



**ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE
& FOREST(FR.10) DEPARTMENT,
SECRETARIAT, CHENNAI-9.**

Letter No: 22802/FR.10/2021-1, dated. 09.02.2022

From
Tmt.Supriya Sahu, IAS.,
Additional Chief Secretary to Government.

✓ To
The Additional Director General of Forests (Central),
Government of India,
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change,
Integrated Regional Office,
1st Floor, Additional Office Block for GPOA,
Shastri Bhawan, Haddows Road,
Nungambakkam, Chennai-600 006 (w.e).

Sir,

Sub: Forests - Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 – KMTR, Tirunelveli
Circle/ Thoothukudi Division - Diversion of 0.42 ha for
providing basic amenities to the pilgrimage visit the Arulmigu
Malaiyandi Sastha Ayyanarkoil in Thoothukkudi District –
Regarding.

Ref: From Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Letter
No:TS4/24647/2019, dated: 17.12.2021.

I am directed to enclose a copy of the reference cited and to state that the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests has stated that the District Forest Officer, Thoothukudi has uploaded the Form A Part-II with the field inspection notes dated: 10.06.2021 and given details as follows:-

- 1) In Section 4(i) Density of Vegetation, the density of forest has been mentioned as 0.33 and the Eco-Class as 4.
- 2) In section 4(ii) Species wise local/ scientific names and girth wise enumeration of trees at forest land, there are 13 Nos of miscellaneous trees in 0-30 cm girth (the details of trees are (i) (Viruvattai - Dalbergia coromendaliana – 6 Nos (ii) Otta llanthai - Zizyphus xylopyrus – 3 Nos. (iii) Mulkiluvai - Commiphora berryi - 4 Nos.)
- 3) The approximate distance of the proposed forest land from the boundary of Forest is 0.818 km.
- 4) The details of wildlife present in and around the proposed forest land is Spotted Deer, Hedgehog, Pangolin, Mongoose, Blacknaped Hare, Python, Cobra, Common Sand Boa, Rat Snake, Peacock and Grey Francolin.

2. The District Forest Officer, Thoothukudi has inspected the area proposed by the User Agency on 10.06.2021 and stated that the forest type according to Champion Seth's classification is 'Type 6ADSI Southern Thorn Scrub' and the movement of wildlife in the proposed area is minimal as the altitude of the area is 110-m above mean sea level. The existing 13 Nos., of tree species are in stunted growth stage. The work will be carried out by the User Agency without any further damage to the forest area and wildlife and hence recommended.

3. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forest has also stated that the Conservator of Forests, Tirunelveli Circle has inspected the proposed project area on 29.06.2021 along with District Forest Officer, Thoothukudi and agreed with the recommendations of the District Forest Officer, Thoothukudi and stated that the proposed diversion area of 0.42 ha is Reserved Forest area, adjacent to the temple and the purpose for which the diversion is to construct amenities for pilgrimage. The forest type according to Champion Seth's classification is 'Type 6ADSI Southern Thorn Scrub' and the movement of wildlife in the proposed area is minimal as the altitude of the area is 110-m above mean sea level. The existing 13 Nos., of tree species are in stunted growth stage and all are planted trees only. The work will be carried out by the User Agency without any further damage to the forest area and wildlife and hence recommended.

4. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forest has sent this proposal duly recommended in the Part-IV of Form-A by the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (FCA)/ Nodal Officer (Forest Conservation Act).

5. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests has recommended the proposal for diversion of 0.42 ha of forest land for providing basic amenities to the pilgrimage of Arulmigu Malaiyandi Sastha Ayyanarkoil in Saikulam West Reserved Forest in Thoothukkudi District, in favour of the Secretary, Arulmigu Malaiyandi Sastha Ayyanarkoil, Thoothukudi, for a period of 20 years, under Section-2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, subject to the following conditions and requested to obtain necessary approval from Government of India:-

- 1) The legal status of the land shall remain unchanged and shall remain as Reserved Forest.
- 2) Felling of trees of spontaneous origin shall not be carried out. User Agency shall furnish an undertaking to this effect.
- 3) The demarcation of the proposed forest area shall be carried out by erecting 4 feet height cement concrete pillars duly numbered at an interval of 20 mts at the cost of User Agency.
- 4) The User Agency shall pay the Net Present Value of the diverted forest area at the rates stipulated by the Ministry of Environment and Forests from time to time, as per the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court Order dated 28.03.2008 and 09.05.2008 in IA Nos.826 in 566 with related IAs in Writ Petition (Civil) No.202/1995.
- 5) The Additional amount of the Net Present Value (NPV) of the diverted forestland if any, becoming due after revision of the same by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in future shall be charged by the State Government from the User Agency. The User Agency shall furnish an undertaking to the effect.
- 6) The User Agency shall remit Compensatory Afforestation amount as demanded by the Forest Department.

- 7) The land for Compensatory Afforestation is identified in the same Reserved Forest namely Saikulam West Reserved Forest to an area of 0.84 ha and the User Agency shall pay the Compensatory Afforestation cost as per the demand raised by the Forest Department as per prevailing rate.
- 8) The User Agency shall pay the Net Present Value (NPV) and Compensatory Afforestation cost by generating challan from the Ministry's online web portal. UTR Number and date should be furnished.
- 9) The Additional amount of the Net Present Value (NPV) of the diverted forest land if any, becoming due after revision of the same by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in future shall be charged by the State Government from the User Agency. The User Agency shall furnish an undertaking to the effect.
- 10) The User Agency shall be responsible for any loss to Flora and Fauna in the surroundings and shall take all possible measures to conserve the same.
- 11) The forest land shall not be used for any other purpose other than that specified in the proposal.
- 12) The lease rent should be realized from the User Agency as per G.O.(Ms).No.272, E&F (FR.XIII) Dept. dated 15.04.1991.
- 13) The District Forest Officer may impose any other condition in the interest of conservation/protection/ land development of forests.

6. The Government have examined the proposal of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Dept) for diversion of 0.42 ha of forest land for providing basic amenities to the pilgrimage of Arulmigu Malaiyandi Sastha Ayyanarkoil in Saikulam West Reserved Forest in Thoothukkudi District, in favour of the Secretary, Arulmigu Malaiyandi Sastha Ayyanarkoil, Thoothukudi, for a period of 20 years, under Section-2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and decided to forward the same to Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India for concurrence.

7. I am, therefore, directed to request you to kindly obtain the concurrence of the Competent Authority and communicate the same to this Government, early.

Yours faithfully

S. Mohamed Yousuf 10/12/2022
for Additional Chief Secretary to Government
10.2.22

Copy to:-

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Head of Department),

Chennai-15.

The Secretary,
Arulmigu Malaiyandi Sastha Ayyanarkoil,
Thoothukudi-628 401.

PART – V

(To be filled in by the Secretary in charge of Forest Department or by any other authorized officer of the State Government not below the rank of an Under Secretary)

Proposal for diversion of 0.42 ha of forest land for providing basic amenities to the pilgrimage of Arulmigu Malaiyandi Sastha Ayyanarkoil in Saikulam West Reserved Forest in Thoothukkudi District, in favour of the Secretary, Arulmigu Malaiyandi Sastha Ayyanarkoil, Thoothukudi, for a period of 20 years, under Section-2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

18. Recommendation of the State Government

(Adverse comments made by any officer or authority in Part-B or Part – C or Part – D above should be specifically commented upon)

Recommended.

U. Viswanathan
10/2/22

Signature

Name & Designation
(Official Seal)

Date : 10.02.2022

Place : Chennai-9

(U-VISWANATHAN)

**Joint Secretary to Government
Environment, Climate Change
and Forest Department
Secretariat, Chennai-9.**