

2. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests has reported that the total forest area required for the road Polur-Alangayan Km. 9/4 to Km. 14/825 is 6.68 ha. For the detour portion of Alangayan road branching at Km. 14/825 and joining at Km. 15/6 the forest area required is 1.80 ha. Thus the total area worked out to 8.48 ha. By way of compensatory afforestation, the Highways Department has already identified 30.25 ha. of non-forest land in Survey No. 478, Virupakshipuran village Vellore Taluk and that area is continuous to Palanalai Reserved Forest. The area identified by the Highways Department for compensatory afforestation is more than double the forest area proposed to be diverted. The cost of compensatory afforestation is Rs. 4.82 lakhs. Since large scale felling of trees is involved in forming the road Km. 14/825 and joining at Km. 15/6, Rs. 2,07,600/- may be collected from the Highways Department. The Highways Department while requesting to collect the selling stone, broken stone, etc. required for the formation of the road from the nearby Forest area has not furnished the extent of area required and has not identified any particular area for collection. The Forest Department has no objections if stones are collected within the proposed width of the road. But the collection of the stones outside the width of the road, and to Mining for which separate authorisation and permission from Government of India has to be obtained. Hence, the Highways Department may be requested to collect the stones and other material required for the formation of the road from outside the Reserved Forest. The Highways Department on completion, will have to hand over the roads back to the Forest Department. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests has sent necessary proposal under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for forwarding to the Government of India for obtaining their concurrence for the diversion of forest land 8.48 ha. (6.68 ha. + 1.80 ha.) to the Highways Department.

3. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests has, therefore requested that the Government of India may be moved obtaining their concurrence for the diversion of the forest land to the Highways Department for the improvement of the road from Polur to top of Jawadhu Hills and on to Alangayan in North Arc District subject to the compliance of the following by the Public Works Department:-

- i) to surrender 30.25 ha. of non-forest land identified in Survey No. 478, Virupakshipuran village, Vellore Taluk to Forest Department.
- ii) to pay compensatory afforestation cost of Rs. 4.82 lakhs; and
- iii) to pay Rs. 2,07,600/- by way of loss to the Forest Department for the proposed large scale felling of 447 trees.

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