

The Site Inspection report of Divisional Forest Officer ,Thrissur

Kuthiran and Pambatty area for six laning the National Highway-

The Project Manager , National Highway authority of India, Palakkad , has applied for seeking permission under Section 2 of forest Conservation Act 1980 for diversion of Forest Land in Kuthiran and Pattikkad area for side protection and service road in the existing National Highway 544 from Mannuthy to Vadakkenchery through reserve forest in Pattikkad range in tunnel exit and Pattikkad bus stand area under Thrissur Forest Division.

As per Letter no. 4 KLC-844/2011 Ban/3408/ 14.05.13 of Ministry of Environment and Forest, Govt. Of India, Bangalore, and Go Rt No. 216/2013/F&WLD dt/ 04.06.2013 of Kerala Forest Department, National Highway Authority has accorded sanction for diversion of 6.345 ha forest land in Thrissur Division and 7.605 ha in Peechi Wildlife division for widening of NH between Vadakkenchery and Thrissur. The diverted forest land had been handed over to NHAI for the construction of Road.

Presently they have submitted fresh proposal for diversion of 1.4318 ha area of forest land for six laning the National Highway, under Thrissur and Peechi Forest Divisions on 26.09.2019. I have inspected the site on 01.10.2019.

An area of 0.4334 ha comes under Vaniyampara Forest station in the Kuthiran and Pattikkad area of Pattikkad range in Thrissur Forest Division and 0.9984 ha comes under Peechi Wildlife Division.

Out of 0.4334 ha, 0.2926 ha of Forest land is near to the tunnel exit and adjacent to the approach road (chainage between 248+7298 and 248+390) and 0.1408 ha is near to the Pattikkad Bus stand (chainage is between and 253 + 560 and 253.70). The requirement of proposed forest is mainly for the side protection of the approach road to the tunnel exit and service road near bus stand in Pattikkad.

Boundary

I st site

North Diverted land
East Reserve Forest
West Diverted land
South Reserve Forest

II nd Site

North Diverted land
East Private land
West Private land
South Reserve Forest

There are no medicinal plants in these area. Ground storey includes Clerodendron riscos, Helictris Isora, Lantana camera, and Eupatorium etc. Herbivorous animals are present in the area. The first site is near to the tunnel exit and is natural forest and the second site is 1994 Teak Plantation. Tree felling is required from Reserve forest and plantation, to execute the slope protection work for avoiding landslides.

Since the utility area is a part of the National Highway -544 which passes through the Forest Land, no alternative is available apart from the NH corridor. The area is required for opening one side of the highway. Since the existing side of the road is having a vertical height of average 10m. from the road and there is good chance of landslide and falling of stone piece from top of the hill to the road which is dangerous to passengers and vehicles. It is happened nearly in two or three places. The granite stones are situated in a splitted manner and would fall at any time . Providing side protection is essential for strengthening the top portion and to avoid land slides, and hence the diversion of forest land is required and which is inevitable .

It is found that the construction of service road along with the National Highway which is also found essential. Hence the proposal for the diversion of 0.4334 ha forest land in the Kuthiran and Pattikkad area of Pattikkad Forest range in Thrissur Forest Division is recommended for acceptance.


DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER THRISSUR

