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(सड़क परिवहन और राजमार्ग मंत्रालय)
National Highways Authority of India
(Ministry of Road Transport & Highways)

उप महाप्रबंधक (तकनीकी) सह परियोजना निदेशक के कार्यालय
परियोजना कार्यान्वयन इकाई
Office of the Deputy General Manager (Tech) cum Project Director
Project Implementation Unit

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BHARATMALA
ROAD TO PROSPERITY

Ref: NHAI/PIU/MDU/NH744A/1/01/2021

3686

Date: 15.12.2021

To
The District Forest Officer
Madurai Forest Division
Madurai

Sir,

Sub: NHAI- PIU, Madurai - Four lane divided carriageway from Vadipatti (Design chainage 0+000) to Thamaraipatti (Design Chainage 29+960) stretch of Madurai Ring Road section of NH-744A on EPC mode under Bharatmala Pariyojana Phase-I in the state of Tamil Nadu - Diversion of forest land proposal (Madurai Ring Road - FP/TN/ROAD/32148/2018 - Submission of drawings - Reg

The project stretch of Vadipatti to Thamaraipatti section (Madurai Ring Road) from km 0+000 to km 29.960 of NH-744A has been awarded on EPC mode under Bharatmala Pariyojana Phase-I in the state of Tamil Nadu. The said project work has been entrusted to M/s. NCC Limited, Hyderabad. Contract Agreement was signed between NHAI and M/s. NCC Limited on 21.02.2019. The contract period is 2 years. The appointed date for the project was fixed on 16.03.2020. The schedule date of completion is 15.03.2022. Work is in progress.

The project alignment passes through the Waguthamalai Reserve Forest in Madurai District for a length of 210m (from km 3+480 to km 3+690) and an extent of 1.28 Ha forest land is required. The forest clearance proposal has been submitted vide proposal no. FP/TN/ROAD/32148/2018 Dt. 19.02.2018 in Parivesh portal.

(Signature)

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On furnishing of all the essential data asked by the forest department, the proposal for diversion of 1.28.Ha of RF land has been recommended by DFO, Madurai on 10.12.2019 to APCCF, Madurai and APCCF, Madurai has recommended the proposal to PCCF, Chennai on 22.06.2020. PCCF, Chennai has recommended the proposal to Government of Tamil Nadu (GoTN) on 17.03.2021.

Based on the above, GoTN raised certain queries and the same has been communicated by GoTN vide Lr. No. 4379/FR.10/2021-2 Dt. 14.07.2021 to PCCF, Chennai.

PCCF, Chennai has forwarded the query vide Lr. No. TS4/7185/2018 Dt. 29.07.2021 to DFO, Madurai for further necessary action and DFO, Madurai vide Lr. No. C. No. 1173/2018/D Dt. 14.09.2021 has communicated the queries to this office for taking necessary action.

While forwarding the said query, DFO, Madurai has requested to submit the undertaking as follows,

1. *An elevated corridor be provided for the portion of the proposed road passing through Waguthamalai Reserved Forest to enable unrestricted movement of wildlife beneath the corridor.*
2. *Adequate number of sign boards at vantage points along the sides of the road as proposed by the District Forest Officer may be erected to warn the drivers of vehicles and commuters passing through the affected stretch regarding wildlife crossing the road, avoid throwing of inflammable material like cigarette, butts., along the road sides leading to fire in the dry season, littering the road with discharged trash cans, rubbish etc., "*

In the above circumstances, it is to appraise that, the RF land proposed for diversion is located almost at the end of RF limit. The proposed road is also to be laid in cutting which ranges from (-) 0.45m to (-) 5.0m of depth, hence requirement of Elevated Corridor may not be techno-economically suitable. Accordingly, the matter taken up with Forest Department for insisting an alternate suitable structure in place of Elevated Corridor.



In view of the above, it is proposed to have a structure which bridges matchingly the bisected area with the existing natural slope on either side, so as to make the proposed structure to appear as a natural topography and earth cover over the structure as wildlife friendly. Accordingly, wildlife overpass is proposed at ch 3+680, where the depth of cutting also satisfies the vertical clearance required in the project highway. In this regard, General Arrangement Drawing (GAD) for the wildlife overpass has been submitted to DFO, Madurai on 25.11. 2021. However, in continuation to that, a modified GAD is prepared and appended herewith as Annexure - A. The proposed wildlife overpass is of 20m wide and covering across the ROW of 60m in the reserve forest area, as safe passage for movement of wildlife between the bisected areas. Safety arrangements like fencing also being proposed on both sides of highway throughout the reserve forest area for a length of about 210m, so as to restrict entry of wild animals into the project highway and also to avoid man - wild life conflict in the project stretch.

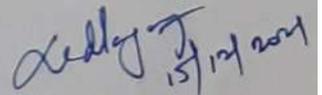
Further, as requested undertaking towards provision of wildlife overpass and provision of adequate number of signboards is also appended as Annexure - B.

Therefore, in view of above, it is hereby requested for further necessary action to get forest clearance at the earliest.

Encl:

1. GAD as Annexure - A
2. Undertaking as Annexure - B

Yours faithfully



(V. Nagaraj)

DGM (T) & Project Director
PIU - Madurai

Copy to:

The Regional Officer, NHAI, Madurai