

I/628064/2022

**GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
FOREST DEPARTMENT**

<p>From Sri Y. Madhusudhana Reddy, IFS., Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests Head of Forest Force(FAC), Andhra Pradesh, Guntur - 522 004.</p>	<p>To The Spl. Chief Secretary to Government, Environment, Forests, Science & Technology Department, Andhra Pradesh, Velagapudi,</p>
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Ref.no.EFS02-15034/25/2018-FCASEC-PCCF/FCA-3,
dated:02/09/2022.

Sir,

Sub:-APFD - F(C) Act, 1980 - Diversion of 5.94 ha of forest land in Nellore division for up-gradation of NH -167 B from Km.58/500 to Km.62/963 i.e. from Porumamilla to Chandrasekhara Puram to two lanes with paved shoulders under NHDP -IV in the State of Andhra Pradesh.- Submission of proposal under F(C) Act, 1980 - Clearance under Section-2 of F(C)Act, 1980- Requested - Reg.

Ref:- 1. Online proposal no. FP/AP/ ROAD/33876/2018.
2. PCCF & HoFF, A.P, Guntur Rc. no.EFS02/15034/25/2018- FCA SEC PCCF/FCA-3, dated: 15.06.2018.
3. CCF, Guntur Rc. no. 1979/2018-TO, dated: 03.12.2021, 07.06.2022 & 15.07.2022.

It is submitted that, in the reference 1st cited, the Executive Engineer, (R&B) NH Division, Kadapa has uploaded proposal in the ministry's web portal for diversion of 5.94 ha of forest land in Nellore division for up-gradation of NH -167 B from Km.58/500 to Km.62/963 i.e. from Porumamilla to Chandrasekhara Puram to two lanes with paved shoulders under NHDP -IV in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

Accordingly, the Conservator of Forests, Guntur Circle, Guntur in the reference 3rd cited has processed the proposal under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and submitted the statutory proposal in the prescribed proformae for diversion of 5.94 ha of forest land in Nellore division for up-gradation of NH -167 B from Km.58/500 to Km.62/963 i.e. from Porumamilla to Chandrasekhara Puram to two lanes with paved shoulders under NHDP -IV in the State of Andhra Pradesh with requisite certificates / undertakings.

The User Agency has furnished the following information in Part-I.

- Forest area to an extent of 5.94 ha is required up-gradation of NH -167 B from Km 58/500 to Km 62/963 i.e.from Porumamilla to Chandrasekhara Puram to two lanes with paved shoulders under NHDP -IV in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

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- Cost of the project is mentioned as 498.23 Crore
- The user agency has justified that, the existing road from Km 58/500 to 62/963 of NH-167 B is passing through Seetharampuram RF of Udayagiri Range of Nellore Division in SPSR Nellore District of Andhra Pradesh. There is no other alternative except widening of existing road. Therefore proposal for diversion of 5.94 ha of forest land is required. This road after completion would further improve connectivity in terms of achieving smooth and safe traffic flow and improve level of service. In addition to above, substantial economic gain in terms of reduced Vehicle Operation Cost (VoC) and reduced travel time will be achieved.
- Further, the Executive Engineer (R&B) NH Division, Kadapa has stated that NH-167 B from Km 58/500 to 62/963 is passing through Seetharampuram RF (before conversion to NH, this road is a Major District road, no.4809 connecting from Porumamilla to Seetharampuram i.e. Km 15/2 to Km 25/2). Since 1968, it was a Bituminous Surface (Black top road) under jurisdiction of PWD (R&B) Nellore Division. **The Road Inspection Note Book of P.W.D. (Roads & Buildings) Department, Andhra Pradesh signed by the Executive Engineer, Nellore dated: 05.10.74 is attached. Further as per the Road Inspection Note Book, the land width (RoW - Right of Way) was mentioned as 30.0 m. The carriageway width of road is 7.0 m (i.e. 3.70 m B.T + 1.65 m gravel shoulders on both sides). Hence this 7.0 m width was not included in the forest diversion proposal. Only additional 13.0 m for diversion is proposed to have a total width 20 m for executing the NH work.**
- The user agency has furnished undertakings for payment of CA, NPV, Addl. NPV, tree extraction charges etc.
- The area proposed for diversion is 5.94 ha. Hence Cost benefit analysis does not arise.
- No human displacement is involved due to construction of this road.
- No loss of public facilities involved in this project.
- Employment likely to be generated is 3000 man days.
- The user agency has stated that, clearance under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 is not required.

The District Forest Officer, SPSR Nellore has submitted the following information in Part-II.

- Forest area to an extent of 5.94 ha is required in Seetharampuram RF of Udayagiri Range, SPSR District for up-gradation of NH-167B from Km 58/500 to 62/963 i. e from Porumamilla to Chandrasekharapuram.
- The proposed up-gradation of NH-167 B from Km 43/097 to 99/103 i.e. from Porumamilla to Chandrasekharapuram is linear in nature and falls in Seetharampuram RF of Udayagiri Range.
- The road i.e. from Sitaramapuram to Porumamilla is an admitted right of way in Sitaramapuram RF, which is notified under Section -15 of AP Forest Act, 1967 vide G.O. Ms. no. 117, EFS & T (For-II) Dept., dated: 25.05.1993. Further, he reported that, on verification of Section-4 notification of Seetharampuram RF which was notified vide G.O. Ms. no. 1852 Food and Agriculture (Forest-III) dt. 06.09.1967 the following right of way is admitted for the above said road;

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- **“Cart track from Sitaramapuram to Porumamilla enters the block in between station nos.60 to 61 at a distance of 10 links from station no.60 and exists the block in between station no.387 and 388. The length of the cart-track within the block is about 3 miles 10 chains”.**
- Further, the said road is a right of way in Sitaramapuram RF and exists prior to 1980.
- The width of the Right of Way is not mentioned in the Gazette notification.
- Legal Status of the forest is Reserve Forest
- The density of adjacent forest is 0.50.
- Enumeration list of the trees is, there are 9837 trees along the alignment of NH-167 B road and the value of the trees is ₹1,05,27,268/-
- The area is not vulnerable to Erosion.
- The alignment of proposed up-gradation of NH-167 B from Km 58/500 to 62/963 i.e. from Porumamilla to Chandrasekharapuram does not form a part of National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere reserve, Tiger reserve, Elephant corridor etc.
- Rare/ endangered/ unique species of flora and fauna like Red sanders and Leopard are found in the area proposed for diversion.
- No protected archaeological heritage sites / defense establishment or any other important monument is located in the area.
- The requirement of forest land proposed by the user agency is unavoidable and barest minimum for the project.
- No violation has been carried out by the User Agency.

The Location map in (S.I) Sheet in 1:50,000 scale, authenticated DGPS maps are furnished.

The District Forest Officer, SPSR Nellore has inspected the area proposed for diversion on 09.07.2021 and stated that, the road passes through Seetharamapuram RF hilly area and the density of adjacent forest is 0.50. **During regular perambulation of the RF area, the field staff have noticed Red sanders species and leopard in the RF area. In view of the dense forest, Wildlife Mitigation and Conservation Plan has been prepared and the same has been approved by the Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests (WL) & CWLW, Office of the PCCF & HoFF, A.P, Guntur with a financial outlay of 336.00 lakh. A copy of the Wildlife Mitigation and Conservation plan is enclosed herewith.**

Accordingly, in column no. 13 of Part -II, the District Forest Officer, SPSR Nellore has **“Recommended”** the proposal

Further as per para 2.5 (i) (f) of Chapter-2 of Comprehensive guidelines issued by the Government of India, MoEF & CC, New Delhi in F. No. 5-2/2017, FC, dated: 28.03.2019, degraded forest land for Compensatory Afforestation has been identified to an extent of 13.08 ha in compartment no. 475 of Guderipalem RF, Udayagiri Range which is double the extent of RF proposed for diversion (5.94 ha).

As per para 2.8 (ii) of Chapter -2 of Comprehensive guidelines issued by

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the Government of India, MoEF &CC, New Delhi in F.No. 5-2/2017, FC, dated: 28.03.2019, the District Forest Officer, SPSR Nellore has prepared CA scheme to an extent of 12.00 ha for raising Compensatory Afforestation with a financial outlay of ₹ 125. 00 lakh for a period of 12 years including Advance operations, Maintenance of Nurseries and Raising of Plantations commencement from 2022-23 to 2033-34

The District Forest Officer, SPSR Nellore has inspected the identified degraded forest land for Compensatory Afforestation purpose in Guderipalem RF on 09.07.2021 and stated that, This area is a compact block and is suitable in management and protection point of view. The identified CA area is suitable for raising of tree species. **CA land Site inspection report of the District Forest Officer, SPSR Nellore has been uploaded at Nodal Officer level.**

The Location map in (S.I) Sheet in 1:50,000 scale, authenticated DGPS maps of degraded forest area are furnished with the proposal.

In Part -III, the Chief Conservator of Forests, Guntur Circle, Guntur has agreed with the information furnished by the District Forest Officer, SPSR Nellore and **Recommended** the proposal for diversion of forest land.

In Part -IV, the Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests (FCA) & Nodal Officer, Andhra Pradesh has Recommended the proposal for diversion of forest land.

As per Government of India, MoEF &CC, New Delhi F.no.5-2/2017-FC, Dt. 28.03.2019, under RoFR Act, 2006, the user agency has uploaded the RoFR Certificate issued by the District Collector, SPSR Nellore in the prescribed format for evidences for having initiated and completed the process of settlement of rights under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (RoFR) Act, 2006.

Further, it is to submit that as per the guidelines issued by the GoI, MoEF, New Delhi this proposal has been uploaded in the Ministry's web portal (www.parivesh.nic.in) & a unique proposal number no. **FP/AP/ROAD/33876/2018** has been generated for this proposal. A copy of the Acknowledgment slip generated by the Ministry's web portal is enclosed herewith.

In view of the above, the statutory proposal along with necessary enclosures in (2) sets, for diversion of 5.94 ha forest land in Nellore division for up-gradation of NH -167 B from Km 58/500 to Km 62/963 i.e. from Porumamilla to Chandrasekhara Puram to two lanes with paved shoulders under NHDP -IV in the State of Andhra Pradesh duly recommended in Part-IV, subject to the conditions stipulated in GoI, MoEF&CC, New Delhi in F. no.5-2/2017 (FC Division) Dt. 28.03.2019 is submitted herewith.

Government are requested to take necessary action for onward submission of proposal to Government of India, MoEF &CC, IRO, Vijayawada to accord forest clearance under Section-2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and amendments therein.

Encl:- (2) sets of proposals

Yours faithfully,
Y Madhusudhana Reddy Ifs
Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests
Head of Forest Force(FAC)

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Copy to the Chief Conservator of Forests, Guntur Circle, Guntur for information

Copy to the District Forest Officer, SPSR Nellore for information and necessary action

Copy to the Executive Engineer (R&B) NH Division, Vijayawada for information and necessary action.

Copy to the Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests (WL) & CWLW, Office of the PCCF & HoFF, A.P, Guntur for information.

Copy to the Engineer-in-Chief, (R&B) Division, Vijayawada for information.

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PART-IV

Diversion of 5.94 ha forest land in Nellore division for up-gradation of NH -167 B from Km 58/500 to Km 62/963 i.e. from Porumamilla to Chandrasekhara Puram to two lanes with paved shoulders under NHDP -IV in the State of Andhra Pradesh....

17	Detailed opinion and specific recommendations 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.
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Date:02/09/2022

Signature

Place : Guntur

Name:Anand Kumar Jha

Office Seal:

Signed by Anand Kumar Jha

Date: 02-09-2022 16:56:14

Reason: Approved