

**SITE INSPECTION REPORT FOR WIDENING OF NATIONAL
HIGHWAY 744 PUNALUR TO KOTTAVASAL**

As per the proposal number FP/KL/ROAD/22921/2016 *for the capacity augmentation to two lane with paved shoulder of NH 744 (old NH 208) from Punalur to Kottavasal (from km 45/000 to 81/000)*, the site for new proposed widening area is inspected by me on 05.10.2017, 11.10.2017, 16.10.2017 & 17.10.2017.

The proposed widening area in Thenmala range of Aryankavu reserve lies in five bits. Bit (I) from Chain link 67 + 560 to 67 + 650, Bit (II) from 67 + 670 to 67 + 900, Bit (III) from 67 + 980 to 68 + 170, Bit (IV) from 68 + 200 to 68 + 330 and Bit (V) from 68 + 360 to 68 + 630. All the bits mentioned are in Thenmala Section of Thenmala Range. A total extent of 0.4225 ha of forest land is needed for widening in this area. A total of 33 trees have to be removed for the road construction work in this site, which are marked and enumerated. Bit wise details is as follows Bit I 8 nos, Bit II -10 nos, Bit III – 6 nos, Bit IV – 8 nos and Bit V – 1 no.

The proposed widening area in Aryankavu range lies in three bits. Bit 1&2 from CH 75+400 to CH 75+560 in Murugapanchal area. A total extent of 0.0532 ha of forest land is needed for widening in this area. A total of eleven trees have to be removed for the construction work in this site. Bit 3 from CH 69+900 to CH 70+100 in Kazhuthuruti area. A total extent of 0.0960 ha of forest land is needed for widening in this area. A total of 16 trees have to be removed for the construction work in this site which are marked enumerated. Bit wise details as follows. Bit I – 6 nos, Bit II – 6 nos & Bit III – 4 nos

Therefore, in total ***0.5717 ha of forest land*** is proposed to be diverted for NH 744 widening and the proposed area is inspected, surveyed and verified by me in all the bits.

It is observed that this NH is situated in the connecting Western Ghat patch of Periyar landscape and Agasthiyavanam landscape which is unique and significant with respect to elephant corridor management and floral and faunal bio diversity.

The old road is narrow in these areas of NH 744 Kollam – Thirumangalam interstate national highway and is with large vehicular traffic from the both states of Kerala and Tamilnadu. So the widening of existing road is essential for smooth traffic, since it exists with the constraints of Railway line on one side and Kazhuthurutty rivers on the side. Putting forth the above facts, it may be recommended as proposed for widening NH 744 Punalur to Kottavasal.

Divisional Forest Officer,
Thenmala.

31.10.2017
Thenmala.