

TAMILNADU FOREST DEPARTMENT

From

To

Subrat Mohabatra, I.F.S.,
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,
(Head of Forest Force)
Forest Head Quarters Building,
Guindy-Velachery Main Road, Guindy,
Chennai-15.

The Additional Chief Secretary to
Government,
Environment, Climate Change and
Forests Department,
Secretariat, Chennai 9.

C. No. TS3/39367/2021 Dated: 07.07.2023.

Madam,

Sub: Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 – Proposal for diversion of 0.0476 ha of forest land in Anjur RF and Sengundram RF for relaying and periodical maintenance of Singaperumalkoil-Reddikuppam road to Chengalpattu-Thiruporur via Anjur Pattaravakkam Thenur road km 0/0-0/285 in Chengalpattu District in favour of the Divisional Engineer, Highways, Nabard and Rural Roads, Chengalpattu - Proposal forwarding - Regarding.

- Ref: 1 Revised Online application uploaded by the User Agency - The Divisional Engineer, Highways Department, Rural Roads, Chengalpattu - Proposal No. FP/TN/Road/148718/2021, dated 05.12.2021 and resubmission of proposal on 03.01.2022, 02.02.2022 and 21.02.2022.
- 2 Part-II of Form-A uploaded by the District Forest Officer, Kancheepuram Division on 14.10.2022 and EDS reply dated 09.05.2023
- 3 Part-III of Form-A uploaded by the Conservator of Forests, Chennai Circle on 16.02.2023 and resubmission of proposal on 19.06.2023

I wish to state that, the Divisional Engineer, Highways Department, Rural Roads, Chengalpattu has uploaded online forest clearance proposal under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 0.0476 ha of forest land in Anjur RF and Sengundram RF for relaying and periodical maintenance of Singaperumalkoil-Reddikuppam road to Chengalpattu-Thiruporur via Anjur Pattaravakkam Thenur road km 0/0-0/285 in Chengalpattu District in favour of the Divisional Engineer, Highways, Nabard and Rural Roads, Chengalpattu under proposal No. FP/TN/Road/148718/2021.

1) Brief details of the project are given below.

i) The User Agency has uploaded the revised proposal in the prescribed format of Form A - Part I - under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of fresh forest area.

ii) Name and short narrative of the project in which forest land required reported as relaying and periodical maintenance of Singaperumal Koil-Reddikuppam road to Chengalpattu-Thiruporur road via Anjur, Pattaravakkam, Thenur road km 0/0 to 0/285 in Chengalpattu District.

iii) The User Agency has reported that area required in forest area is for 0.0476 ha., and non-forest land required for the project is Zero ha.,

iv) The User Agency has proposed the forest area diversion for the project for a period of 99 years.

v) On behalf of User Agency, Divisional Engineer, Highways Department, Government of Tamil Nadu - the present incumbent Officer of Divisional Engineer, Highways, Nabard and Rural Roads, Chengalpattu has uploaded the proposal in the prescribed format. Legal status of the User Agency is State Government (Department)

vi) In the uploading of copy of documents in support of the competence/ authority of the person making this application to make application on behalf of the User Agency section, the User Agency has uploaded the authentication issued by the Superintending Engineer, Nabard and Rural Roads Circle, Chengalpattu to the Divisional Engineer, Highways Nabard and Rural Roads Division, Chengalpattu in letter dated 22.10.2021 has been uploaded.

vii) In the section of uploading details of proposal seeking prior approval of Central Government under the Act for diversion of forest land for the project already submitted in the past reported as NIL

viii) Diversion of 0.0476 ha of forest has been requested in Chengalpattu-Kancheepuram Forest Division of Chengalpattu District. Name of the village in which forest land requested has been reported as Thennur.

ix) The User Agency has furnished the component wise breakup details of land required for the project as road in two segments.

x) Location map of the 0.0476 ha in one segment area of forest land proposed to be diverted in kml file of google earth, Scanned copy of Survey of India topo sheet

indicating the forest land proposed to be diverted, Scanned copy of Geo referenced location map has been furnished.

xi) Note containing justification for locating the project in forest area has been uploaded.

The user agency has proposed forest area diversion for relaying and periodical maintenance of Singaperumalkoil-Reddikuppam road to Chengalpattu-Thiruporur road via Anjur, Pattaravakkam, Thenur road km 0/0 – 0/285-Stretch I- 25.58 sq.m and Stretch-II- 449.90 sq.m and total area of 475.48 sq.m or 0.0476 ha lies in Anjur RF in Chengalpattu District.

xii) The User Agency has stated that this project is likely to generate permanent/ regular employment for 100 persons and temporary employment for 50 persons. This project does not involve displacement of people due to the project, cost-benefit analysis for the project is not required and this project not requires clearance under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

xiii) The User Agency has stated that the project or part thereof is not located in any protected area or their Eco sensitive zone and the project or a part thereof is not located in a Scheduled area.

xiv) The User Agency has stated that, the process for settlement of Rights under the Forest Rights Act 2006 on the forest land proposed to be diverted has been completed and uploaded a copy of certificate issued by the District Collector, Chengalpattu in R.C No. 1192/2021/B2, dated 06.09.2021 for 0.20 ha of forest land required for the project. (285m length and 7.00m width = 1995 sq.m – BT width of 3.75m and shoulder width of 1.625m on either side) as per the proposal furnished earlier.

xv) Under the section of details of land identified for compensatory afforestation, the User Agency has not furnished the details of compensatory Afforestation land to be provided to the Forest Department in lieu of diversion of forest land required for the work.

The user agency has stated that non-forest or revenue forest land is not required to be provided by the user agency and reason for this stated as not applicable.

xvi) In the additional information details section, following documents/ certificates/ undertakings have been uploaded.

a) Area requirement statement –

km 0/0 – 0/285-Stretch I- 25.58 sq.m and Stretch-II- 449.90 sq.m and total area of 475.48 sq.m or 0.0476 ha lies in Chengalpattu District.

b) Certified that the requested diversion of forest land designed for minimum forest involvement

c) Certified that there is no suitable alternative non-forest land is available for the project.

d) Certified that no work in violation of the Forest Conservation Act 1980 has been carried out for the work proposed in the forest area.

e) Revised GPS reading of the proposed forest diversion area.

f) Undertaking to bear the cost of felling of trees and transportation cost of trees to be removed under the project.

g) Undertaking to bear the cost along with any escalation for exploitation of trees in the project.

h) Undertaking to pay the additional amount of Net Present Value of forest land required for the project.

i) Undertaking to pay the cost towards lease rent as fixed by the Forest Department at the time of sanction and along with any escalation.

j) Undertaking to pay the Net Present Value of forest land required for the project.

k) Undertaking to deposit the cost of compensatory afforestation twice in extent of degraded forest area.

l) Certificate issued by the District Collector, Chengalpattu District in C. No. 1192/2021/B2, dated 06.09.2021 on no alternate non forest land is available for the project and the best possible alignment requires the utilization of the Reserve Forest land.

m) Joint Director/Project Director, DRDA, Chengalpattu addressed to the Divisional Engineer (Highways) Nabard and Rural Roads, Chengalpattu on non availability of records on permission obtained from the Forest Department for the formation of road in forest area.

n) Reply of Divisional Engineer (Highways) Nabard and Rural Roads, Chengalpattu to the District Forest Officer, Chengalpattu Division Kancheepuram on non availability of records on when the road was formed in the forest area.

3) After raising EDS query to the user agency on 26.07.2022 and 29.07.2022, the District Forest Officer, Kancheepuram Division has forwarded the proposal along with Site Inspection report and recommendation of the proposal to the Conservator of Forests, Chennai Circle on 14.10.2022 and resubmitted the proposal on 21.12.2022 and EDS query reply on 09.05.2023.

Details furnished in the Part-II of Form A by the District Forest Officer, Kancheepuram Division is furnished below.

i) The legal status of the proposed site of diversion of 0.0476 ha of forest land requested for the project is Reserved Forests.

As per the site inspection report and recommendation of the project uploaded by the District Forest Officer, Kancheepuram Division, name of the forest land reported as Anjur RF (25.58 sq.m in Stretch-I) and Sengundram RF (449.90 sq.m for stretch-II).

ii) The District Forest Officer has reported that, density of the forest area is 10 and Eco class of forest area is four.

iii) In the Part-II of Form-A, the District Forest Officer has reported the species wise and girth class wise enumeration of trees in the area is "ZERO".

iv) Vulnerability of the forest area to erosion reported as NIL

v) The District Forest Officer has reported that Civet Cat, Rabbit, Fox, Spotted deer, Black buck, Peacock, Monkey, Mongoose, Leopard, Porcupine etc., are present in and around the forest land proposed for diversion.

The forest area proposed for diversion is not part of National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant corridor, Wildlife migration corridor etc., and not located within the eco-sensitive zone of the protected area notified under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and not located within 1 km boundary of NP/WLs etc., for the forest land proposed for diversion. There is no rare/ endangered / unique species of flora and fauna found in the area.

vi) There is no protected archaeological/ heritage site/ defense establishment or any other important monument is located in the area.

vii) Requirement of forest land as proposed by the User Agency is unavoidable and bare minimum for the project.

viii) The District Forest Officer has reported that no work in violation of the Act or guidelines issued under the Act has been carried out by the user agency.

ix) For the proposed diversion of 0.0476 ha of forest land in Anjur and Sirugundram RF for relaying and periodical maintenance of Singaperumalkoil-Reddikuppam road to Chengalpattu-Thiruporur road via Anjur, Pattaravakkam, Thenur road km 0/0-0/285km, compensatory afforestation has been proposed in 0.10 ha of degraded forest area in Sengundram RF by planting of 100 number of misc seedlings along with maintenance of plantation over a period of 10 year period at a cost of Rs. 238473/- including 5% amount provided to contingency fund to meet out the special nature of works for restocking the plantation at Rs. 11356/-

Survey of India topo sheet of Sengundram RF and surveyed sketch of the proposed CA area in geo-referenced map, Site suitability certificate of the CA area have also been furnished by the District Forest Officer.

x) In the site inspection report and recommendation of the proposal, the District Forest Officer has stated the following.

a) This proposal is for diversion of 0.0476 Ha of forest land in Anjur and Sengundram Reserved Forests of Kancheepuram Forest Division for upgradation of Singaperumalkoil-Reddikuppam road to Chengalpattu-Thiruporur road via Anjur, Pattaravakkam, Thenur road km 0/0-0/285. The general public has been using this route for a longtime. This road passes through 0.0476 Ha of forest land in Anjur and Sengundram RF of Chengalpattu Range. The said area was inspected by me on 23.07.2022.

b) Total area requested for diversion in Anjur RF is 25.58 sq.m (Stretch-I) and Sengundram RF 449.90 sq.m (Stretch-II) covering 475.48 sq.m or 0.0476 ha forest area.

c) On inspection, it was found that the road was already laid long time back in forest area and there is no proper records available on when the road was formed. Also, the requested forest stretch is in continuation of the already existing Singaperumalkoil-Reddikuppam road to Chengalpattu-Thiruporur road via Anjur, Pattaravakkam, Thenur road. The Forest Range Officer, Chengalpattu reported based on enquiry with village people that, this road was formed 20 years before and also reported that, this road has no right of way as per the Anjur and Sengundram RF notification.

d) As per the report of the user agency, the present road was constructed before 1985 and it was maintained by Rural Department and also informed that the last

renewal was carried out prior to 2008 by Rural Department and the road is heavily damaged for the past 14 years in forest portion.

e) Now the Divisional Engineer (H), N&RR, Chengalpattu has applied for diversion of 0.0476 Ha of this forest land for up gradation of Singaperumalkoil-Reddikuppam road to Chengalpattu-Thiruporur road via Anjur, Pattaravakkam, Thenur road. User agency has submitted necessary undertaking on Compensatory Afforestation expenditure, NPV, Additional Net Present Value and lease Rent. There is no tree growth along the existing road in the forest area proposed for diversion. The road is highly essential for providing access to the people of Reddikuppam, Anjur, Pattaravakkam and Thenur villages. Many representations from all corners were received by the District administration and the District Collector, Chengalpattu has also insisted during the inter departmental meetings for the upkeep of this road as Ambulances and other essential service vehicles are facing problem while crossing the particular road stretch passing through the Anjur and Sengundram RF due to the bad condition of the road in this stretch.

f) Taking into consideration of the above facts, the proposed diversion of 0.0476 ha area in Anjur and Sengundram Reserved Forest is recommended.

xi) In the EDS reply, the District Forest Officer has reported that, as per Survey of India topo sheet No. 66D/2 of 1976 year, the road is not mentioned, thus, it can't be ascertained whether the road was laid before 1980.

a) Inclusion of existing forest land involved in the carriage way (Guidelines issued by the Government of India in Ir No. FC-11/117/2019-FC, dated 25.03.2023) doesn't apply for this proposal as road was not constructed prior to 1980 and whole forest area for diversion of forest land included in this proposal. Only triangular portion of the road lies in forest area of Anjur RF (25.58 sq.m) and Sengundram RF (449.90 sq.m) total extent is 475.48 sq.m or 0.0476 ha

4) The Conservator of Forests, Chennai Circle has inspected the area on 29.01.2023 and endorsed the details provided by the District Forest Officer and recommended the proposal. Forest clearance proposal forwarded through web portal on 16.02.2023.

5) The User Agency has requested forest area diversion for a period of 99 years. The District Forest Officer, Kancheepuram Division and the Conservator of

Forests, Chennai Circle have recommended the diversion of forest area for a period of 20 years.

Forest area diversion proposals for road works are permanent nature and recommended for a period of 50 years.

6) State Government may accord diversion of forest land of less than one hectare in each case for non-forestry purposes under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, for creation of critical development and security related infrastructure of Government Departments under the general approval of Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 guidelines. Construction and widening of road is one of the work allowed under general approval list.

7) Based on the recommendation made by the District Forest Officer, Kancheepuram Division and Conservator of Forests, Chennai Circle, proposal received for diversion of 0.0476 ha of forest land in Anjur RF and Sengundram RF for relaying and periodical maintenance of Singaperumalkoil-Reddikuppam road to Chengalpattu-Thiruporur via Anjur Pattaravakkam Thenur road km 0/0-0/285 in Chengalpattu District seeking approval under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 by the Divisional Engineer, Highways, Nabard and Rural Roads, Chengalpattu is furnished to the Government for consideration of the Government and the following conditions are recommended for imposition of the project.

i) The legal status of the diverted forest land remains unchanged.

ii) The demarcation of the proposed forest land shall be carried out by the User Agency by erecting 4 feet high cement concrete pillars duly numbered at an interval of 20 meters at their cost.

iii) The user agency has to pay the cost towards compensatory afforestation scheme over an extent of 0.10 ha of degraded forest area as per the Compensatory afforestation scheme including maintenance for a period of 10 years.

iv) The User Agency has to pay the Net Present Value of proposed forests diversion area which will be fixed as per the guidelines of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India /Government of India.

v) The User Agency has to bear the additional amount of Net Present Value which will be fixed as per the guidelines of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India as fixed by Forest Department in future.

vi) Amount of Compensatory afforestation scheme, Net Present Value of diverted forest area under the project shall be transferred/ deposited to CAMPA fund only through e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>)

vii) The User Agency has to pay the cost towards annual lease rent for the forest area diversion period as fixed by the Forest Department at the time of sanction along with any escalation for the forest land to be diverted of the above project in future for the entire project period.

viii) The total forest area utilized for the project shall not exceeds 0.0476 ha in Anjur RF and Sengundram RF.

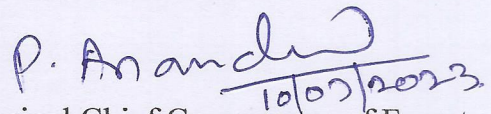
ix) The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under any circumstances be transferred to any other agencies/ department or person without prior approval.

x) Period of lease can be fifty (50) years. The User Agency has to apply renewal proposal before one year of expiry of lease with the State Forest Department.

8) The proposal is sent herewith duly recommended by the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Forest Conservation Act) / Nodal Officer of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 of the State of Tamil Nadu.

9) I request that the proposal may be considered and approval may be accorded for diversion of 0.0476 ha of forest land in Anjur RF and Sengundram RF for relaying and periodical maintenance of Singaperumalkoil-Reddikuppam road to Chengalpattu-Thiruporur via Anjur Pattaravakkam Thenur road km 0/0-0/285 in Chengalpattu District in favour of the Divisional Engineer, Highways, Nabard and Rural Roads, Chengalpattu for a period of 50 years.

Yours faithfully


10/07/2023

For Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Head of Forest Force)

10/07/2023

PART - IV

(To be filled in by the Nodal Officer or Principal Chief Conservator of Forests or Head of Forest Department)

Name of the work : Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 – Proposal for diversion of 0.0476 ha of forest land in Anjur RF and Sengundram RF for relaying and periodical maintenance of Singaperumalkoil-Reddikuppam road to Chengalpattu-Thiruporur via Anjur Pattaravakkam Thenur road km 0/0-0/285 in Chengalpattu District in favour of the Divisional Engineer, Highways, Nabard and Rural Roads, Chengalpattu - Proposal No. FP/TN/Road/148718/2021

17	Detailed opinion and specific recommendation 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 "

K. Raja
3/7/23

Signature :

Name Designation : Tmt V. Karunapriya 1/3
Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Forest Conservation Act), O/o the Principal Chief
Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force), Chennai.

Date : 03-07-2023

Place: Chennai-32.