

TAMILNADU FOREST DEPARTMENT

From

Thiru Ashok Upreti, I.F.S.,  
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,  
(Head of Department)  
Panagal Maaligai, Saidapet,  
Chennai - 15.

To

The Principal Secretary to Government,  
Environment, Climate Change and  
Forests Department,  
Secretariat,  
Chennai 9.

C. No. TS3/23610/2021 Dated: 03.01.2022.

Madam,

Sub: Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 – Vellore Forest Circle /  
Tiruvannamalai Forest Division – Proposal for diversion of  
0.25 ha of forest land in Pennaiyar RF for the widening from  
Intermediate lane to two lanes (Existing 5.50m width and  
widening on left side to a width of 1.50m) and construction of  
three culverts of 12m(l)x2.0m(w) for strengthening of Sathanur  
Dam Road at km 3/4 to 5/0 in Tiruvannamalai District in favour  
of Divisional Engineer, Highways (Construction and  
Maintenance), Tiruvannamalai - Proposal forwarding off -  
Regarding.

- Ref: 1 Online application uploaded by the Divisional Engineer,  
Highways, Construction and Maintenance, Tiruvannamalai -  
Proposal No. FP/TN/Road/143273/2021, dated 08.06.2021  
and resubmission of proposal on 21.07.2021.
- 2 Part-II of Form-A uploaded by the District Forest Officer,  
Tiruvannamalai Division on 23.09.2021 and EDS Replies
- 3 Part-III of Form-A uploaded by the Conservator of Forests,  
Vellore Circle on 07.10.2021 and EDS replies.

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I wish to state that in the reference 1<sup>st</sup> cited, the Divisional Engineer,  
Highways (Construction and Maintenance), Tiruvannamalai has uploaded online  
forest clearance application under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for  
diversion of 0.25 ha of forest land in Pennaiyar RF for the widening from  
Intermediate lane to two lanes (Existing 5.50m width and widening on left side to a  
width of 1.50m) and construction of three culverts of 12m(l)x2.0m(w) for  
strengthening of Sathanur Dam Road at km 3/4 to 5/0 in Tiruvannamalai District  
under proposal No. FP/TN/Road/143273/2021.



1) Brief details of the project are given below.

i) Name of the project reported as widening from Intermediate lane to two lanes and strengthening of Sathanur Dam Road at km 3/4 to 5/0 in Ponnaiyar Reserved Forest area.

ii) In the short narrative of the proposal for which forest land is required, the User Agency has stated that this road passes through the villages and this road is situated along the villages, agricultural lands and is being used by farmers to transport their agricultural products to other district capitals. This road connects to the Sathanur Dam situated along this road, hence commercial traffic is very high.

iii) The User Agency has reported that area required in forest area is for 0.25 ha., and non forest land required for the project is Zero ha.,

iv) Diversion of 0.25 ha of forest has been requested in Tiruvannamalai (South) Forest Division area in Tiruvannamalai District and Name of the village in which forest land requested has been reported as Ponnaiyar RF.

v) The User Agency has furnished the component wise breakup details of land required for the project as follows.

(a) Road – 0.24 ha. (b) Culvert 3 Nos. – 0.009 ha - Total 0.249 (OR) 0.25 ha

vi) Location map of the forest land proposed to be diverted in kml file of google earth, Scanned copy of Survey of India topo sheet marking the road runs through forest area and Scanned copy of Geo referenced location details of the forest land proposed to be diverted have been uploaded.

vii) Note containing justification for locating the project in forest area has been uploaded.

viii) The User Agency has stated that this project is likely to generate permanent/regular employment for 150 persons and temporary establishment for 450 persons. This project does not involve displacement of people due to the project and cost-benefit analysis and Environment clearance for the project are not required.

ix) The User Agency has reported that the project or part thereof is not located in any protected area or their Eco sensitive zone and this project or a part thereof is not located in a Scheduled area.

x) The User Agency has uploaded a copy of certificate issued in ROC No. 67/2021/JDO, dated 03.06.2021 by the District Collector, Tiruvannamalai District on completion of the process for settlement of Rights under the Forest Rights Act 2006 on the forest land proposed to be diverted of 0.25 ha.



xi) The User Agency has not furnished the details of compensatory Afforestation land to be provided to the Forest Department in lieu of diversion of forest land required for the work and reason for this stated that not applicable.

xii) In the additional information details section, following documents have been uploaded.

a) Certified that the proposed road land is lying in Sathanur Revenue village, Thandampattu Firka.

b) Certified that the user agency has not violated any provisions of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 in seeking the minimum forest land required for the project.

c) Certified that no suitable alternate Non-Forest land is available for the project.

d) Undertaking to bear the cost of felling of trees and transportation cost of trees to be removed during the road formation work.

e) Certified that ten times of saplings cost would be paid towards the number of trees proposed to be cut in the project.

f) Certificate issued by the District Collector, Tiruvannamalai in ROC No. 67/2021/JDO, dated 03.06.2021 on completion of process for settlement of rights under Forest Rights Act, 2006 on the forest land proposed for diversion.

g) DGPS reading of the road project work.

h) Certificate issued by the District Collector, Tiruvannamalai District that no alternate non forest land is available for taking up the work of widening from intermediate land to two lane and strengthening of Sathanur dam road at km 3 /4 to 5/0 pertaining to Thandampattu Taluk of Tiruvannamalai District and the best possible alignment requires the utilization of the Reserve Forest land. (RC. No. 67/2021/JDO, Dated 03.06.2021

i) Undertaking to pay the additional amount of Net Present Value of diverted forest area.

j) Undertaking to deposit the cost of compensatory afforestation scheme Undertaking to pay the Net Present Value of diverted forest land.

k) Undertaking to pay the cost towards lease rent.

l) Certified that no work in violation of Forest Conservation Act, 1980 will be carried out.

m) Certified that the diversion of forest land for widening from Intermediate land to two lanes and strengthening of Sathanur dam road requires 0.25 ha area and is designed for minimum forest involvement and details as follows.



- i) Km 3/4 to 5/0 Left side 1500m length with 1.50m width area 2250 sq.m
- ii) Culvert portion @ 4/2, 4/4 and 4/10km -Both sided 3x15m length, with 5m width and area of 225 sq.m

Total 2475 sq.m or 0.25 ha

n) DGPS reading of km 3/4 to 5/0 proposed in forest area has been uploaded with location details.

2) The District Forest Officer, Tiruvannamalai Division has uploaded Part-II of Form-A along with his site inspection report and recommendation of the project and uploaded EDS replies for the additional details called for on the project proposal.

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

i) The legal status of the proposed site of diversion of 0.25 ha of forest land requested for the project is area notified Reserved Forests.

As per site inspection report, name of the forest land is "Pennaiyar Reserved Forest" and extent of area proposed for diversion is 0.25 ha

ii) The District Forest Officer has reported that, density of the forest area is 0.4 and Eco class of forest area is three

iii) The District Forest Officer has reported that there is no tree enumerated in the proposed forest diversion area.

iv) On the Brief note on vulnerability of the forest area to erosion, the District Forest Officer has reported that there is no erosion in this forest area.

v) There is no wildlife present in and around the forest land proposed for diversion. 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 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 diversion of 0.25 ha of forest land, the District Forest Officer has not proposed any compensatory afforestation scheme work.



ix) In the site inspection report, the District Forest Officer has stated that, the area proposed for diversion of 0.25 ha of forest land in Pennaiyar Reserved Forests of Tiruvannamalai Forest Division for widening from Intermediate lane to Two lane and strengthening of Sathanur dam road at km 3/4-5/0 permitting to Thandarampattu block of Sathanur Range in Tiruvannamalai Forest Division by the Divisional Engineer (H) (C&M) Tiruvannamalai was inspected on 08.09.2021 and observed as follows.

a) The user agency has not yet started any work in the RF area so far, therefore the question of violation of provisions of Forest Conservation Act 1980 does not arise and there is no encroachment in the proposed area.

b) The forest land required for the project is not part of National Park/ Wildlife Sanctuary/ Biosphere.

c) No rare/ endangered/ unique species of flora and fauna in the above said Reserved Forests

d) The area proposed for widening from Intermediate lane to two lane and strengthening of Sathanur dam road at km 3/4-5/0 permitting to Thandarampattu Block of Sathanur Range in Tiruvannamalai Forest Division of Tiruvannamalai falls under Pennaiyar RF of Sathanur Range with forest type of Southern Dry deciduous scrub forest.

x) In the specific recommendation of the proposal, the District Forest Officer has reported that the forest land is of Southern Dry Deciduous Scrub Forest type, there is no tree felling involved in this project. This road is generally used by public, officials and staff of Forest Department and Public Works department and public who visits the park maintained by the Public Works Department as well as Crocodile Farm of Sathanur maintained by the Forest Department. Therefore this project of widening from Intermediate lane to two lane and strengthening of Sathanur dam road at km 3/4-5/0 by the Divisional Engineer (H) (C&M), Tiruvannamalai through Pennaiyar Reserved Forest may be recommended on public interest.

3) The Conservator of Forests, Vellore Circle has inspected the area on 25.09.2021 and has remarked that the proposal is recommended in public interest.

*Details on Right of way available for the existing road or permission already obtained for formation of road by the user agency and its specification (like Black top portion, side berm, drain etc) have been called for in the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests letters dated 21.10.2021 and 03.12.2021 and details reported by the user agency is as follows.*



In the specification report uploaded by the user agency, it has been reported that, as per G.O. Ms No. 2357 Food and Agriculture Department dated 30.06.1965, an area of 1066 acres of forestland has been diverted to Public Works Department for the construction of Sathanur Dam. In 1066 acres, an area of 6.60 acres is utilized for the formation of approach road from Sathanur to Dam. The road has been formed on 1965 during the construction of Sathanur Dam for a length of 5.00 km and width of 5.50m meters.

As per G.O. Ms No. 151, Highways Department, dated 02.06.2008 the road (5km) has been handed over to the Highways Department and the road is now maintained by Highways Department from 02.06.2008.

The road is generally used by the public, officials and staff of Forest Department and Public Works Department and public who visits the Sathanur Dam. Hence it is essential to widening of this road from Intermediate lane to two lane and strengthening of Sathanur Dam.

The user agency has uploaded the document on Specification for the project and G.O. Ms No. 151, Highways Department dated 02.06.2008, in which the Government ordered for the transfer of 5.00 km length Sathanur dam road owned by the Public Works Department to the Highways Department.

Further, in the updated Part-I of Form-A, fresh document of G.O. Ms No. 2357, Food and Agriculture Department, dated 30.06.1965 of Government orders on transfer of land required for the Sathanur Reservoir project to the Public Works Department and copy of letter of District Forest Officer, Tiruvannamalai Division addressed to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Chennai on de-reservation proposal have been uploaded and hard copies also furnished.

In G.O. Ms No. 2357, Food and Agriculture Department, dated 30.06.1965, Government ordered that for the area under the works, camp and main canal viz., 1066 acres area should be placed at the complete control of Public Works Department and the PWD should pay for the cost of this 1066 acres to the Forest Department. In the Govt orders the Chief Conservator of Forests had been requested to take action accordingly and submit proposals in consultation with the Board (Land Revenue) for determining the value of the 1066 acres of land.

4) The User Agency has requested forest area diversion for a period of 99 years. The District Forest Officer, Tiruvannamalai Division and Conservator of Forests Vellore Circle have recommended the forest area diversion for a period of 25 years.



Based on the recommendation made by the Conservator of Forests, Vellore Circle and District Forest Officer, Tiruvannamalai Division, proposed diversion of forest area for the project has been recommended for a period of 25 years.

5) As recommended by the District Forest Officer, Tiruvannamalai Division and Conservator of Forests, Vellore Circle, the proposal for diversion of 0.25 ha of forest land in Pennaiyar RF for the widening from Intermediate lane to two lanes (Existing 5.50m width and widening on left side to a width of 1.50m) and construction of three culverts of 12m(l)x2.0m (w) for strengthening of Sathanur Dam Road at km 3/4 to 5/0 in Tiruvannamalai District in favour of Divisional Engineer (H) (C&M), Tiruvannamalai may be recommended 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 amount of Net Present Value which will be fixed as per the guidelines of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.
- d) 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.
- e) Amount of Net Present Value of forest area under the project shall be transferred / deposited to CAMPA fund only through e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>)
- f) The User Agency has to pay the cost towards annual 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.
- g) The total forest area utilized for the project shall not exceeds 0.25 ha comprising the forest area to a length of 1600m and 1.50m width in addition to the existing road portion of 5.50m width.
- h) Speed regulating signage and information board on diversion of forest area shall be erected along the road at regular intervals at the cost of user agency.
- i) The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under any circumstances be transferred to any other agencies/ department or person without prior approval of State Government.



j) The User Agency shall be responsible for any loss to Flora and Fauna in the surroundings and shall take all possible measures to conserve the same.

k) The forest land shall not be used for any other purpose other than that specified in the project proposal.

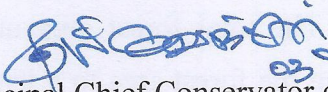
l) Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violations of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and action would be taken as per rules in force.


m) Any other conditions that the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change may stipulate from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection and development of Forests and wildlife.

n) Period of lease can be twenty five (25) years. The User Agency has to apply renewal proposal before one year of expiry of lease with the State Forest Department.

6) The proposal is sent herewith 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. I request that the proposal may be considered and approval may be issued for diversion of 0.25 ha of forest land in Pennaiyar RF for the widening from Intermediate lane to two lanes (Existing 5.50m width and widening on left side to a width of 1.50m) and construction of three culverts of 12m(l)x2.0m(w) for strengthening of Sathanur Dam Road at km 3/4 to 5/0 in Tiruvannamalai District in favour of Divisional Engineer, Highways (Construction and Maintenance), Tiruvannamalai for a period of 25 years.  
Encl: As stated above.

Yours faithfully

  
For Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
(Head of Department)

  
3/0/22



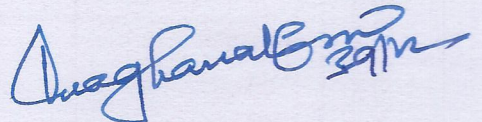
**PART - IV**

(To be filled in by the Nodal Officer or Principal Chief Conservator of Forests or Head of Forest Department)

Name of the work : Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 – Vellore Forest Circle / Tiruvannamalai Forest Division - Proposal for diversion of 0.25 ha of forest land in Pennaiyar RF for the widening from Intermediate lane to two lanes (Existing 5.50m width and widening on left side to a width of 1.50m) and construction of three culverts of 12m(l)x2.0m (w) for strengthening of Sathanur Dam Road at km 3/4 to 5/0 in Tiruvannamalai District in favour of Divisional Engineer, Highways (Construction and Maintenance), Tiruvannamalai - Proposal No. FP/TN/Road/143273/2021

	Detailed opinion and specific recommendation of the State Forest Department for acceptance or otherwise of the proposal with remarks
	(While giving opinion, the adverse comments made by concerned Conservator of Forests or Deputy Conservator of Forests should be categorically reviewed and critically commented upon)

*Recommended*

Signature : 

Name Designation :

Dr. V. Naganathan, I.F.S.,  
Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
(Forest Conservation Act),  
O/o the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
(Head of Department), Chennai-15

Date : 29.12.2021.