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**ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS(FR.10)  
DEPARTMENT, SECRETARIAT,  
CHENNAI 9.**

**Letter No.10296/FR-10/2016- 2, Dated:16.08.2016**

From  
Thiru. Atulya Misra, I.A.S.,  
Principal Secretary to Government.

To  
✓ The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Central),  
Government of India,  
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change,  
Regional Office(Southern Eastern Zone),  
1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, HEPC Building,  
No.34, Cathedral Garden Road,  
Nungambakkam,  
Chennai- 600 034. (w.e.)

Sir,

Sub: Forests – Diversion of 0.528 ha of forest land in Gramam Reserve Forests in Villupuram Forest Division in favour of the Divisional Engineer(Highways), NABARD & Rural Roads Division, Cuddalore for construction of Highlevel Bridge – under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 - Requested – Regarding.

Ref: From the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests letter No.TS3/20703/2015, dated 11.06.2016.

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I am directed to state that the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests has sent a proposal for diversion of 0.528 ha. of forest land in Gramam Reserve Forest land in Villupuram Forest Division for construction of bridge at Km 0/4 of Kooranur road across Malattar River in Villupuram District in favour of Divisional Engineer (Highways), NABARD and Rural Roads Division, Cuddalore under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation)Act, 1980.

2. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests has stated that the Divisional Engineer (Highways), NABARD and Rural Roads Division, Cuddalore has submitted online application under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in the prescribed format of Form A - Part I for the diversion of 0.528 ha. of forest land in Gramam RF of Villupuram Forest Division for construction of bridge at Km. 0/4 of Kooranur Road across Malattar River in Villupuram District and the User Agency (i.e. Divisional Engineer (Highways), NABARD and Rural Roads Division, Cuddalore) has requested for diversion of forest area for a period of 99 years.

(P.T.O..)



3. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests has further informed that the User Agency (i.e. Divisional Engineer (Highways), NABARD and Rural Roads Division, Cuddalore) has stated that the proposed bridge construction site is located in Gramam Reserve Forest area in Villupuram Forest Division of Villupuram District. The site is located at Km 0/4 of Kooranur road (Other District Roads) which has been maintained by Tamil Nadu Highways Department (Kallakuruchi Highways Construction and Maintenance Division). The Kooranur Road is started at Km 42/2 of Cuddalore Tiirukovilur – Sankarapuram Road (SH-68) and that road originates at Gramam Village and passes through Thenmangalam Village and ends at Kooranur village. The site is just 17 km from Villupuram town and at present, there has been a bed level causeway which is having a length of 106 km and to a width of 7.00m. The road work has been administratively sanctioned by the Government of Tamil Nadu vide G.O. Ms No. 22, Highways (HW-I) and Minor Ports Department, dated 20.02.2015. During rainy season, village public and school going children at Kooranur, Thenmangalam and Gramam find very difficult, since flood water crosses the causeway at an height of 2.50m for more than one month. Hence, it is absolutely necessary to construct a high level bridge at this location.

Extent of forest land need to be diverted is as follows:-

i)	Permanent diversion (Bridge & approach) - 240m x 12.0m	= 0.288 ha
ii)	Temporary diversion (diversion road) - 240m x 10.0m	= 0.240 ha
	<b>Total</b>	<b>= 0.528 ha</b>

4. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests has further informed that the User Agency, Viz., Divisional Engineer, Highways Department, NABARD & Rural Roads Division, Cuddalore has submitted online application under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for Diversion of 0.528 ha of forest land for non forestry purpose in Gramam Reserve Forests in Villupuram Forest Division in favour of the Divisional Engineer(Highways), NABARD & Rural Roads Division, Cuddalore, for diversion of forest area in the Online submission and monitoring of Forest Clearances proposal (OSMFCP). The User Agency has requested diversion of forest area for a period of 99 years. The User Agency (i.e. Divisional Engineer, Highways Department, NABARD and Rural Roads Division, Cuddalore has submitted the required details / undertakings along with the proposal.

5. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests has further stated that after getting additional essential details from the User Agency, the proposal was forwarded to the DFO, Villupuram Division. After field inspection, the DFO, Villupuram Division and has forwarded the said proposal and the DFO has reported that the proposed site (Gramam RF) has been inspected on 04.02.2016 and In the Part-II of Form-A, the District Forest Officer has furnished the following particulars:-

The District Forest Officer has reported that, density of the forest area is zero and Eco class is four. The forest area proposed for diversion not forms part of National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant corridor, Wildlife migration corridor etc., and not located within 1 km from boundary of the above. There is any rare / endangered / unique species of flora and fauna found in the area. There is no protected archaeological / heritage site / defense establishment or any

(P.T.O.)



other important monument is located in the area. Requirement of forest land as proposed by the User Agency is unavoidable and bare minimum for the project and no work in violation of the Act or guidelines has been carried out. The District Forest Officer has reported that, there is one tree at the south west boundary of the road and falls within the proposed area. The User Agency informed that, felling of tree does not arise. and the project aims at constructing a bridge on the existing cause way to permit uninterrupted communication and transportation to the public of Kooranur, Thenmangalam and Gramam villages and also there is no violation of Forest(Conservation) Act, 1980, the proposal is recommended for acceptance. The District Forest Officer has recommended for period of diversion of forest area for 20 years.

6. The Conservator of Forests, Villupuram Circle after field inspection of the site, recommended the proposal for acceptance for the reason of uninterrupted communication and transportation to the public of Kooranur, Thenmangalam and Gramam villages. **As per Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 guidelines under Compensatory Afforestation, no compensatory afforestation shall be insisted for proposals involving diversion of forest land upto one hectare. However, in such cases, plantation of ten times of trees likely to be felled will have to be carried out by way of compensatory afforestation or any number of trees specified in the order.**

7. It has also been reported that in this proposal, forest area diversion has been proposed for 0.528 ha (in this 0.288 for permanent diversion and 0.254 ha for temporary diversion for approach road during bridge construction period and after that likely for dismantling) and felling of tree (only one tree available in the area and proposed to be retained without felling) not involved for the project, compensatory afforestation has not been insisted.

8. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests has stated that the Government to accord approval for diversion of forest land less than one hectare in each case for non forestry purposes under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, for creation of critical development and security related infrastructure of Government Departments under the general approval of Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 guidelines issued in F. o. 11-9/98-FC dated 3.01.2005 and the period has been extended till 2018 in Government of India letter dated 13.02.2014. Construction/widening of road including approach roads to road side establishment is one of the items allowed under general approval category. Diversion of 0.528 ha of forest land in Gramam RF in Villupuram Division for construction of bridge at Km 0/4 of Kooranur Road across Malattar River in Villupuram District item work, comes under the above category.

9. The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Forest Conservation Act) and the Nodal Officer of the Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests has recommended the proposal in Part IV of the format proposal.

10. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests has therefore forwarded the proposal for diversion of 0.528 ha. of forest land in Gramam Reserve Forests of Villupuram Forest Division for construction of bridge of Km 0/4. of Kooranur Road across Malattar River in Villupuram District in favour of Divisional Engineer, Highways Department, NABARD & Rural Roads Division, Cuddalore under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 to Government for obtaining the concurrence of the Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change.

(P.T.O.)



11. The Government have examined the proposal of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests(Head of the Department) for diversion of 0.528 ha. of forest land in Gramam Reserve Forest land in Villupuram Forest Division for construction of bridge at Km 0/4 of Kooranur road across Malattar River in Villupuram District in favour of Divisional Engineer (Highways), NABARD and Rural Roads Division, Cuddalore under Section 2 of Forest Conservation Act, 1980 and decided to forward the same to the Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, for its concurrence and thereby directed to request you to kindly obtain the concurrence of the Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change and communicate the same to Government, early.

Yours faithfully,

*Amarnath* 17/8/16  
for Principal Secretary to Government

**Copy to:**

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests(HoD),  
Chennai-15.

The Divisional Engineer (Highways),  
NABARD and Rural Roads Division,  
Cuddalore.

The Highways and Minor Ports Department, Chennai-9.

The Senior Private Secretary to Principal Secretary to Government,  
Environment and Forests Department , Chennai-9.

SC.

**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)

18. Recommendation of the State Government

*Recommended*

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

*G. Selvarasu*

Signature

*(G. SELVARASU)*

Name

Deputy Secretary to Government  
Environment and Forests Department  
Official Seal  
Secretariat, Chennai-600 009

