

has reported. The proposal was forwarded to Government of India, Ministry of Environment and Forests with necessary proforma, maps etc. for conveying their concurrence.

area works. 4. The Government of India, Ministry of Environment and Forests in their letter 9th read above have now conveyed their approval under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for the diversion of 8.48 ha. of forest land for the improvement of Ghat Road from Polur to Top of Jawadhu Hills in North Arcot District subject to certain conditions.

large scale. 5. The Government accordingly direct that an extent of 6.68 ha. of forest land be diverted for the improvement of the road from Polur to Alangayam Km. 9/4 to Km. 14/825 and 1.80 ha. for the detour portion of Polur-Alangayam road branching at Km. 14/825 and joining at Km. 15/6 to the Highways Department for the improvement of the road from Polur to top of Jawadhu Hills and on objections to Alangayam subject to the following conditions:-

- i) The legal status of the forest land will remain unchanged.
- ii) Planting of trees to be undertaken on both sides of the road.
- iii) Compensatory afforestation to be raised on 30.25 ha. of non-forest land at the cost of the project identified for this purpose should be handed over to the Forest department and notified as protected forests before the release of forest lands being diverted by these orders.
- iv) In order that the construction labour and staff while working on the project in the forest area may not cause destruction to the forest area for meeting their fuelwood needs, the user agency will establish fuelwood depots, and will provide the fuelwood to them free of cost.
- v) The abandoned stretch of the road after realignment shall be surrendered to the Forest Department and declared a part of the reserved forest.
- vi) Public Works Department shall have to pay Rs. 4.82 lakhs to Forest Department for compensatory afforestation.
- vii) Public Works Department shall have to pay Rs. 2,07,600/- by way of loss to Forest Department for the proposed felling of 447 trees.

The Highways Department is requested to collect stones and other