

Site Inspection Report

A proposal has been submitted by the User Agency "Block Development Officer, Alangayam" through online web portal for the diversion of forest land to an extent of 3.439 hec for the formation of road from Muniranvattam to Neckanamalai (0/0 to 5/525) to a length of 5.525 kms and a width of 6 mts in Neckanamalai RF of Alangayam Range under Forest (Conservation) Act 1980. we received the confirmation on 13.08.2020. A detailed field inspection was undertaken along with the Forest Range Officer, Alangayam on 17.08.2020 in connection with the above proposal. The details of the site inspection report is furnished as below.

Background

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.

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.

Legal status of the land

The area in which the project is proposed is a Reserved forest area named as Neckanamalai 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.

Project details.

The project envisages formation of road starting from Muniranvattam, a village located beneath the hillock runs upward to the plateau on the hillock where Neknamalai 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.

SL. No	Description	Proposed area details		
		Length in mts	Width in mts	Total area in ha
1	Formation of road	5525	6	3.439
	Total			3.439

The User Agency stated that they are withdrawing online proposal (Proposal No. FP/TN/ROAD/11252/2015), since the length of 2.70 kms in the forest land is not sufficient to provide the ruling gradient, heavy vehicles and buses cannot ply in the road. Hence the user agency now submit the fresh proposal for the above said road.

Vegetation and wildlife

The Necknamalai Reserve Forest which is situated on the hillock is just 2 kms away from National Highway No 48. 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 Cymbopogon grass only. The small animals like wild boars, hares, civet cats and few species of reptiles are found on this tract. Considering the nature of the forest type and density, this forest type comes under Eco-Class IV and eco value as open forest category.

Compensatory land details.

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 and which is already notified u/s 4 of Tamilnadu Forest Act 1882 vide G.O.Ms. No. 79 E & F (FR-14) Dept. dated 23.06.17. The details are furnished below.

Total extent of land Transferred from Revenue Dept.	}	
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 Dept.	=	31.38 Ha
Area Now identified as CA by the District Collector	=	7.00 Ha

SLNo	SF No and total Extent	Extent of diverted Area proposed for CA (in Ha)	Village	Taluk	Remarks
1	416/1 - 51.83 Ha	7.00	Vinnamangalam	Ambur Tk, Tirupattur Dt.	Notified u/s 4 of Tamilnadu Forest Act 1882 vide G.O.Ms. No. 79 E & F (FR-14) Dept. dated 23.06.17

The proposed road 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 . Further this proposed project involves 130 Nos of trees (List enclosed) to be enumerated after getting prior approval from the Green tribunal.

Hence the case may be approved with usual conditions.



District Forest Officer (I/c),
Tirupattur Division,

19/8/2020 19/8/2020
8/19/8/2020