



Chief Conservator of Forest (T.), Thane

Micro wave tower, bara banglow area, thane (E.), 400 603

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Letter

Subject :- Diversion of 14.613 ha. forest land in favour of NHAI for Construction of Eight laning of existing four lane Vadape to Thane from Km.539.202 to Km.563.000 section of NH-3 (New NH-848) in the State of Maharashtra to be executed on Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM).

No. Desk-10/FCA/CR-35/21-22/OW- 456 / 2021-22.
Thane – 400 603, Dated : 07/01/2022

To,
Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
& Nodal Officer,
Maharashtra State, Nagpur.

1. The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Thane has submitted the proposal mentioned in the subject vide his letter No. Desk-25/Survey/FCA/1927, dated 31.12.2021. Xerox copy of the same is enclosed herewith for your ready reference. The Project Agency of this project is Project Director, National Highway Authority of India, PIU Thane – 400 601.
2. The Project Agency has submitted that “The existing road from Vadape (Km. 539+ Km. 202) to Thane (Km.563+000) experienced tremendous growth in traffic once four laning was done, as it is vital link connecting NH-8, NH-3, NH-4, NH-17 and proposed Samruddhi Mahamarg i.e. Nagpur-Mumbai Expressway. The traffic has increased considerably after development of surrounding network and growth of urban conglomerates like Thane Municipal Corporation (TMC), Kalyan - Dombivli Municipal Corporation (KDMC), Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation (NMMC) and Bhiwandi Nizampur Municipal Corporation (BNMC). Keeping this in view, GOM/GOI has initiated 8 laning of this corridor considering present traffic and projected traffic in coming years. This link is beneficial for exchange of traffic from one National Highway to another National Highway.”

3. Therefore, the Project Authority seeking permission for Diversion of 14.613 ha. forest land in favour of NHAI for Construction of Eight laning of existing four lane Vadape to Thane from Km.539.202 to Km.563.000 section of NH-3 (New NH-848) in the State of Maharashtra to be executed on Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM) u/s.2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1927.
4. The details of required forest area are as below.

Sr. No.	Village	Division	Taluka	Survey/Gut No.	Area in Ha.	Legal Status
1.	Vadape	Thane	Bhiwandi	131	0.597	Protected Forest
				133	0.394	Protected Forest
				138	0.619	Reserve Forest
2.	Dhamangaon			193	5.053	Reserve Forest
3.	Yewai			14	1.482	Private Forest (Deemed Reserved Forest)
				37	1.011	Private Forest (Deemed Reserved Forest)
4.	Elkunde			66	0.4126	Protected Forest
5.	Sonale			49	0.410	Protected Forest
6.	Pimplas			44	1.500	Protected Forest
7.	Pimpalner			63	1.164	Protected Forest
8.	Ovali			73	1.969	Protected Forest
TOTAL					14.613	

5. The Project Authority has given an undertaking to pay the total cost of Net Present Value as directed by the Govt. of India. The Project Authority has submitted necessary Certificates/ Undertakings and Maps which are enclosed in the proposal.
6. The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Thane has certified that the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and its guidelines under the Act have been violated by the Project Authority. Report regarding the violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and violation note are attached in the proposal.
7. The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Auragabad has proposed degraded forest land in Reserved Forest in Gut No.359, 376, 358 and 352 (area 30.00 ha.) at Village Parla for Compensatory Afforestation and further certified that same is suitable for afforestation and management purpose and is free from encroachment and encumbrances. The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Auragabad has also submitted the Compensatory Afforestation Scheme as per Model Rate Structure for CA Model No.5 under the guidelines, which is enclosed in the proposal. The details of degraded forest land to

the extent of double the forest land proposed for diversion for Compensatory Afforestation as given below :-

Sr. No.	Taluka	Village	Gut No.	Area Suitable for CA (in ha.)	Legal Status
1.	Vaijapur	Parla	359	8.81	Reserved Forest
2.			376	10.87	
3.			358	5.76	
4.			352	4.56	
Total				30.00	

8. The Project Authority has submitted an undertaking to defray the cost of Compensatory Afforestation cost at the prevailing wage rate.
9. The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Thane has certified that the proposed project is not likely to affect any monuments, site of culture, historical, religious, archeological or recreational importance.
10. The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Thane has certified that the proposed project area under the project has not been included in the Identified forest.
11. The area involved in this proposal does not form part of any existing National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Nature Reserve, etc.
12. The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Thane has certified that the proposed 14.613 ha. area is at a distance of 8.7 km. from Sanjay Gandhi National Park and 5.5 km. from Tungareshwar Wildlife Sanctuary and will not have any adverse effect on the Wildlife within any Sanctuary / National Park / Nature Reserve.
13. The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Thane has also certified that the proposed 14.613 ha. area does not fall in any Eco Sensitive Zone.
14. The project involves felling of 132 trees in the area falling in diversion. Girth wise trees are as under break up and felling estimate enclosed in the proposal.


Below 30 cms	31-45	46-60	61-75	76-90
34	35	16	16	9

91-105	106-120	121-135	Above 136	Total
5	5	4	8	132

15. The Project Authority has submitted an undertaking to defray the cost of tree felling at the prevailing wage rate.

16. The Project Authority has not submitted the FRA – 2006 Certificate from Collector Thane. Regarding to this, the necessary undertaking is submitted and the same enclosed in the proposal by Project Authority.
17. The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Thane and the Chief Conservator of Forests (T) Thane has carried out site inspection on dated 07.12.2021 and 06.01.2022 respectively. Site Inspection Reports are enclosed in the proposal.
18. Recommended for sanction in view of already increased traffic on the existing four lane Mumbai – Agra National Highway and the likely increase in traffic due to proposed six lane Samrudhi Mahamarg Mumbai to Nagpur which gets connected after a few kilometers from Vadape.
19. Suitable action is to be taken on the Officers responsible for upgrading from two lane to four lane during 1998 to 2003 without obtaining formal approval under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
20. All the site specific protective measures and requirements as proposed by the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Thane to be done at the Project cost by the Project Authority.
21. Four sets of proposal are enclosed herewith with all required documents for further necessary action. Proposal is submitted online vide No. FP/MH/ROAD/148827/2021.

Encl. :- as above.


(S.V. Ramarao)
Chief Conservator of Forests (T), Thane

Copy to the Deputy Conservator of Forests Thane for information & necessary action.

Copy to Project Agency of this project is Project Director, National Highway Authority of India, PIU Thane - 400 601 for information & necessary action.

Diversion of 14.613 ha. forest land in favour of NHAI for Construction of Eight laning of existing four lane Vadape to Thane from Km.539.202 to Km.563.000 section of NH-3 (New NH-848) in the State of Maharashtra to be executed on Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM).

PART - III

(To be filled by the concerned Chief Conservator of Forests)

1.	Whether site, where the forest land involved is located has been inspected by concerned Chief Conservator of Forests (Yes/No). If yes, the date of inspection and observations made in form of inspection note to be enclosed.	Yes. Inspected on 05.01.2022.
2.	Whether the concerned Chief Conservator of Forests agree with the information given in Part-II and the recommendations of Deputy Conservator of Forests.	Yes.
3.	Specific recommendation of the Chief Conservator of Forests for acceptance of otherwise of the proposal with detailed reasons.	1) Recommended for sanction in view of already increased traffic on the existing four lane Mumbai – Agra National Highway and the likely increase in traffic due to proposed six lane Samrudhi Mahamarg Mumbai to Nagpur which gets connected after a few kilometers from Vadape. 2) Suitable action is to be taken on the Officers responsible for upgrading from two lane to four lane during 1998 to 2003 without obtaining formal approval under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. 3) All the site specific protective measures and requirements as proposed by the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Thane to be done at the Project cost by the Project Authority.


(S.V. Ramarao)

Chief Conservator of Forests (T), Thane

Date : 07.01.2022

Place : Thane.