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

Letter No.20642 / FR.10 / 2018-1, Dated: 04.01.2019

From  
Thiru. Shambu Kallollikar, 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 (South Eastern Zone),  
1 & 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, HEPC Building,  
No.34, Cathedral Garden Road,  
Nungambakkam, Chennai-34 (w.e)

Sir,

Sub: Forests - Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 – Salem Circle –  
Namakkal Forest Division - Proposal for diversion of 2.71 ha of  
forest land in Pudupatti RF for formation of road from Pudupatti  
to Kedamalai - km 0/0 to 11/375 through Pudupatti RF of  
Namakkal Division in favour of DRDA, Namakkal, Namakkal  
District - Regarding.

Ref: From the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Letter  
C.No.TS3/10139/2017, dated 24.10.2018.

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I am directed to state that the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests has sent a proposal for diversion of 2.71 ha of forest land in Pudupatti RF for formation of road from Pudupatti to Kedamalai km 0/0 to 11/375 through Pudupatti RF of Namakkal Forest Division in Namakkal District in favour of Block Development Officer, Vennanthur Union, Vennanthur, Namakkal District under section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

2. The District Forest Officer, Namakkal Division has furnished the following particulars:-

i) The legal status of the proposed site for diversion of 2.71 ha of land for formation of road from Pudupatti to Kedamalai in Namakkal Forest Division in Namakkal District is 'Reserved Forests'.

ii) Density of the forest area is 0.25 and Eco class three.

iii) On vulnerability of the forest area to erosion, the area proposed for diversion has very lesser degree of erosion, where ever small streams are passing through.

iv) The forest area proposed for diversion does not form part of National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant corridor, Wildlife migration corridor etc., not located within 1 km boundary of NP/WLs etc., and not located within the eco-sensitive zone of the protected area notified under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

v) There is no rare / endangered / unique species of flora and fauna found in the area. Wild pig, Hares, few reptiles, foxes, Peafowls and few avifauna species are found in the proposed forest area.

vi) There is no protected archaeological / heritage site / defense establishment or any other important monument is located in the area.

vii) 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.

viii) There are 102 numbers of spontaneously grown trees existing in the proposed diversion area, which are required to be felled before taking up the project.

ix) Proposed Compensatory Afforestation scheme at a cost of Rs. 57,63,000/- in the identified 5.65 ha of non-forest area.

x) As against the diversion of 2.71 ha of forest land for formation of new road in Pudupatti RF of Rasipuram Taluk in Namakkal District, Compensatory afforestation scheme has been proposed for 5.65 ha in the identified non forest land in S.F. No. 324/1 of Mangalapuram village of Rasipuram Taluk in Namakkal District.

xi) The site suitability certificate for the identified non forest land for compensatory afforestation is suitable for plantation and it is also approachable and manageable and protection point of view.

3. Specific recommendation for acceptance of the proposal furnished by the District Forest Officer is as follows:-

(i) The approach road from Pudupatti to Kedamalai tribal village through Pudupatti RF has an admitted right of way to a width of 4 yards and to a length of three miles and 2 furlongs (5230.367 m) as specified under Section 16 notification of Pudupatti RF. The possibility of forming road in the existing right of way is very difficult due to steep terrain. Therefore a new alignment has been proposed by following the admissible gradient for road formation for easy movement of vehicles.

(ii) There are 102 number of spontaneously grown trees existing in the proposed diversion area, which are required to be felled before taking up of the project.

(iii) By laying road from Pudupatti to Kidamalai village, nearly 550 tribal people will get connectivity and also they will get other basic amenities like health care & education facilities. The proposed formation of road from Pudupatti to Kedamalai will enable the tribal villagers to get their basic amenities like anganwadi Centre and hospital in future.

4. The Chief Conservator of Forests, Salem Circle has inspected the site on 24.09.2018 and stated that the user agency has proposed to form the road from Pudupatti to Kedamalai village of distance of 11.375 km. Out of which,



the reach of 2/900 to 7/600 (4.700km) falls in Pudupatti RF. The total area of 2.71 ha was calculated as per the area surveyed with a minimum width of 4.50m and considering the importance of road connectivity to the hill top tribal village, he has recommended the proposal.

5. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests has stated that, the User Agency has requested forest area diversion for a period of 999 years. The District Forest Officer, Namakkal Division has not specified the period of diversion. The Chief Conservator of Forests, Salem Circle has recommended the forest area diversion for a period of 25 years.

6. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests has recommended the proposal for diversion of 2.71 ha of forest land in Pudupatti RF for formation of road from Pudupatti to Kedamalai km 0/0 to 11/375 through Pudupatti RF of Namakkal Forest Division, Namakkal District in favour of Block Development Officer, Vennanthur Union, Namakkal District under section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for a period of 25 years, subject to the following conditions:-

- a) The legal status of the diverted forest land remains unchanged.
- b) The demarcation of the proposed forest land shall be carried out by the User Agency by erecting 4 feet high cement concrete pillars duly numbered at an interval of 20 meters at their cost.
- c) The User Agency has to transfer and mutate double the extent of non-forest land identified in S. No. 324/1 of Mangalapuram village of Rasipuram Taluk, in Namakkal District to the Forest Department.
- d) The User Agency has to demarcate the non-forest area proposed for Compensatory Afforestation and hand over the land to the Forest Department.
- e) The User Agency has to pay the cost of Raising Compensatory Afforestation / Maintenance of plantation, protection of plantation etc., as fixed by the Forest Department and willingness to deposit additional amounts if any suggested as amended owing to the change in planting technique, enhancement in the FSR etc., demanded subsequently.
- f) The User Agency has to pay the amount of Net Present Value which will be fixed as per the guidelines of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.
- g) The User Agency has to bear the additional amount of Net Present Value which will be fixed as per the guidelines of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India as fixed by Forest Department in future.
- h) The User Agency has to pay the cost towards lease rent as fixed by the Forest Department at the time of sanction along with any escalation for the forest land to be diverted of the above project in future for the entire project period.
- i) The User Agency has to obtain orders from the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India for felling of 102 numbers of Spontaneously grown trees which are required to be felled before taking up the project.

- j) Period of lease can be twenty five (25) years. The User Agency has to apply renewal proposal before six months of expiry of lease with the State Forest Department.

7. The Government have examined the proposal of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoD) for diversion of 2.71 ha of forest land in Pudupatti RF for formation of road from Pudupatti to Kedamalai km 0/0 to 11/375 through Pudupatti RF of Namakkal Forest Division, Namakkal District in favour of Block Development Officer, Vennanthur Union, Namakkal District for a period of 25 years, under section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and have decided to accept and forward the same to Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change.

8. I am therefore 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 the Government early.

Yours faithfully,

*S. Mohamed Yusuf* 4/11/2019  
for Principal Secretary to Government.

*54*  
*4/11/19*

Copy to:-

- ✓ The PCCF (Head of Department)  
Chennai-15.

The Block Development Officer,  
Vennandur Union,  
Vennandur,  
Namakkal District.

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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)

Diversion of 2.71 ha of forest land in Pudupatti RF for formation of road from Pudupatti to Kedamalai km 0/0 to 11/375 through Pudupatti RF of Namakkal Forest Division, Namakkal District in favour of Block Development Officer, Vennanthur Union, Namakkal District. *for a period of 25 years.*

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.*

*Gen. Secy to Govt*  
Signature *4/1/19*

Name & Designation  
(Official Seal)

Date : .01.2019

Place : Chennai-9.

[*N. SATHISH KUMAR*]