

TAMILNADU FOREST DEPARTMENT

From

Thiru S. Yuvaraj, I.F.S.,  
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
(Head of Department),  
Panagal Maaligai, Saidapet,  
Chennai - 600 015.

To

The Additional Chief Secretary to  
Government,  
Environment and Forests Department,  
Secretariat,  
Chennai 600 009.

C. No. TS3/7022/2020 Dated: 11.11.2020.

Sir,

Sub: Forests - Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 – Vellore Circle /  
Tirupathur Forest Division – Proposal for diversion of 3.439 ha of  
forest land in Necknamalai Reserved Forests of Tirupathur Forest  
Division for formation of road from Muniranvattam to  
Necknamalai to a length of 5.525 km in Tirupathur District in  
favour of Block Development Officer, Alangayam Union,  
Alangayam Tirupathur District -- Regarding.

Ref: 1. Proposal submitted by the user agency - Block Development  
Officer, Alangayam, Tirupathur District in proposal no.  
FP/TN/Road/47745/2020, dated 21.07.2020  
2. Part-II of Form A uploaded by the District Forest Officer,  
Tirupathur Division on 25.08.2020 and resubmission of proposal  
(EDS reply) on 11.09.2020 and 16.10.2020  
3. Part-III of Form A uploaded by the Additional Principal Chief  
Conservator of Forests, Vellore Circle on 01.09.2020 and  
resubmission of proposal (EDS reply) on 15.09.2020 and  
23.10.2020

\* \* \*

I wish to state that, the Block Development Officer, Alangayam Union,  
Alangayam, Tirupathur District has submitted online application under Section 2 of  
Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in the prescribed format of Form A - Part I for the  
diversion of 3.439 ha of forest land in Necknamalai Reserved Forests of Tirupathur  
Forest Division for formation of road from Muniranvattam to Necknamalai to a  
length of 5.525 km in Tirupathur District.



1) Brief details of the project is given below.

i) The Block Development Officer (User Agency), Alangayam, Vellore District has furnished forest clearance proposal for diversion of 1.62 ha of forest land in Necknamalai Reserved Forests of Tirupathur Forest Division for formation of road from Muniranvattam to Necknamalai 0/0 - 2/7 km (Proposal No. FP/TN/Road/ 11252/2015) for which Stage-I in-principal approval has been accorded by the Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Regional Office-South Eastern Zone Chennai in their letter F. No. 4-TNB.025/2018 - CHN/2049, Dated: 31.12.2018. Stage-I in-principle approval is valid for a period of 5 years. (Government file No. 13153/FR.10/2018).

ii) Subsequently, the Block Development Officer (BP), Alangayam Panchayat Union (User Agency) in his letter No. A2/2324/09, dated 02.08.2019 has reported that, a detailed survey has been conducted by the consultant to prepare a detailed project report by using Ghat Tracer. The consultant has submitted a detailed report saying that the length of 2.70 km in the forest land is not sufficient to provide rulling gradient, heavy vehicles and buses will not ply in the proposed length. To provide sufficient slope/gradient for the easy plying of buses and heavy vehicles, it is necessary to form the road to a length of 5.825 km in the forest area.

iii) Hence the Block Development Officer has proposed to withdraw the forest clearance proposal furnished under proposal No. FP/TN/Road/11252/2015 in online. Further, the user agency has reported that, a new proposal will be submitted in the online to get permission to a length of 5.825km and necessary particulars will also be uploaded in the new proposal.

iv) Based on this, a report has been furnished to the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Regional Office-Chennai for the withdrawal of in-principle approval accorded for the project. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Regional Office, Chennai in Lr. No. 4-TNB.025/2018 - CHN/1813, Dated: 20.11.2019 has informed that the in-principle approval accorded for the project has been revoked.

v) Now the Block Development Officer, Alangayam, has furnished revised proposal for diversion of 3.439 ha of forest land in Necknamalai RF of Tirupathur



Forest Division for formation of road from Muniranvattam to Necknamalai to a length of 5.525 km vide proposal No. FP/TN/Road/47745/2020, dated 21.07.2020.

2) In Part-I of Form-A, project proposal details furnished by the user agency

i) In the short narrative of the proposal, the User Agency has stated that the village named Necknamalai located top of Necknamalai hills with population of 650 people having agricultural land of 150 acres living without access of road network. People of these hill villages are living without access to such fundamental amenities as market facilities, Transport facility, Education

ii) The User Agency has reported that area required in forest area is for 3.439 ha., and non forest land required for the project is Zero ha.,

iii) The User Agency has proposed the forest area diversion for the project for a period of 100 years. (A.1.x)

iv) Diversion of 3.439 ha of forest has been requested in Tirupathur Forest Division area in the newly formed-bifurcated Tirupathur District (Erstwhile Vellore District) area. Name of the village reported as Necknamalai.

In the area requirement statement for the project, the user agency has furnished the details of area required as 5525 m length and 6.00m width (33150 sq.m) and for curve portion 1240 sq.m in total 3.439 ha of forest land diversion requested.

v) Location map of the forest land in kml file of google earth, Scanned copy of Survey of India topo sheet indicating the forest land proposed to be diverted and Geo referenced location details prepared by using GPS/Total Station has been uploaded. DGPS co-ordinates of the proposed alignment path has also been furnished.

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

vii) The User Agency has stated that this project is likely to generate permanent/regular employment for 581 persons and temporary employment for 11729 numbers.

viii) The User Agency has stated that 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.

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

x) The User Agency has uploaded the certificate issued by the District Collector, Tirupathur District on completion of process for settlement of Rights under the Forest Rights Act 2006 on the forest land proposed to be diverted and uploaded a copy of Forest Rights Act 2006 certificate issued by the District Collector of Tirupathur District in Rc. No. A2/209/2017, dated 30.01.2020.

xi) Under the section of details of land identified for compensatory afforestation, the User Agency has 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 as follows.

The District Collector of Tirupathur District certified that, for the diversion of 3.439 ha of forest land, twice the extent of 6.978 -7.00 ha of land identified in S.F. No. 416/1-31.38.0 ha in Vinnamangalam village in Ambur taluk in the Tirupathur District (erstwhile Vellore District) and will be transferred to Forest Department for afforestation. Kml file of the area proposed for CA area has been uploaded along with scanned copy of the map of the land identified for creation of compensatory afforestation prepared by using GPS or Total Station in the google earth and copy of survey of India topo sheet indicating the location of the land identified for creation of compensatory afforestation. DGPS co-ordinates of the proposed CA land has also been furnished.

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

- a) Brief note on the project.
- b) Certified that the demand of the forest land is minimum
- c) Certificate to bear the cost of exploitation of trees and cost of compensatory afforestation.
- d) Item wise breakup details for the total land required for the project.



- e) Justification for locating the project in forest area.
- f) Undertaking to pay the additional amount of Net present Value if any becoming due after revision by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in future.
- g) Statement showing the details of forest area proposed for diversion.
- h) Undertaking for the payment of Net present Value as fixed by Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

i) Certified that no violation of the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 occurred in the place.

j) Authorisation issued by District Collector Tirupathur to Thiru S. Baskaran, Block Development Officer, (BP) Alangayam Panchayat Union, Tirupathur to submit online application for obtaining forest clearance.

k) Certificate issued by the District Collector, Tirupathur about No alternate suitable non-forest land is available, since the proposed formation of the road is situated in the middle of the Reserved Forests.

l) Certificate issued by the District Collector, Tirupathur about the completion of the Scheduled Tribe and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Forest Rights Act, 2006) is ensured as per the Ministry of Environment and Forests letter No. 11-9/98-FC (pt) dated 05.07.2013.

3) In the Part-II of Form-A, the District Forest Officer has furnished the following particulars.

i) The legal status of the proposed site of diversion of 3.439 ha of forest land requested for the project is Reserved Forests and as per site inspection report, name of the forest land is "Necknamalai Reserved land" and extent of area proposed for diversion is 3.439 ha

ii) The District Forest Officer has reported that, density of the forest area is 0.1 and Eco class of forest area is four.

iii) As per species wise and girth class wise enumeration table segment furnished by the District Forest Officer, 130 number of trees were enumerated in the proposed road alignment path.



As per the revised site inspection report of DFO uploaded under EDS reply section, it has been reported that 89 numbers are planted trees and balance 41 numbers are spontaneous trees.

iv) On vulnerability of the forest land proposed for diversion, the District Forest Officer reported that the area is hilly in nature with gentle slope of 15-20%. Hence moderately vulnerable for erosion.

v) The forest area proposed for diversion is not forms part of National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant corridor, Wildlife migration corridor etc., and not located within 1 km boundary of NP/WLs etc., for the forest land proposed for diversion and not located within the eco-sensitive zone of the protected area notified under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

The District Forest Officer has reported that Wild boar, hares, civet cats and few species of reptiles are present in and around 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 and no work in violation of the Act or guidelines has been carried out.

viii) For the diversion of 3.439 ha of forest land, the user agency has identified 7.00 ha of non-forest area as compensatory land in SF No. 416/1-31.38 ha block area in Vinnamangalam village of Ambur taluk in the Tirupathur District (erstwhile Vellore District)

a) The District Forest Officer has reported that the compensatory land is selected for taking up compensatory afforestation in 2 patches. 1000 seedlings per ha has been proposed in this area. It is also certified that the area is suitable for raising compensatory afforestation plantation.

b) District Forest Officer, Villupuram Division has proposed compensatory afforestation scheme with maintenance of plantation over a period of 10 years with



escalation of wage rate for an financial out lay of Rs. 64,66,161/- (Rs. 9,23,737/- per ha for raising and 10 year maintenance).

4) In the EDS reply section, the DFO has uploaded (i) revised site inspection report for the project. The DFO has inspected the area on 17.08.2020 and details about acceptance of CA land.

i) The DFO has reported that an extent of 7.00 ha of land has been identified as compensatory land for afforestation purpose in Vinnamangalam village of Ambur taluk in Tirupathur District which was already transferred by the Revenue Department vide G.O. (D) No. 351, Revenue Department dated 09.08.2002 and which is already notified under Section 4 of Tamil Nadu Forest Act 1882 vide G.O. Ms No. 79, E&F (FR.14) Dept dated 23.06.2017.

The details are furnished below.

Total extent of land transferred from Revenue Department in Vinnamangalam village	51.83 ha
Actual area required for CA in Vellakkal Kanar Project	20.45 ha
Excess area of land which is already diverted to Forest Department	31.38 ha
Area now identified as CA by the District Collector	7.00 ha

ii) The District Forest Officer has enclosed the Government Order No. G.O. (D) No. 351, Revenue Department dated 09.08.2002, in which it has been ordered that as against the stipulation of handing over of 20.45 ha, non forest land of 51.83 ha has been ordered for mutation to Forest Department with condition that the excess area of 31.38 ha has to be adjusted for the future forest area diversion cases. In this 31.38 ha area, this proposal covers an area of 7.00 ha and balance surplus of area of 24.38 ha to be adjusted in future.

5) In the site inspection report, the District Forest Officer has reported the following.

i) A detailed field inspection was undertaken on 17.08.2020. The village Neckanamalai is located at the plateau surface on the top of the Neckanamalai hillock which forms part of the Jawadhi series of Eastern Ghats. The village is lying at an average altitude of 700-800 Mts above MSL with a coordinate



N12.691206, E 78.67102. About 650 people are residing on this hillock with an extent of 150 acres of agricultural land. The village is under the administrative jurisdiction of Alangayam Block, Vaniyambadi Taluk in Tirupattur District in Tamil Nadu. This village is located at the top of the hillock surrounded on all sides by Reserve Forests.

ii) A small foot path with a length of 2.564 kms and a width of 2 mts was allowed as right of way by Forest Settlement Officer under Sec 16 of Tamil Nadu Forest Act and this foot path is serving as the only connectivity between the plain and the hill. Hence, proper communication, transportation with the places on the plain was found difficult by the people. The educational institutions, hospital and any other emergency services in plain were not easily accessible to this remote village. The villagers could not get enough employment opportunities in this remote hillock which adversely affected their socio economic conditions. Therefore, the road connectivity is inevitable for these villagers for their comprehensive development.

iii) The area in which the project is proposed is a Reserved Forest area named as Necknamalai Reserved Forest which was notified vide Government orders 37441(1) 80-4 Forest and Fisheries Department, dated 26.08.1980 with an extent of 741.90 hec.

iv) The project envisages formation of road starting from Muniranvattam, a village located beneath the hillock runs upward to the plateau on the hillock where Necknamalai village is situated. The proposed length of the road is 5525 meters (0/0 to 5/525) and width of 6 mtrs. Hence, the total area of Forest required for the above project is 3.439 hec.

v) The Necknamalai Reserve Forest which is situated on the hillock is just 2 kms away from National Highway No 48. The soil is highly eroded in the outer slopes exposing huge boulders and sheet rocks. The soil is highly impoverished with not much of moisture retaining capacity, small stones and pebbles are spread over the area in reserved forest leaving not much of space for green cover. The tropical thorn and scrub forest type is found on the hillock with canopy density <



10%. The upper portion of the hillock is covered with Cymbo pogon grass only. The Wildlife present in and around the forest land proposed for diversion as below:

Mammals : Sambar deer, Wild boars, Hares, Jungle cats, Civet cats

Reptiles : Indian rock python, Russell's viper, Saw scaled Viper, Rat snake, Bronze snake, Sand boa, Red sand boa, Vine snake, Startled cobra, Monitor lizard

Birds : Asian koel, Brahminy myna, Hill myna, Bull-bull, Spotted dove, Greater racket tailed drongo, Peacock, Peafowls.

Considering the nature of the forest type and density, this forest type comes under Eco-Class IV consisting of Tropical Thorn Forests and Tropical Dry Evergreen Forest and eco value as open forest category.

vi) An extent of 7.00 Hec of land has been identified as compensatory land for afforestation purpose in Vinnamangalam village of Ambur Taluk in Tirupattur District which was already transferred by the Revenue department vide G.O (D). No. 351 Revenue Dept. dt. 09.08.2002 with condition that the excess area of 31.38 ha has to be adjusted for future forest diversion proposal for CA area. Identified CA land is already notified u/s 4 of Tamil Nadu Forest Act 1882 vide G.O.Ms. No. 79 E & F (FR-14) Dept. dated 23.06.17.

vii) The proposed area is not close to any National Park or wildlife sanctuary. Further this proposed project involves 130 Nos of trees to be removed (enumerated) after getting prior approval from the Green tribunal. In this Number of Planted trees are 89, Number of Spontaneous trees are 41.

viii) The Necknamalai road is most important and long time expectations to the Necknamalai villagers and public. Hence the case may be approved with usual conditions.

6) In the recommendation of the project proposal, the District Forest Officer has reported the following.

A detailed field inspection was conducted on 17.08.2020 at the proposed site and it was noticed that Forest Type is tropical thorn and scrub forest type is found on the hillock with canopy density < 10%. This project work will have only minimum impact on the wild life in particular and biodiversity in general. The proposed area is not close to any National Park or wildlife sanctuary. There is no



Violation of Provision of Forest (Conservation) Act 1980 is found in the proposed area and there is no encroachment in the proposed area. Further, this proposed project involves 130 Nos of trees to be enumerated after getting prior approval from the Green tribunal. The formation of new road is inevitable which would facilitate in easy access of hospital, market place of their crops, reducing school dropout improving the standard of living of the local people. Hence, it is recommended on public interest.

7) The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Vellore Circle in his recommendation report, has reported the following.

- Agreed with the information given on Part-II by the DFO, Tirupathur Division.
- Agreed with the site inspection report of DFO Tirupathur.
- Recommended the proposal with following observation.
  - i) Any developmental work taken up in the forests will cause disturbance to the natural habitat and ecosystem. But need to accommodate such works by incorporating maximum possible mitigating measures to minimize the damage to the eco system.
  - ii) This road will cause permanent disturbance to the movement of wild animals and fragmentation of forests.
  - iii) Movement of vehicles and machines will cause forest fires, more so during summer months.
  - iv) Man animal conflicts will increase as the movement of people will increase after the road formation.
  - v) Watershed value may deteriorate affecting natural vegetations in the area. The above mentioned few major disturbances are foreseen among many other things.

In order to mitigate the above, the user agency may be asked to allot funds of about Rs. 20.00 lakhs every year to prevent/ minimise the forest fires, man animal conflicts, providing in situ drinking water to animals to prevent them to go in search of water and to facilitate natural vegetation.

Since the Government is considering to provide communication to the local villagers, the proposal has been recommended for consideration with above conditions inter alia considering all other prescribed conditions that are in force.



Subsequently, the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests has reported that, in order to mitigate the above, the user agency may be asked to allot funds of about Rs. 20.00 lakhs every year or for first five years to prevent/ minimise the forest fires, man animal conflicts, providing in situ drinking water to animals to prevent them to go in search of water and to facilitate natural vegetation.

This forest diversion proposal has been furnished to construct road connectivity to the Neckanamalai hill village surrounded by Reserved Forests all sides to the main land in the foot hill. The formation of new road is inevitable which would facilitate in easy access of hospital, market place of their crops, reducing school dropout and also improving the standard of living of the local people. The Neckanamalai road is most important and longtime expectations to the Neckanamalai villagers and public.

Diversion of forest land for the welfare purpose of formation of roads by Rural Development Department/ State Highways Department/ National Highways Authority of India, no such condition has been imposed so far.

Considering the long standing demand of road connectivity to the hill village, special condition of allotting Rs. 20.00 lakhs every year or for first five years to prevent/ minimise the forest fires, man animal conflicts, providing in situ drinking water to animals to prevent them to go in search of water and to facilitate natural vegetation proposed by the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests has not been imposed.

8) Initially the District Forest Officer has recommended the proposal for 99 years and the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests has recommended the forest area diversion for a period of 25 years.

Subsequently, the District Forest Officer has reported that, the Neckanamalai village is located at the top of the hillock surrounded on all sides by Reserve Forests. The proposed road is the only way to reach the plains for educational institutions, hospitals or any other emergency services.

The formation of new road is inevitable which would facilitate in easy access of hospital, market place of their crops, reducing school dropout and also improving the standard of living of the local people. The Neckanamalai road is



most important and longtime expectations to the Neckanamalai villagers and public. Since the formation of road is permanent in nature and cannot be alternated easily the diversion is recommended for 99 years with usual conditions.

However since the diversion is accepted with certain conditions, the recommendation may be restricted to 25 years to enable the Forest Department to verify and assess if every condition laid is strictly followed by the user agency and extended by another 25 years to a maximum of 99 years,

Based on the recommendation of the District Forest Officer, Tirupathur Division and Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Vellore Circle, diversion of forest area has been recommended for a period of 25 years.

9) As recommended by the District Forest Officer, Tirupathur Division and Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Vellore Circle, the proposal of diversion of 3.439 ha of forest area in Necknamalai Reserved Forests in Tirupathur Forest Division for formation of road from Muniranvattam to Necknamalai to a length of 5.525 km through Necknamalai RF in Tirupathur District in favour of Block Development Officer, Alangayam Block, Tirupathur District is recommended subject to the following conditions.

- a) The legal status of the diverted forest land remains unchanged.
- b) 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.
- c) The User Agency has to pay the cost of Raising Compensatory Afforestation / Maintenance of plantation, protection of plantation etc., as fixed by the Forest Department and willingness to deposit additional amounts if any suggested as amended owing to the change in planting technique, enhancement in the FSR etc., demanded subsequently.
- d) The User Agency has to pay the amount of Net Present Value which will be fixed as per the guidelines of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.
- e) 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.



f) The user agency has to obtain permission from the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India for felling of 41 numbers of spontaneous trees in the proposed road alignment path.

g) The User Agency has to pay the cost towards lease rent 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.

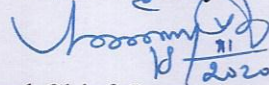
h) The total forest area utilized for the project shall not exceeds 3.439 ha

i) Period of lease can be twenty five (25) years. The User Agency has to apply renewal proposal before one year of expiry of lease with the State Forest Department.

10) The proposal is sent herewith duly recommended by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Department) and Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Forest Conservation Act) (i/c) / Nodal Officer of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 of the State of Tamil Nadu. I request that the proposal may kindly be considered and Government of India approval may please be obtained for diversion of 3.439 ha of forest land in Necknamalai Reserved Forests of Tirupathur Forest Division in newly bifurcated Tirupathur District for formation of road from Muniranvattam to Necknamalai to a length of 5.525 km in Tirupathur District in favour of Block Development Officer, Alangayam Union, Vaniyambadi Taluk in Vellore District for a period of 25 years.

Encl : As stated above.

Yours faithfully



For Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
(Head of Department)

G  
(8/11/22)



**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 : Forests - Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 - Vellore Forest Circle / Tirupathur Forest Division - Diversion of 3.439 ha of forest land in Necknamalai Reserved Forests of Tirupathur Forest Division for formation of road from Muniranvattam to Necknamalai to a length of 5.525 km in Tirupathur District in favour of Block Development Officer, Alangayam Union, Alangayam Tirupathur District Pin code 636 701 – Proposal No. FP/TN/Road/47745/2020.

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*

Signature :

Name Designation :

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
(Head of Department) and  
Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
(Forest Conservation Act),  
Chennai-15

Date : 11.10.2020.

Place: Chennai-15