



भारतीय ताराभौतिकी संस्थान
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF ASTROPHYSICS

विज्ञान व प्रौद्योगिकी विभाग, भारत सरकार के अधीन स्वायत्त निकाय

(An Autonomous Body under Department of Science and Technology, Government of India)

II ब्लॉक Block, कोरमंगला Koramangala, बेंगलूरु Bengaluru - 560 034

No: IIA/AO/VBO/FOREST/2020-2021/2192
Dtd 09-03-2021

To
The District Forest Officer
Thirupathur District
Thirupathur - 635601

Sir,

Sub: Proposal of renewal of lease for diversion of 40 h.a of forest land for Vainu Bappu Observatory in Kavalur, Indian Institute of Astrophysics in Jawadhi hills in Thirupathur forest division in Vellore District. Proposal No FP/TN/Others/37766/2018

Reference:

- (i) Letter from DFO -C.No 9057/98D dated 18.02.2020
- (ii) PCCF Letter TS3/38268/2018 dated 24.12.2020
- (iii) MOEF&CC Letter F.No.TNC067/2020- CHN/263 dated 24.12.2020

With reference to your note and instructions received through Forest Ranger, Alangayam Range, and the following steps are taken regarding demarcation of used area:

1. The cement paths from one meter telescope to workshop and to the mess side road are removed from the used area. We will dismantle them and plant trees.
2. The used area along the road has been expanded to the full stretch including the drain canals. We have extended other spots as per the instructions. We have extended the used area to the full extent possible.

We requested for 10 acres of used area from FAC in March 2018 considering the scope for any future plans for additional research/scientific activity. We assure to coordinate with forest department to conserve and maintain the forest area, both used and unused areas.

The total demarcated used area comes to **9.36 acres**.

With reference to the subject reference (ii) PCCF Letter TS3/38268/2018 dated 24.12.2020 and (ii) MOEF&CC Letter F.No.TNC067/2020- CHN/263 dated 24.12.2020;

The justification for requirement of 100 acres area for the Vainu Bappu Observatory, Kavalur- Alangayam is given below:

The optical telescopes are used for studying the celestial bodies using the night sky. The darkness level should be extreme; this requires the telescopes to be separated by 200 to 300 meters. We now operate five main telescopes for scientific observations 2.34 meter, 1.3 meter, 1 meter, 30 inch, 16 inch telescopes and two telescopes of 14 inch and 6 inch for outreach.

The optical telescopes also need to be protected from dust. Isolation from near village neighborhood and road traffic is essential and the rest of 90 acres of forest area provides this isolation for good observing condition. The telescope should be housed in cool regions with thermal stability for avoiding atmospheric turbulence for good results. The unused forest area provides this cover and becomes very essential. The justification report submitted for renewal is also attached.

Kindly consider to renew the requested lease at the earliest.

Yours sincerely,



(Shripathi.K)
Administrative Officer
Mob No.9422970681

Encl:

- 1) Demarcated used area extracted from KML in pdf format and outline of used area.
- 2) GPS coordinates showing the demarcated used area of **9.36 acres** and recent snap shot from Vainu Bappu Telescope (VBT) showing the density.
- 3) Justification report.

Addl copy to:

- 1) The Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, (HoD)
Chennai- 600015
- 2) Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest
Vellore Circle, Vellore- 632009
- 3) Conservator of Forest, Vellore- 632009
- 4) Forest Ranger, Alangayam Range- 635701