

Site inspection report of District Forest Officer, Nandyal with respect to Degraded Forest Land identified over an extent of area 7.00 ha. in Panyam Range of Nandyal Division in lieu of diversion of area 2.99 ha. for tunnels for doubling of Guntur-Guntakal railway line by South Central Railway (SCR).

Background:

The user agency Indian Railways, South Central Railway (SCR) has applied for diversion of area 32.25 ha. of forest land for doubling and electrification of existing Guntur-Guntakal railway track between Diguvametta and Gajulapalli railway stations in Nandyal (23.04 ha.) and Giddalur (9.21 ha.) divisions.

There are two tunnels in between the Diguvametta-Gajulapalli railway stations and the area for both tunnels to be diverted is 2.99 ha. (included in 32.25 ha.). In lieu of this diversion an area of degraded forest land of 7.00 ha. (in addition to earlier area of (58.52 ha.) of Degraded Forest Land (DFL) for 29.26 ha. out of 32.25 ha. is identified in Compt. No.140 of Konidedu Beat of Panyam Section of Panyam Range of Nandyal Division (erstwhile Kurnool Range of Kurnool Division).

Site Inspection:

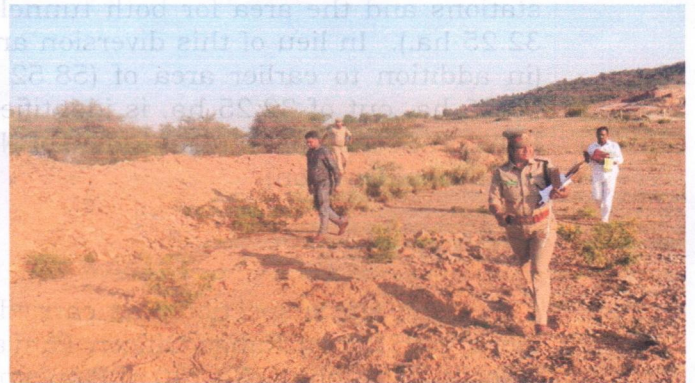
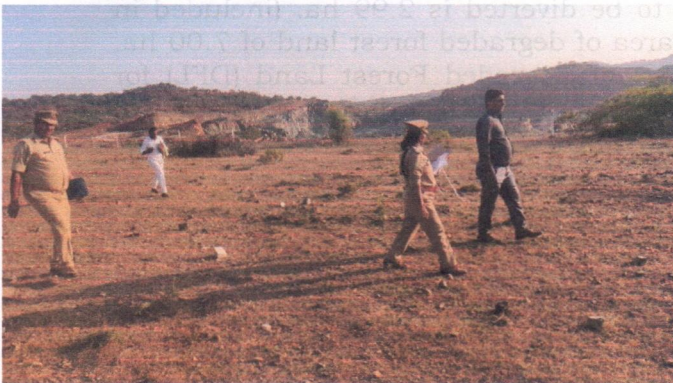
The site inspection was carried out on 12-01-2023 by the undersigned along with Forest Range Officer, Panyam and concerned section staff. The site is located in Compt. No.140 of Panyam reserve forest, Konidedu Beat of Panyam Section of Panyam Range. Following observations are made:-

- 1) The canopy density of the said area is around 0.2 an average. Hence as per Forest Conservation Act guidelines, this area is acceptable as canopy density is less than 40% (0.4).
- 2) Vegetation observed in the area includes *Zizyphus xylopyrus* (Gottika), *Albizia amara* (Chigara), *Acacia nilotica*, *Prosopis juliflora*, *Ziziphus mauritiana* (Regi), *Cassia fistula* (Rela), *Acacia latronum* (Bobbili), *Grewia rotundifolia* (Jana), *Hardwickia binata* (Narayepi).
- 3) A patch of the identified degraded area is completely open and Artificial Regeneration (AR) plantation can be taken up in this patch.
- 4) Apart from above open patch, rest of the area is covered with bushy growth and stunted trees. Sheet rock is observed in many patches of the area. Soil is of hard gravel nature and Aided Natural Regeneration (ANR) / Gap planting can be taken up in this area with 400 plants per hectare of tall seedlings above 2 mtr. height by providing provision of watering and imported soil.
- 5) The remaining balance seedlings will be planted in Panyam reserve forest adjacent to the degraded forest land identified for Compensatory Afforestation (CA) purpose.
- 6) Cultural operations, tending, singling, removal of unwanted bushes, jungle growth clearance, fire prevention measures, soil & moisture conservation works, protection measures such as chain link fencing, peripheral trench etc., can also be taken up for the improvement of forest and protection of land identified for Compensatory Afforestation (CA).
- 7) Scientific and research monitoring and biodiversity assessment can be taken up periodically to assess the flora, fauna and its improvement over the Compensatory Afforestation (CA) land and surrounding area.

Further a Compensatory Afforestation (CA) scheme of 65.62 ha. (including this 7.00 ha. and 58.52 ha.) prepared which is twice the extent proposed for diversion (32.25 ha.).

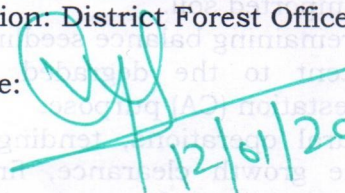
The area of 7.00 ha. is authenticated by Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, AP, Guntur vide Rc.No. EFS02-17/41/2021-IT dated 28-12-2022.

Further the Compensatory Afforestation (CA) land identified under this project does not overlap in the Compensatory Afforestation (CA) land identified for other projects. The Compensatory Afforestation area (CA) area should be raised under Artificial Regeneration (AR) / Aided Natural Regeneration (ANR) / Gap plantations maintained upto 10 years to ensure good results.



Name: **Vineet Kumar, IFS.,**
Designation: District Forest Officer, Nandyal

Signature:


12/01/2023