Officer and he has recommended the proposal.

6. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests has stated that, the User Agency has requested forest area diversion for a period of 99 years. The District Forest Officer, Dharmapuri Division and the Conservator of Forests, Dharmapuri Circle have recommended the diversion of forest area for a period of 20 years. Based on the recommendations made by the District Forest Officer and Conservator of Forests, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests has recommended the diversion of forest area for a period of 20 years.

7. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force) has further stated that, the proposal is sent duly recommended by the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Forest Conservation Act) / Nodal Officer of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 of the State of Tamil Nadu.

8. Based on the recommendations made by the District Forest Officer, Dharmapuri Division and Conservator of Forests, Dharmapuri Circle, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force) has recommended the proposal for diversion of 5.00 ha of forest land in Pallipatti Reserved Forest, Thombakal Reserved Forest and Thombakal Extension Reserved Forest in Dharmapuri Forest Division for formation of approach road from Vachathi to Kalasapadi Road via Arasanatham and Poigundanvalasu tribal habitations in Sitheri Panchayat of Pappireddipatti Taluk in Dharmapuri District to a length of 5.173 km and to a width of 7.50m in favour of the Block Development Officer, Pappireddipatti, Dharmapuri District, for a period of 20 years under section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and requested the Government to forward the same to Government of India for obtaining their approval for the project proposal, subject to the following conditions:-

1. The legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged.
2. The demarcation of the proposed forest land shall be carried out by the User Agency by erecting 4 feet height cement concrete pillars duly numbered at an interval of 20 meters at their cost.
3. The User Agency has to fence, mutate and transfer double the extent of non-forest land identified in SF No.692/7 of Kammampatty Village of Nallampalli Taluk in Dharmapuri District to the Forest Department.
4. 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.
5. The User Agency has to pay the Net Present Value of proposed forests diversion area which will be fixed as per the guidelines of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India / Government of India.
6. 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.

7. Amount of Compensatory Afforestation scheme, Net Present Value of diverted forest area under the project shall be transferred / deposited to CAMPA fund only through e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>)
8. The User Agency has to obtain permission from the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India for felling of 16 number of spontaneous trees growth in the forest area proposed for diversion for the project proposal.
9. The User Agency has to pay the cost towards felling and transportation cost of trees to be cut in the project area to the District Forest Officer, Dharmapuri Division for immediate execution of the felling of trees work after getting necessary permission for felling of trees.
10. The User Agency has to pay the cost towards annual lease rent for the forest area diversion period 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.
11. The total forest area utilized for the project shall not exceed 5.00 ha for a length of 5.173m and width of 7.50m in Pallipatti Reserved Forest (2.327 ha), Thombakal Reserved Forest (0.963 ha) and Thombakal Extension Reserved Forest (1.71 ha).
12. The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agencies / department or person without prior approval of the State Government.
13. Period of lease is twenty (20) years. The User Agency has to apply renewal proposal before one year of expiry of lease with the State Forest Department.

9. The Government have examined and accept the proposal (FP/TN/Road/147758/2021) of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force) for diversion of 5.00 ha of forest land in Pallipatti Reserved Forest, Thombakal Reserved Forest and Thombakal Extension Reserved Forest in Dharmapuri Forest Division for formation of approach road from Vachathi to Kalasapadi via Arasanatham and Poigundanvalasu tribal habitations in Sitheri Panchayat of Pappireddipatti Taluk in Dharmapuri District to a length of 5.173 km and to a width of 7.50m in favour of the Block Development Officer, Pappireddipatti, Dharmapuri District for a period of 20 years, under section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and decided to forward the same to Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India for their concurrence.

10. I am, therefore, directed to request you to kindly obtain the concurrence of the Competent Authority and communicate the same to this Government, early.

Yours faithfully,

M. Murali
6/10/2022

for Additional Chief Secretary to Government

Copy to:-

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

The Block Development Officer (BP),
Panchayat Union, Pappireddipatti,
Dharmapuri District -636905.

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 (FP/TN/Road/ 147758/2021) for diversion of 5.00 ha of forest land in Pallipatti Reserved Forest, Thombakal Reserved Forest and Thombakal Extension Reserved Forest of Dharmapuri Forest Division for formation of approach road from Vachathi to Kalasapadi Road via Arasanatham and Poigundanvalasu tribal habitations of Sitheri Panchayat in Pappireddipatti Taluk in Dharmapuri District to a length of 5.173 km and to a width of 7.50m in favour of the Block Development Officer, Pappireddipatti, Dharmapuri District for a period of 20 years, 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

Date : 06.10.2022

Place : Chennai-9.

Amaranath 6/10/2022
(M.R. AMARNATH)
Under Secretary to Government
Environment, Climate Change and
Forest Department
Secretariat, Chennai-600 009.

Signature
Name & Designation
(Official Seal)

SP
06/10/22