

By online / Email.

TAMILNADU FOREST DEPARTMENT

From

To

Thiru Syed Muzammil Abbas, I.F.S.,
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,
(Head of Forest Force)
Panagal Maaligai, Saidapet,
Chennai - 15.

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

C. No. TS3/3481/2020 Dated: 27.09.2022.

Madam,

Sub: Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 – Coimbatore Circle/
Coimbatore Forest Division - Proposal for diversion of 0.21 ha
forest area in Kuruchi Forest Block I and II of Coimbatore Forest
Division for providing water supply for 8 added areas in
Coimbatore Corporation extended areas in the Coimbatore
District in favour of Executive Engineer, TWAD Board, Major
Projects Division, Coimbatore – Proposal forwarding –
Regarding.

- Ref: 1 Online forest clearance proposal uploaded by the Executive
Engineer, Major Projects Division, TWAD Board,
Coimbatore -- Proposal No. FP/TN/Water/43869/2020,
dated 10.01.2020 and resubmission of proposal on
11.02.2020.
- 2 Part-II of Form-A uploaded by the District Forest Officer,
Coimbatore Division on 06.10.2020 and resubmission of
proposal dated 07.02.2022 and 10.05.2022
- 3 Part-III of Form-A uploaded by the Additional Principal
Chief Conservator of Forests, Coimbatore Circle on
09.10.2020 and resubmission of proposal dated 08.02.2022,
12.05.2022 and 28.07.2022

I wish to state that the Executive Engineer, Major Projects Division,
TWAD Board, Coimbatore has uploaded online forest clearance proposal under
Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 0.21 ha forest area in
Kuruchi Forest Block I and II of Coimbatore Forest Division for providing water

supply for 8 added areas in Coimbatore Corporation extended areas in the Coimbatore District under proposal No. FP/TN/Water/43869/2020.

1) The User Agency has uploaded the proposal in the prescribed format of Form A - Part I - under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of fresh forest area.

i) In the short narrative of the proposal for which forest land is required, the User Agency has stated that forest land is required for providing water supply to Coimbatore Corporation extended areas of Kuruchi, Kuniyamuthur.

ii) Diversion of 0.21 ha of forest has been requested in Coimbatore Forest Division area in Coimbatore District. Name of the village reported as Madhukarai. Forest area diversion of 0.21 ha has been requested in Kuruchi Forest Block I and II

iii) Location map of the forest land proposed to be diverted in kml file of google earth, Scanned copy of Survey of India topo sheet indicating the boundary of forest land proposed to be diverted, Scanned copy of Geo referenced location details and DGPS co-ordinates of the proposed alignment path have been furnished.

iv) The user agency has proposed to lay a new pipeline of 1000 mm diameter MS, 450mm DI and 80mm GI have to be laid from Pillayarpuram MBR to kuruchi area through Kuruchi Forest Block I and II in Coimbatore Forest Division.

v) The User Agency has stated that this project does not involve displacement of people due to the project and not requires clearance under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the project or part thereof is not located in any protected area or their Eco sensitive zone.

vi) The User Agency has furnished the certificate issued by the District Collector, Coimbatore District about completion of process for settlement of rights under Forest Rights Act, 2006 on the forest land proposed for diversion vide Ref. No. Nil dated 08.01.2020.

vii) The user agency has furnished following certificates/ undertakings/ details under additional Information details section.

a) Scanned copy of Geo-referenced map prepared in the Google Earth for the forest land proposed for diversion.

b) District Collector, Coimbatore certificate on no alternate suitable non forest land is available for the project issued in Ref. No. 19552/2019/B3, dated 22.11.2019

c) GPS reading of the proposed pipeline Trench alignment.

d) Area requirement statement for the project requested by the user agency is as follows.

Length of the pipeline reported as 700m and width of the pipeline path is 3.00m area required is 2100 sq.m OR 0.21 ha

e) Certificates/ undertakings furnished by the user agency.

i) Certified that no violation has been occurred under the provision of Forest Conservation Act, 1980 occurred.

ii) Undertaking to bear the Net Present Value which will be fixed as per the guidelines of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India as fixed by the Forest Department.

iii) Undertaking to bear the additional cost towards Net Present Value which will be fixed in future as per the guidelines of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India as fixed by the Forest Department

iv) Undertaking to deposit the cost of raising compensatory afforestation / penal compensatory afforestation and maintenance of plantation for a period of 7-10 years / protection of plantation / fencing 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.

v) Undertaking to bear the cost along with any escalation for exploitation of trees in the forest land to be diverted for the project.

vi) Certified that no alternative suitable non forest land is available for the project.

vii) Certified that the demand for the forest land for the project is minimum.

viii) Undertaking to pay 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 to the above project.

ix) GPS reading of the proposed water supply pipe line.

The TWAD Board has proposed the project of water supply pipeline in 1000mm MS, 450mm DI and 80mm GI from Pillayarpuram MBR to Kuruchi added area through Kuruchi Forest Block I and II. In the area requirement statement, the user agency has specified the forest area required as Length of the pipeline is 700m and width of the pipeline path is 3.00m and area required is 2100 sq.m OR 0.21 ha.

The user agency has reported that standard width required as per norms of the size of pipe line as follows.

- | | | |
|--------------------|---|-------|
| i) 1000mm MS pipe | - | 1.70m |
| ii) 450mm DI pipe | - | 1.00m |
| iii) 80 mm GI pipe | - | 0.75m |

Total width required is 3.45m and the TWAD board has restricted the forest area required for the project to 3.00m width only and area required for the project reported as 0.21 ha (700m length and 3.00m width)

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

i) The legal status of the proposed site of diversion of 0.21 ha of forest land requested for the project is area notified under Section 4 of the Tamil Nadu Forest Act, 1882.

As per site inspection report, name of the forest land is "Kuruchi Forest Block-I, II and III Reserved lands (ACC Compensatory land)" extent of area proposed for diversion is 0.21 ha

However, in the EDS query reply, the District Forest Officer has reported the proposed forest diversion areas lies in Kuruchi Forest Block I & II.

ii) The District Forest Officer has reported that, density of the forest area is 0.1 and Eco class of forest area is three.

iii) In the Part-II of Form-A, the District Forest Officer has reported that species wise and girth class wise enumeration of trees in the area is NIL. Hence there is no felling of planted or spontaneous trees involved.

iv) On vulnerability of the forest land proposed for diversion, the District Forest Officer reported that there is no possibility of land slide.

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 and also not located within 1 km boundary of NP/WLs etc., for the forest land proposed for diversion.

The District Forest Officer has reported that Wild animals such as Wild boar, Rabbit, Quail, Peacock are present in and around the forest area proposed for diversion. There is no rare/ endangered/ unique species of flora and fauna found in the area.

vi) There is no protected archacological/ 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) Forest area proposed for diversion is 0.21 ha and there is no felling of trees involved. This forest area diversion has intended for Government welfare measure of providing drinking water supply to Kuruchi and Kuniyamuthur areas in Coimbatore District. The District Forest Officer has not proposed any compensatory afforestation scheme for the proposed forest diversion area of 0.21 ha in the compensatory land received for another forest area diversion.

ix) In the site inspection report, the District Forest Officer has stated that, site inspected carried out on 29.09.2020.

The project is laying of water pipeline along the northern and western boundaries of Kuruchi Forest Block- I, II and III Reserved lands (ACC Compensation land). The project involves the laying of pipeline for water facility to Kuruchi and Kuniyamuthur areas. The total length and width proposed by the user agency in the proposal is 700m length and 3.00m width respectively, therefore the actual area needed for diversion is 0.21 ha. The laying of pipe line is along the northern and western boundaries of the Kuruchi Forest Block-I, II and III Reserved lands. The density of vegetation is 0.10. The project in Kuruchi Forest Block I,II and III Reserved Lands has minimum effects on environment.

x) In the specific recommendation, the District Forest Officer has stated that there is no need to fell any trees for this project and it will not affect the flora and fauna of the area, hence there is no negative impact on Forest and Wildlife. This project in Kuruchi Forest Block – I, II and III Reserved lands has minimum effects on environment, Hence he recommended that an area of 0.21 ha of forest area in Kuruchi Forest Block- I, II and III Reserved land in Madukarai Range of Coimbatore Forest Division may be diverted for laying water pipe line along the northern and western boundaries of the Kuruchi Forest Block-I, II and III Reserved land.

In the EDS reply, the District Forest Officer has reported the block wise forest area proposed for diversion in the project proposal.

- i) Kuruchi Forest block-I – 600m (l) and 3.00m (w) – 1800 sq. m or 0.18 ha
- ii) Kuruchi Forest block-II – 100m (l) and 3.00m (w) – 300 sq.m or 0.030 ha
- Total -700m (l) and 3.00m (w) – 0.21 ha

3) The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Coimbatore Circle in his recommendation has stated that the proposed improvement of water supply distribution system to 8 areas of Coimbatore Corporation ie., Kuruchi, Kuniyamuthur, Thudiyalur, Vellaikinaru, Vilankuruchi, Chinnavedampatti, Saravanampatti and Kalapatti would benefit about 48462 families and for non-domestic purpose for 2146 numbers. There is no other suitable alternative non-forest land is available for this project. 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 the proposal is recommended.

4) The User Agency has requested forest area diversion for a period of 99 years. The District Forest Officer, Coimbatore Division and the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Coimbatore Circle have recommended the forest area diversion for a period of 20 years.

Based on the recommendations made by the District Forest Officer and Conservator of Forests, forest area diversion is recommended for a period of 20 years.

5) As per guidelines issued by the Government of India in letter F. No. 5-3/2007-FC, dated 05.02.2009, collection of Net Present Value of forest land to be diverted for laying of underground drinking water supply pipeline up to 4 inches diameter (101.6mm) of forest area diversion below one hectare is exempted

However, this project of water supply pipeline is proposed in 1000mm MS, 450mm DI and 80mm GI from Pillayarapuram MBR to Kuruchi added area through Kuruchi Forest Block I and II of Coimbatore Forest Division. Hence applicability of exemption of Net Present Value for the project does not arise. Hence collection of Net Present Value of forest area is recommended.

6) State Government has been empowered to accord permission for diversion of forest area up to one ha for the development of critical public utility and welfare projects undertaken by the Government. Drinking water facility is one of the item allowed under this. In this proposal, diversion of forest area is proposed for 0.21 ha only.

7) As recommended by the District Forest Officer, Coimbatore Division and Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Coimbatore Circle, the proposal of diversion of 0.21 ha forest area in Kuruchi Forest Block I and II of Coimbatore Forest Division for providing water supply for 8 added areas in Coimbatore Corporation extended areas in the Coimbatore District in favour of Executive Engineer, TWAD Board, Major Projects Division, Coimbatore is recommended subject to the following conditions.

- i) The legal status of the diverted forest land remains unchanged.
- ii) 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.
- iii) The User Agency has to pay the Net Present Value of proposed forest diversion area which will be fixed as per the guidelines of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India /Government of India.
- iv) 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. The user agency has to furnish undertaking to this effect.
- v) The user agency shall compulsorily transfer the Net present Value of forest land proposed for diversion under the project to CAMPA funds only through e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>)
- vi) 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.

vii) The total forest area utilized for the project shall not exceeds 0.21 ha comprising water supply pipeline to a length of 700m and width is 3.00 and after completion of underground laying of pipeline, area should be restored to its normalcy.

viii) The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under any circumstances be transferred to any other agencies/department or person without prior approval.

ix) If any maintenance work is under taken, the user agency shall seek written permission for the District Forest Officer.

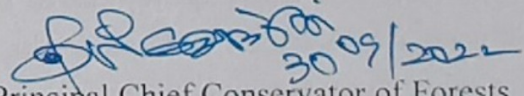
x) Period of lease can be twenty (20) years. The User Agency has to apply renewal proposal before one year of expiry of lease with the State Forest Department.

8) The proposal is sent herewith duly recommended by the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Forest Conservation Act) / Nodal Officer, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 of the State of Tamil Nadu.

9) I request that the proposal may be considered and Stage-I in-principle approval may be issued for diversion of 0.21 ha of forest area in Kuruchi Forest Block I and II of Coimbatore Forest Division for providing water supply for 8 added areas in Coimbatore Corporation extended areas in the Coimbatore District in favour of Executive Engineer, TWAD Board, Major Projects Division, Coimbatore for a Period of 20 years.

Encl : As stated above.

Yours faithfully



For Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Head of Forest Force)

30/09/2022

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 – Coimbatore Circle/ Coimbatore Forest Division - Proposal for diversion of 0.21 ha forest area in Kuruchi Forest Block I and II of Coimbatore Forest Division for providing water supply for 8 added areas in Coimbatore Corporation extended areas in the Coimbatore District in favour of Executive Engineer, TWAD Board, Major Projects Division, Coimbatore - Proposal No. FP/TN/Water/43869/2020.

17	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
K. Priya
17/8/22

Signature :

Name Designation :

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

Date : 17 .08.2022

Place: Chennai-15