SITE INSPECTION REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION OF DISTRICT FOREST OFFICER, CHENGALPATTU DIVISION, KANCHEEPURAM

This proposal is for diversion of 0.678 Ha of forest land in Mahaniyam Reserved Forests of Kancheepuram Forest Division for upgradation of Mahaniyam to Padappai road KM 0/188 -1/200. The general public has been using this route for a longtime. This road passes through 0.678 Ha of forest land in Mahaniyam RF of Sriperumbudur Range. The said area was inspected by me on 22.02.2022. Thiru.Sakthivel, Assistant Divisional Engineer, NABARD, Rural Road, Kancheepuram, Mahaniyam Panchayat President, Forest Range Officer and other subordinate staff of Sriperumbudur Range were present during the inspection.

Total area requested for diversion is 1012 mtr (length) x 3.75mtr (width) x 1.475 on either side (shoulder width) = 6780 M^2 (or) 0.678 Ha.

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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 by the user agency. Also, the requested forest stretch is in continuation of the already existing Mahaniyam – Padappai road. As per the report of the user agency the present road was constructed before 1980 and it was maintained by Rural Department and also informed that the last renewal was carried out prior to 2006 and the road is heavily damaged for the past 16 years in forest portion. Forest Range Officer, Sriperumbudur reported that on enquiry with village people, this road was formed before 1980 by the Rural Department and also reported that this road has no Right of way as per the Mahaniyam Reserved Forest notification.

Now the Divisional Engineer (H), N&RR, Chengalpattu has applied for diversion of 0.678 Ha of this forest land for upgradation of Mahaniyam to Padappai road. User agency has submitted necessary undertakings on Compensatory Afforestation expenditure, NPV, Additional Net Present Value

and lease Rent. There are 8 trees to be removed along the existing road in the forest area proposed for diversion. The road is highly essential for providing access to the people of Malaipattu, Sirumathur, Salamangalam, Padappai, Azhagur and Nariyambakkam villages. Many representations from all corners were received by the District administration and the District Collector, Kancheepuram 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 Mahaniyam RF due to the bad condition of the road in this stretch.

Taking into consideration of the above facts, the proposed diversion of 0.678 ha area in Mahaniyam Reserved Forest is **recommended**.

District Forest Officer, Chengalpattu Division, Kancheepuram.

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