

TAMILNADU FOREST DEPARTMENT

From
Thiru.Sewa Singh, I.F.S.,
Addl.Principal Chief
Conservator of Forests,
Vellore Circle, Vellore - 9.

To
The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,
(Head of Department), Panagal Maaligai
Saidapet, Chennai-600 015:

Ref.No. 2548/2008/D1 , dated: 6-08-2019

Sir,

Sub: Forest (Conservation) Act 1980-Vellore Forest Circle/Tirupattur Forest Division – Proposal for renewal of lease for diversion of 40 ha of Forest land for Vainu Bappu observatory in Kavalur Indian Institute of Astrophysics in Jawadhi Hills in Tirupattur Forest Division in Vellore Circle – online proposal- hardcopy- submission - reg

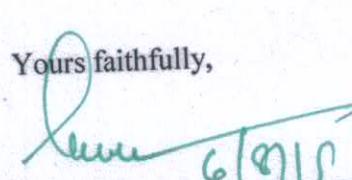
Ref: 1)Online application uploaded by the User Agency dt. 22.01.19 Re-submission of 27.03.19 & 25.04.2019 proposals uploaded by the User Agency on 19.06.19,Proposal No:FP/TN/others/37766/2018.
2)Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (HoD) Chennai
Ref No:38628/2019 Dated:02.07.2019
3) District Forest Officer,Tirupattur
Ref No:9057/1998 Dated:20.07.2019

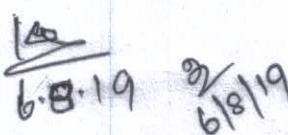
With reference to the above, ^{9 am} am submitting and enclosing herewith the hard copy of Part-II of Form-A and other relevant documents submitted by the District Forest Officer,Tirupattur and Part-III of Form-A and site inspection report of Additional Principal Chief Conservator Forests Vellore for Reneval of lease in Vinu Babu Absorvatory In kavalur Indian Institute of Astrophysics in Jawadhi hill of Tirupattur Division under Forest (Coservation)Act 1998.

This is for kind submission.

Encl: As stated above

Yours faithfully,


Addl.Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
Vellore Circle, Vellore -9.


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PART-III

(TO BE FILLED BY THE ADDITIONAL PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS)

1	whether site, where the Reserved forest land at present involved is located has been inspected by concerned Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Yes/ No).If yes, the date of inspection and observation made on form of inspection note to be enclosed	:	Yes, Inspected the proposed site in Inner Jawadhi Reserved Forests on 05.08.2019.The detailed inspection note is enclosed
2	Whether the concerned Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests agree with the information given in Part-II and the recommendation of the District Forest Officer	:	Yes
3	Specific recommendation of Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests for acceptance or otherwise of the proposal with detailed reasons	:	A proposal has been submitted by the Vainu Bappu Observatory, Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Kavalur online proposal in the prescribed Form B requesting renewal of the existing lease in respect of 40 ha of forest land in Inner Jawadhi Reserved Forest of Alangayam Range in Tirupattur Forest Division. The District Forest Officer has submitted the part-II of Form A and the inspection report. I inspected the proposed site on 05.08.2019 accompanied by the District Forest Officer Tirupattur and the other field staff and the representatives from the user agency. The proposed site is located in Inner Jawadhi hills at an altitude of 700 mts in Inner Jawadhi Reserved Forest area of Alangayam Range with coordinates i.e N 12.57472, E 78.82056. Forest Type is

Secondary dry deciduous forests. Density of vegetation is noted as fairly dense forest. The density of the vegetation is more than 0.4 and less than 0.6. The existing infrastructure of the User Agency is furnished as below.

1. Total buildup area

of building = 0.702 ha

2. Total landscape area = 1.243 ha

3. Roads = 1.073 ha

4. Area retained as forest = 36.992 ha

Total = **40.000 ha**

The user agency given following justification for the diversion proposal.

- a) The site was chosen based on a site survey conducted throughout the southern part of the country for the installation of optical telescopes.
- b) The location of the observatory greatly help national and international astronomers to effectively access celestial bodies across the sky.
- c) The astronomical observatories are usually set up in forest lands since light and other pollution in cities render them unusable for research activities.
- d) Nature of the work is purely of academic interest, there is no hazard to flora and fauna of the place.
- e) A number of scientific discoveries have been made from the observatory and around 400 research papers have been published in national and international journals and generated more than 30 PhD's.

		<p>f) The observatory has created employment for local population and exposed them to scientific research through public outreach programs.</p> <p>The user agency also stated that they occupy a small part of the land (7.5%) which was deforested and the rest of the area was maintained as forest in order to provide conductive environment for astronomical research and to avoid any kind of disturbance to the observatory. The above justification can be accepted.</p> <p>The user agency approached Supreme Court for exemption of Net present value. Based on the Supreme Court direction the facts were placed before the Forest Advisory Committee meeting held on 22.03.2018 in Agenda No.4. After careful examination of the proposal, by the Forest Advisory Committee, the committee recommended as under.</p> <p>1. The NPV may not be chargeable on total forest land which is under the possession of the Institute, because Institute is using upto 10 acres of forest land only for Non-Forestry purpose and rest of the forest land is maintained as forest. Hence the NPV may be chargeable on 10 acres of Forest land. NPV already deposited to be adjusted accordingly.</p>
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2. Extension plantation of indigenous species will be done by the user agency in the remaining forest land under control of institute and no further diversion of the remaining forest land for non-forestry purpose will be done by the user agency.

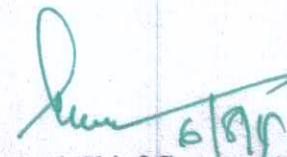
3. The lease period of the 40 acres previously leased out forest land was extended for a period of ten years from 05.09.1975 and in respect of 60 acres forest land was leased out from 18.10.1976 for a period of ten years. Since the lease of forest land has already been expired, the institute require fresh renewal of lease;

4. The State Government will inform that terms and conditions of the lease granted to the Institute specifying the period of lease.

Therefore, a fresh proposal was submitted by the institute under Forest (Conservation) Act 1980, for diversion of 40 ha (100 acres) of forest land under the possession of the Institute for a period of 50 years.

During inspection, it was ascertained that the conditions imposed on the User Agency by Ministry of Environment and Forests were complied during the previous lease period and violations under Forest (Conservation) Act were not observed.

			Hence, it is recommended that the existing lease may be renewed with the usual conditions.
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Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
Vellore Circle, Vellore -9.

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**SITE INSPECTION REPORT OF THE ADDITIONAL PRINCIPAL CHIEF
CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS, VELLORE CIRCLE FOR THE DIVERSION OF 40
HECTERS OF FOREST LAND IN INNER JAWADHI RF IN TIRUPATTUR FOREST
DIVISION**

A proposal has been submitted by the Vainu Bappu Observatory, Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Kavalur online proposal in the prescribed Form B requesting renewal of the existing lease in respect of 40 ha of forest land in Inner Jawadhi Reserved Forest of Alangayam Range in Tirupattur Forest Division. The District Forest Officer has submitted the part-II of Form-A and the inspection report. I inspected the proposed site on 05.08.2019 accompanied by the District Forest Officer Tirupattur and the other field staff and the representatives from the user agency. The proposed site is located in Inner Jawadhi hills at an altitude of 700 mts in Inner Jawadhi Reserved Forest area of Alangayam Range with coordinates i.e N 12.57472, E 78.82056. Forest Type is Secondary dry deciduous forests. Density of vegetation is noted as fairly dense forest. The density of the vegetation is more than 0.4 and less than 0.6. The existing infrastructure of the User Agency is furnished as below.

1. Total buildup area of building	= 0.702 ha
2. Total landscape area	= 1.243 ha
3. Roads	= 1.073 ha
4. Area retained as forest	= 36.992 ha
Total	= 40.000 ha

The user agency given following justification for the diversion proposal.

- a) The site was chosen based on a site survey conducted throughout the southern part of the country for the installation of optical telescopes.
- b) The location of the observatory greatly help national and international astronomers to effectively access celestial bodies across the sky.
- c) The astronomical observatories are usually set up in forest lands since light and other pollution in cities render them unusable for research activities.
- d) Nature of the work is purely of academic interest, there is no hazard to flora and fauna of the place.

- e) A number of scientific discoveries have been made from the observatory and around 400 research papers have been published in national and international journals and generated more than 30 PhD's.
- f) The observatory has created employment for local population and exposed them to scientific research through public outreach programs.

The user agency also stated that they occupy a small part of the land (7.5%) which was deforested and the rest of the area was maintained as forest in order to provide conductive environment for astronomical research and to avoid any kind of disturbance to the observatory. The above justification can be accepted.

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2. Extension plantation of indigenous species will be done by the user agency in the remaining forest land under control of institute and no further diversion of the remaining forest land for non-forestry purpose will be done by the user agency.
3. The lease period of the 40 acres previously leased out forest land was extended for a period of ten years from 05.09.1975 and in respect of 60 acres forest land was leased out from 18.10.1976 for a period of ten years. Since

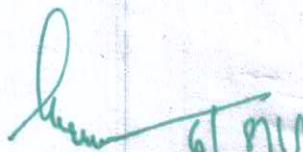
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