

TAMIL NADU FOREST DEPARTMENT

From
Thiru Ashok Upreti, IFS.,
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,
(Head of Department),
Panagal Maaligai, Saidapet,
Chennai - 600 015.

To
The Principal Secretary to
Government,
Environment, Climate Change and
Forests Department,
Secretariat, Chennai 600 009.

Ref. No. TS4/13226/2020 dated. 13.12.2021

Madam,

Sub: Forest – Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 – Trichy Circle / Ariyalur division – Proposal for diversion of 0.0768 ha of forest land for erection of 11 KV feeder (HT) EB posts from Ayyur to Pukkuzhi Village via Silambur across Kanguli Reserved Forests and Tirukkonam Reserved Forests – Online proposal submission by the User Agency i.e., TANGEDCO – Reg.

- Ref:
1. Online application uploaded by the User Agency – The Asst. Engineer TANGEDCO, Ariyalur District on 16.05.2020. (FP/TN/OTHERS/45416/2020)
 2. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Ref.No.TS4/13226/ 2020 dated.06.08.2021.
 3. Part-II uploaded by the District Forest Officer, Ariyalur on 30.09.2021 and Part-III uploaded by the Chief Conservator of Forests Trichy on 13.10.2021.
 4. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Ref.No.TS4/13226/ 2020 dated.25.10.2021.
 5. Chief Conservator of Forests, Trichy C.No:1164/2021/D dated 23.11.2021.

I wish to state that the Assistant Engineer, , TANGEDCO, Ariyalur District has sent a proposal under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 0.0768ha of forest land for erection of 11KV feeder (HT) EB posts from Ayyur to Pukkuzhi village via Silampur across Kanguzhi RF and Thirukkonam RF of Ariyalur Division through online web portal in the prescribed format.

The user agency has furnished justification for locating the project in Forest land is as noted below. The proposed EB Post erection works for 11 KV High Tension feeders will be carried out on panchayat road sides and TAFCORN inspection path which run across the R.Fs. Kanguli RF is situated between Ayyur and Silambur villages

and Tirukkonam Reserved Forest situated between Silambur and Pukkuzhi villages. The area required for the project in Kanguli Reserved Forest and Tirukkonam Reserved Forest belongs to Ariyalur Forest Division, Ariyalur.

The villages like Silambur, Pukkuzhi, Idayakkurichi, Ayyur, Kuvagam, Vallam, Agaram and Kodukkoor and many hamlets and agriculture field fed supply from existing Eachangadu Sub Station which is situated 20 - 25 kms approximately away from these villages. For many years, the people belongs those villages experienced low voltage problem. Agricultural activities in those areas also experienced the low voltage problem. The low voltage problem is due to lengthy of the high-tension feeder of Eachangadu Sub Station. The above villages have been experienced frequent low voltage and power cut problems due this long feeder distance of 20 to 25 kms which situated at Eachangadu.

In this situation, the TANGEDCO, Ariyalur District has erected a new 33/11 KV Sub Station at Ayyur under the scheme of Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (Scheme of Government of India for Rural Electrification) with a cost of Rs.3.88 crores. The above 33/11 KV Ayyur substation was commissioned by Honorable Chief Minister of Tamilnadu on 06.08.2018 for electrification of the above mentioned villages to rectify the low voltage problem.

The Assistant Engineer, Operation and Maintenance, TANGEDCO, South Andimadam starts the work of connecting the above said villages EB lines with newly erected Ayyur 33/11KV Sub Station to rectify the low voltage problem. To make HT power connection to the people of Silambur and Pukkuzhili villages and surrounding areas they want to erect the EB Post on shortest way in the Kanguzhi RF and Tirukkonam Reserved Forests along the already existing inspection paths of

TAFCON. This is the only way possible to approach the villages with shortest distance without affecting the forest area.

Hence, the TNEB/TANGEDCO, South Andimadam, Ariyalur District is decided to erect a new 11KV High Tension Sub Station at Ayyur, shorten the feeder distance within 2 - 3 kms distance. So, the above said village peoples and their agricultural activities will experience good voltage and uninterrupted power supply from newly commissioned 33/11 KV Ayyur Sub Station.

3) The User Agency has furnished following Certificates / Undertakings.

- i. Form-A,Part-I
- ii. Letter of Authorisation.
- iii. Certificate obtained from the District Collector, Ariyalur District that no alternate suitable non forest land is available for the above project. (D.C. ref.No. FP/TN/Others/45416/2020, dt. 25.09.2020)
- iv. Certificate obtained from the District Collector, Ariyalur District about Settlement of rights under Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers under Forest Rights Act 2006 for linear projects in ref. No. FP/TN/Others/45416/2020, dt. 25.09.2020.
- v. Survey of India toposheet indicating boundary of forest land proposed to be diverted in Kanguzhi Reserved Forest and Tirukkonam Reserved Forest.
- vi. Geo referenced map for the Forest land proposed for diversion in Kanguzhi Reserved Forest and Tirukkonam Reserved Forest with DGPS readings.
- vii. Justification for locating the project in Forest land
- viii. Undertaking given by the User Agency regarding no alternate suitable non forest land is available for the above project and completion of Settlement of rights under Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers under Forest Rights Act 2006
- ix. Area requirement details for the project.
- x. Undertaking Certificate for the payment of Net Present Value of the forest land required for the purpose of the above project.

- xi. Undertaking Certificate for the payment of Additional Net Present Value of the forest land as demanded by the Forest Department in future as per the guidelines of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.
- xii. Certificate given by the User Agency that the demand of forest land for the project is the barest minimum.
- xiii. Undertaking to bear the cost of Compensatory Afforestation / Penal Compensatory Afforestation / Maintenance of Plantation / Protection of plantation for the proposed diversion of forest land as fixed by the Forest Department.
- xiv. Certificate given by the User Agency that there is no catchment area treatment plan in the approved plan.
- xv. Certificate of undertaking to agree to pay the cost along with any escalation for exploitation of trees if any available in the alignment path for the proposed diversion of forest land as fixed by the Forest Department.
- xvi. Signed copy of Form-A
- xvii. Undertaking for the payment of 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.
- xviii. Undertaking given by the User Agency regarding this is only possible as there is No other alternate feasible route is available except this.
- xix. Certificate given by the User Agency has not violated any provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in seeking the minimum forest land required in Kanguli Reserved Forest and Thirukkonnar Reserved Forest belongs to Ariyalur Division.
- xx. The User Agency has stated that the barest Minimum width of right of way of 1.0668m is enough for erection of 11 KV feeder (line) which passes along the road side vide their report dated 13.11.2020.

4) The District Forest Officer, Ariyalur has inspected the proposed project area for diversion of forest land of 0.0768Ha for erection of 11KV feeder (HT) EB posts from Ayyur to Pukkuzhi village via Silampur across Kankuzhi Reserved Forest and Thirukkonnar Reserved Forest of Ariyalur Division on 08.04.2021 and furnished his report as follows.

a) The proposed linear alignment of Electricity line runs along the existing Panchayat road Ayyur to Silampur in 4 stretches.

- i) Ayyur to Silampur road in Kanguzhi R.F 420 metre
(Mud road through Kanguzhi Reserved Forest - Right of Way allowed as per G.O.Ms.No.20 F&F dated 08.01.1980)
- ii) Silampur to Pukkuzhi road in Thirukonam R.F - 300 metre
(Panchayat road)
- iii) The actual requirement of area is calculated as follows:-
Electricity line length in 2 stretches - 720 metre
Required width - 1.0668 metre
Area required - 768.096 m² (i.e) 0.0768 Ha.

b) The proposed alignment passes along the existing Panchayat road which runs through Kanguzhi Reserved Forests and Thirukonam Reserved Forests.

c) There are no trees or natural vegetation along the proposed alignment.

d) These Reserved Forests were already leased out to Tamil Nadu Forest plantation Corporation for raising Eucalyptus tereticornis and Cashew from the year 1974.

e) Therefore there is no objection from Forestry and Wildlife point of view, since the proposed electricity line for providing electricity facilities to around 10 villages and would be beneficial for the development of the village.

f) This proposal does not have any impact on the forest and wild life of that area.

g) Density of vegetation is 0.4 and Eco-class four.

5) In section 13(i) of Part-II, the District Forest Officer, Ariyalur has provided Compensatory Afforestation scheme details along with kml file along with DGPS readings and Topo sheet to an amount of 1.40 lakhs provided for Compensatory Afforestation in degraded area at Vangaram Reserved Forest of Ariyalur Range to an area of 0.15ha. The District Forest Officer has also inspected the degraded area for Compensatory Afforestation and stated that the area is suitable for raising Compensatory Afforestation.

6) In his recommendation the District Forest Officer, Ariyalur has stated that

i) The area proposed by the user agency is 0.0768ha land and there is no alternative land for the proposed project except forest land.

ii) The user agency has not started any work proposed in Kanguli and Thirukonam Reserved Forest.

- iii) The proposed area is having plain surface and there is no spontaneous trees in the proposed area.
- iv) The proposed area for diversion does not have any archeological and heritage related monuments.
- v) There are no tribal rights affected in this project.
- vi) Flag ship species like Tiger and Elephant are not available in this Reserved Forest and hence no threat to major wildlife species.
- vii) The proposed diversion of this project arrest low voltage complaints and the frequent power cut problems in 8 No. of rural villages in over exploited blocks of Andimadam union in Ariyalur district.
- viii) Diversion of particular stretch may not cause much disturbance to wildlife and will not adversely affect eco system.

Consideration of the facts stated above the proposal is recommended.

7) The Chief Conservator of Forests, Trichy has inspected the proposal area for diversion is 0.0768 Ha in Kanguzhi RF and Thirukonam RF in Ariyalur Range of Ariyalur Forest Division on 13.10.2021 along with the District Forest Officer, Ariyalur and E.B officials and stated that,

- a) The proposed linear alignment of Electricity line runs along the existing Panchayat road in 2 stretches. (1) Ayyur to Silambur road passing through - Kanguzhi R.F for a length of -420 m - 27 poles will be erected along this stretch. (2) Silambur to Pukkuzhi road passing through -Thirukonam R.F for a length of - 300 m to a width of 1.0668m and the total area required is 0.0768 Ha.
- b) The proposed alignment passes along the existing Panchayat road which runs through the above Reserve Forests. There are no trees or natural vegetation along the proposed alignment.
- c) The Reserve Forests were already leased out to Tamil Nadu Plantation Corporation for raising Eucalyptus tereticornis and Cashew from the year 1974. Therefore there is no objection from Forestry and Wildlife point of view. Since the proposed electricity line will provide electricity to around 10 villages which would be beneficial for the development of the villages and hence recommended.
- d) The proposed area is barest minimum and it is not part of any Wildlife Sanctuary and Wildlife Corridor.

8) In this regard, it is submitted that the User Agency has uploaded all the certificates/undertakings/details as required in this proposal.

9) The proposal is sent herewith duly recommended in the part IV of Form A by the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (FCA) / Nodal Officer (Forest Conservation Act).

10) The area proposed for diversion of forest land of 0.0768Ha for for erection of 11KV feeder (HT) EB posts from Ayyur to Pukkuzhi village via Silampur across Kankuli RF and Thirukkonam Reserved Forest of Ariyalur Division is recommended and forwarded to the Government of Tamilnadu for considering the proposal under the General Category wherein the State Government has empowered to divert forest areas upto one Ha for critical public utility and welfare projects undertaken by the Government agencies and in principle Stage-I approval orders may be issued subject to the following conditions.

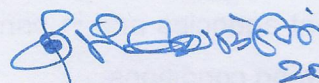
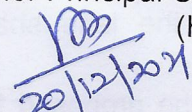
- (i) The legal status of the land shall remain unchanged and shall remain as Reserved Forests.
- (ii) The demarcation of the proposed forest area shall be carried out by erecting 4 feet height cement concrete pillars duly numbered at an interval of 20 mts at the cost of User Agency.
- (iii) The User Agency shall pay the Net present value of the diverted forest area at the rates stipulated by the Ministry of Environment and Forests from time to time, as per the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court Order dated 28.03.2008 and 09.05.2008 in IA Nos. 826 in 566 with related IAS in Writ Petition(Civil) No.202/1995.
- (iv) The fund from the User Agency towards NPV and Compensatory Afforestation under this project shall be deposited by generating challan from the Ministry's online web portal. UTR No and date should be furnished.
- (v) The Additional amount of the Net Present Value (NPV) of the diverted forest land if any, becoming due after revision of the same by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in future shall be charged by the State Government from the User Agency. The User Agency shall furnish an undertaking to the effect.
- (vi) The User Agency shall be responsible for any loss to Flora and Fauna in the surroundings and shall take all possible measures to conserve the same.
- (vii) The forest land shall not be used for any other purpose other than that specified in the proposal.
- (viii) The lease rent should be realized from the User Agency as per G.O.Ms.No.272, E&F(FR.XIII) Dept dated 15.04.1991.
- (ix) The period of lease is 20 years
- (x) The User Agency should send renewal proposal one year before expiry of lease.

(xi) The Chief Conservator of Forests and District Forest Officer may impose any other condition in the interest of conservation /protection land development of forests.

11) I request that in-principle Stage-I approval under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of forest land of 0.0768Ha for erection of 11KV feeder (HT) EB posts from Ayyur to Pukkuzhi village via Silampur across Kanguzhi Reserved Forest (0.0448 ha) and Thirukkonam Reserved Forest (0.0320 ha) of Ariyalur Division for a period of 20 years may be accorded in favour of TANGEDCO, South Andimadam, Ariyalur District.

Encl.: Proposal.

Yours faithfully


for Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Head of Department)


PART IV

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

Name of Work: Forests - Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 – Proposal for diversion of 0.0768 ha of forest land for erection of 11 KV feeder (HT) EB posts from Ayyur to Pukkuzhi Village via Silambur across Kanguli Reserved Forests and Tirukkonam Reserved Forests – Online proposal submission by the User Agency i.e., TANGEDCO (Proposal No:FP/TN/Others/45416/2020)

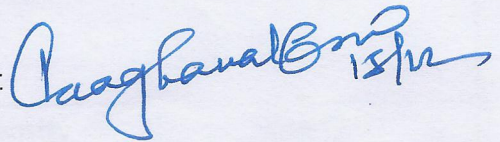
17. Detailed opinion and specific recommendation of the State Forest Department for acceptance or otherwise of the proposal with remarks.

(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

Date: 13.12.2021
08.2021

Place : Chennai

Signature: 

Name : Dr. V. N. SRINIVASAN, IFS

Official Seal:
Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Forest Conservation Act)