

Tamilnadu Forest Department

From
Thiru J. C. Kala, I. F. S.,
Principal Chief Conservator of
Forests,
Panagal Building, Chennai-15.

To
The Secretary to Government,
Environment and Forests
Department,
Chennai-600 009.

Ref. No. TS3/25555/02/dated: 1.10.2003

Sir,

Sub: - Forests - Vellore District - Tirupathur Forest Dn. -
Diversion of 40 Ha. of forest land leased out to
Indian Institute of Astrophysics at Kavalur in
Javadhi hills -

Ref:- 1) Govt. of India letter No. F(C)A/11.3/26/TN/Misc./
2290, dated 24.2.03.
2) Government Lr. No. 15421/FR.10/02-9/dated 4.4.03 and
8.5.03.

.....

In response to Government of India's letter 1st cited above
the following details are furnished.

Item i and ii: In G.O. Ms. No. 1759, Food and Agriculture, dated
5.5.65 an extent of 16 Ha. of forest land in Inner Javadhi R.F.
was leased out to the Indian Institute of Astrophysical Laboratory
Kavalur for establishment of a field Astrophysical Observatory.
Subsequently an additional area of 24 Ha. of forest land in the
same R.F. was given on lease for locating the telescope vide
Government Lr. No. Memo 20872/FR. III/75-21, Forests and Fisheries
dated 13.10.1976. The Government have also fixed lease period
of 10 years for entire 40 Ha. in G.O. Ms. No. 676, Forests and
Fisheries Department, dated 21.5.1980 and the lease period had
expired in 1985.

The renewal proposal has been obtained from the user agency
and sent to Government in P.C.C.F's Ref. No. F1/89252/89/dated
4.5.91 and no orders have been received from Government. As per
directions given in the Government of India's Lr. No. FCA/11.1/17/TN
dated 15/17.6.93 the Government called for renewal proposal in the
prescribed proforma in Government letter No. 23223/FR.X/93-8,
dated 6.12.93 for getting Government of India's approval.

The user agency has sent the renewal proposal on 27.2.97
to the District Forest Officer, Thirupattur in Govt. Lr. No. 8970/
FR.XI/97-3, dated 27-3-97 instructions were issued with reference
to P.C.C.F's Ref. No. N/40161/93/dated 29.3.97 as follows.

1. Kavalur Research Station may be allowed to continue
its functioning.
2. Necessary proposal for extension of lease for
further period of 10 years may be sent to Government
urgently.

(K) with identifying Compensatory Afforestation Land. Further

The user agency was ^{asked} ~~at least~~ to identify the compensatory afforestation land for raising plantation. They have informed their inability to spare the compensatory afforestation land and payment of cost of compensatory afforestation in degraded forest lands and requested to waive the stipulated conditions since the Institution is funded by Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India. The proposals were returned to send the same after identifying compensatory afforestation land. But the user agency has not identified the compensatory afforestation land and also not furnished an undertaking for the payment of cost of compensatory afforestation.

The renewal proposal has been sent to Government in this office Ref. No. F33/25355/92/dated 6.6.92 and the proposal has been sent to Government of India in Govt. Lr. No. 15421/PL 10/92-7/dated 19.12.92 explaining the reasons for the delay in submission of proposal and waiving the cost of compensatory afforestation. The delay in sending the renewal proposal is mainly due to non-identification of compensation afforestation land and ^{not} furnishing the undertaking for the payment of cost of compensatory afforestation by the user agency.

Item iii) The density of the vegetation is more than 0.4 and less than 0.5.

Item iv) The legal status of the proposed area is reserved forest. This area has been protected by the user agency as a reserved area since it houses celestial observatory of Astrophysical observatory.

Item v) The site was inspected by the District Forest Officer as per Para 4.10 of F(C) Act 1930 rules and guidelines. There is no damage to the forest trees and also to wildlife.

The above details may be furnished to Government of India and approval may be obtained and communicated.

Yours faithfully,

(Sd.) G. Balan Sankar.

for Principal Chief Conservator of Forests.

Copy to the Conservator of Forests, Vellore. (20314/01/D1)

Copy to the District Forest Officer, Tirupathur. (No. 997/95/D1)

Copy to the Administrative Officer, Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bangalore, 34.

/True copy/By order/

Vg. Spare)

H. Q. 13/10/95
Senior Draughting Officer