

**Site inspection report of District Forest Officer, Nandyal with respect to Degraded Forest Land identified over an extent of area 70.00 ha. in compt. No.375, 376 & 377 Sirvel RF, Peddavangali Beat, D.V.Penta Section of Rudravaram Range of Nandyal Division in lieu of diversion of area 32.25 ha. of forest land for doubling and electrification of railway line between Diguvametta and Gajulapalli stations**

**Background:**

The user agency Indian Railways, South Central Railway (SCR) has applied for diversion of area 32.25 ha. of forest land for doubling and electrification of existing Guntur-Guntakal railway track between Diguvametta and Gajulapalli railway stations in Nandyal (23.04 ha.) and Giddalur (9.21 ha.) divisions.

There are two tunnels in between the Diguvametta-Gajulapalli railway stations and the area for both tunnels to be diverted is 2.99 ha. (included in 32.25 ha.). In lieu of this diversion an area of degraded forest land of 79.210 ha. extent is identified as degraded forest land (79.21 ha.) in compt. No.375, 376 & 377, Srivella Extension-III reserve forest, Peddavangali Beat of D.V.Penta Section of Rudravaram Range of Nandyal Division.

**Site Inspection:**

The site inspection was carried out on 21-04-2023 and 23-05-2023 by the undersigned along with Forest Range Officer, Rudravaram and concerned section staff. The site is located in compt. No. 375, 376 & 377, Sivel Extension-III reserve forest, Peddavangali Beat of D.V.Penta Section of Rudravaram Range. Following observations are made:-

- 1) The site quality seems to be good but canopy density is around 0.3 with several patches being fully devoid of any growth. Hence as per Forest Conservation Act guidelines, this area is acceptable as canopy density is less than 40% (0.4).
- 2) Vegetation observed in the area includes *Soymida fabrifuga* (Somi), (*Morinda citrifolia*) Maddi, Banderaaku, *Zizyphus xylopyrus* (Gottika), Neredu etc.,
- 3) A patch of the identified degraded area is completely open and Artificial Regeneration (AR) plantation can be taken up in Semi Mechanical Method (SMM).
- 4) Apart from above open patch, rest of the area is covered with bushy growth. Soil is of red gravel and AR planting can be taken up in this area with 1100 plants per hectare of tall seedlings above 2 mtr. height by providing provision of watering and protection from grazing.
- 5) The soil type is red soil and selection of suitable species and suggested species for planting include *Terminalia arjuna* (Tellamaddi), *Soymida febrifuga* (Somi), *Holoptelia integrefolia* (Nemalinara) *Mitragyna parvifolia* (Battaganepu), Rudraganepu, *Pterocarpus marsupium* (Yegisa) *Syzygium jambolanum* (Neredu) etc.,
- 6) The remaining balance seedlings if any can be planted in Rudravaram Range reserve forest adjacent to the degraded forest land identified for Compensatory Afforestation (CA) purpose.
- 7) In some patches of the CA land, there are signs of gullies being formed due to seepage water received from TGP canal nearby which can be treated by suitable leveling works and also SMC structures. Also water

- tolerant species such as *Terminalia arjuna* (Tellamaddi) etc., can be planted in such patches.
- 8) To secure the plantation area from grazing should be given top priority as natural regeneration at the site seems to be affected by grazing.
  - 9) Jungle growth clearance, uprootal of stumps, deep ploughing, weeding cum soil working, inter ploughing, fire prevention measures, soil & moisture conservation works, protection measures such as chain link fencing, etc., can also be taken up for the improvement of forest and protection of land identified for Compensatory Afforestation (CA).
  - 10) Scientific and research monitoring and biodiversity assessment can be taken up periodically to assess the flora, fauna and its improvement over the Compensatory Afforestation (CA) land and surrounding area. The area is significant in terms of its proximity to area having good wild animal population such as of spotted deers, wild boars, Leopards etc.,

Further a Compensatory Afforestation (CA) scheme of 70.00 ha. Prepared and necessary approval is accorded.

The area of 79.21 ha. is authenticated by Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, AP, Guntur vide Rc.No. EFS02-17/41/2021-IT dated 24-05-2023.

Further the Compensatory Afforestation (CA) land identified under this project does not overlap in the Compensatory Afforestation (CA) land identified for other projects. The Compensatory Afforestation area (CA) area should be raised under Artificial Regeneration (AR) and maintained upto 10 years to ensure good results.



Name: **Vineet Kumar, IFS.,**  
Designation: District Forest Officer, Nandyal

Signature: