



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

Letter No. 6861/FR.10/2020-1, Dated: 20.07.2020

From
Dr. Sandeep Saxena, I.A.S.,
Additional Chief Secretary to Government

To
✓ The Additional Director General of Forests (Central),
Government of India,
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change,
Regional Office (South Eastern Zone),
1st & 2nd Floor, HEPC Building,
No.34, Cathedral Garden Road,
Nungambakkam, Chennai-34. (w.e.)

Sir,

Sub: Forests - Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 – Villupuram Circle
/ Division – Diversion of 16.00 ha. of forest land in
Koonimedu Reserved Land for setting up desalination plant
at Koonimedu village for CWSS in Villupuram District – in
favour of Executive Engineer, TWAD Board, Kallakurichi
District – Regarding.

Ref: From the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF),
Chennai Letter No.TS3/61585/2019, dated 27.05.2020.

I am directed to state that the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests in his letter cited has stated that the User Agency, (i.e.) the Executive Engineer, Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board, Villupuram District has uploaded online application under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 16.00 ha. of forest area in Koonimedu Reserved Land in Villupuram Forest Division for setting up of desalination plant at Koonimedu village for combined water supply scheme to Villupuram and Tindivanam Municipalities, 2 town panchayats, 692 rural habitations in 5 unions and Govt. Medical College and Hospital at Mundiypakkam in Villupuram District. The User Agency has uploaded necessary documents, Certificates and Undertakings in the Online Submission and Monitoring of Forests Clearances Proposal (OSMFCP) portal.

2. The District Collector, Villupuram has certified that there is no alternate suitable non forest land available for the project. He has also given the certificate on completion of the process for settlement of rights under Forest Rights Act, 2006.

3. The District Forest Officer, Villupuram Division has stated that the legal status of the proposed site of diversion of 16.00 ha of forest land requested for the project is area notified under Section 4 of the Tamil Nadu Forest Act, 1882. He has inspected the site on 06.12.2019 and 23.03.2020 and reported that the name of the forest land is "Koonimedu Forest Block Reserved land" and extent of area proposed for diversion is 16.00 ha. The density of the forest area is 0.7 and Eco class of forest area is five. The area is having 2092 number of planted trees mainly consisting of casurina and palmyrah trees. The District Forest Officer has further reported that on vulnerability of the forest land proposed for diversion, the area proposed for diversion is adjoining the sea. The area is plain and soil has high sand content. Hence there is possibility of erosion by sea. 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., and not located within 1 km boundary of National Park / Wildlife Sanctuary, etc. for the forest land proposed for diversion and not located within the eco-sensitive zone of the protected area notified under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. No major wildlife sighting has been there in the area and there is no rare/ endangered/unique species of flora and fauna found in the area. There is no protected archaeological/ heritage site/ defense establishment or any 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 user agency has identified 32.00 ha. of non-forest area as compensatory land in Karattai village (11.055 ha identified effective area) and Kattalai village (21.415 ha identified effective area) villages in Villupuram District in lieu of diversion of 16.00 ha of forest land. The District Forest Officer, Villupuram Division has proposed compensatory afforestation scheme with maintenance of plantation over a period of 10 years with escalation of wage rate for a financial out lay of Rs.5,82,85,431/- (Rs.17,95,055/- per ha).

4. The District Forest Officer has further reported that the compensatory land proposed by the user agency has been inspected on 21.03.2020 and found that the area is suitable to raise mixed species plantation as compensatory afforestation. In the specific recommendation, the District Forest Officer has stated that no protected area is located in the vicinity of the project area and the proposed area also does not form part of any eco-sensitive zone. Hence, because of the essential requirement of drinking water for Villupuram District and technical suitability of the proposed location for setting up of a desalination plant, the District Forest Officer has recommended the project subject to the acceptance of Compensatory Afforestation Scheme.

5. The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Vellore Circle and Conservator of Forests (i/c), Villupuram Circle has inspected the area on 04.05.2020 and has stated that the area is having 2092 nos. of planted trees mainly consisting of casurina and palmyrah trees. As per the proposal submitted by the TWAD Board, this area and the nearby areas have been studied and after investigation, it was found that this particular area is fulfilling technical requirements like close proximity to sea shore, suitable depth of sea bed, optimum tide levels and related marine parameters. Villupuram District has major problems of water scarcity and the project is essential to

keep up with the drinking water requirements of Villupuram District. Because of the essential requirements of drinking water for Villupuram district and technical suitability of the proposed location for setting up of a desalination plant, he has recommended the project. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden and Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (i/c) (F(C) Act) / Nodal Officer, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has also recommended the project.

6. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests has recommended the proposal for diversion of 16.00 ha. of forest area in Koonimedu Reserved Land in Villupuram Forest Division for setting up desalination plant at Koonimedu village for combined water supply scheme to Villupuram and Tindivanam Municipalities, 2 town panchayats, 692 rural habitations in 5 unions and Govt. Medical College and Hospital at Mundiypakkam in Villupuram District in favour of Executive Engineer, TWAD Board, Villupuram District for a period of thirty years, subject to the following conditions and requested to forward the proposal to Government of India for approval:-

- 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 fence, mutate and transfer double the extent of non-forest land identified in 5/1,2,3, 7/1, 8/1,2, 12, 36/1, 37/1 of Kattalai Village (21.415 ha) and SF No. 108, 109/1,2, 119, 120/1,2, 127, 128/1,2, 135, 136/1,2 & 146 of Karattai village (11.055 ha) of Villupuram District to the Forest Department.
- d) 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.
- e) 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.
- f) 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.
- g) 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.
- h) The total forest area utilized for the project shall not exceed 16.00 ha.
- i) Period of lease can be thirty (30) years. The User Agency has to apply renewal proposal before one year of expiry of lease with the State Forest Department.

7. The Government have carefully examined the proposal of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests for diversion of 16.00 ha. of forest area in Koonimedu Reserved Land in Villupuram Forest Division for setting up desalination plant at Koonimedu village for combined water supply scheme to Villupuram and Tindivanam Municipalities, 2 town panchayats, 692 rural habitations in 5 unions and Govt. Medical College and Hospital at Mundiypakkam in Villupuram District for a period of thirty years in favour of the User Agency (i.e.) Executive Engineer, Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board, Villupuram District and decided to forward the same. I am, therefore, 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 this Government, early.

Yours faithfully,

[Signature]
20/07/2020

for Additional Chief Secretary to Government
[Signature]

Copy to:

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Chennai-15.
The Executive Engineer,
Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board, P.F. Division,
No.3, GST Road, Tindivanam P.O.
Villupuram District -604 001.

PART - V

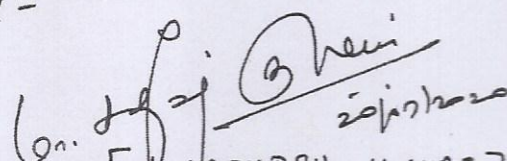
(To be filled in by the Secretary in charge of Forest Department or by any other authorized officer of the State Government not below the rank of an Under Secretary)

Proposal for diversion of 16.00 ha. of forest land in Koonimedu Reserved Land in Villupuram Forest Division for Setting up desalination plant at Koonimedu village for combined water supply scheme to Villupuram and Tindivanam Municipalities, 2 town panchayats, 692 rural habitations in 5 unions and Govt. Medical College and Hospital at Mundiypakkam in Villupuram District for a period of thirty years in favour of the User Agency (i.e.) Executive Engineer, TWAD Board, Villupuram District 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 -

6. 
[N. SATHISH KUMAR]
Signature

Name & Designation
(Official Seal)

Under Secretary to Government
Environment & Forest Department
Secretariat, Chennai-600 009

Date : 20.07.2020

Place : Chennai-9.

C.NO. 6861 / FR10/2020

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02 JUN 2020

By online / Email.

TAMILNADU FOREST DEPARTMENT

From

To

Dr. P. Durairasu, I.F.S.,
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,
(Head of Forest Department)
Panagal Maaligai, Saidapet,
Chennai - 15.

The Principal Secretary to Government,
Environment and Forests Department,
Secretariat,
Chennai 9.

C. No. TS3/61585/2019 Dated: 27.05.2020.

Sir,

Sub: Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 – Villupuram Circle/ Villupuram Forest Division – Diversion of 16.00 ha of forest area in Koonimedi Reserved Land in Villupuram Forest Division for Setting up desalination plant at Koonimedu village for combined water supply scheme to Villupuram and Tindivanam Municipalities, 2 town panchayats, 692 rural habitations in 5 unions and Govt. Medical College and Hospital at Mundiyaipakkam in Villupuram District in favour of Executive Engineer, TWAD Board, RWS Division, Kallakuruchi, Kallakuruchi District - Regarding.

Ref: 1. Online application uploaded by the User Agency - Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board represented by Executive Engineer, TWAD Board, P.F. Division. No. 3, GST Road, Tindivanam PO, Villupuram District Pin code 604001 -- Proposal No. FP/TN/Water/42977/2019, dated 27.12.2019 and resubmission of proposal on 04.02.2020 & 17.02.2020

2. Executive Engineer, TWAD Board, RWS Division, Kallakuruchi, Kallakuruchi District Lr Mo. 2201/F.DSP/DO/PF/KKI/2020/22.02.2020

3. Part-II of Form-A uploaded by the District Forest Officer, Villupuram Division on 10.04.2020 and EDS reply dated 26.05.2020

4. Part-III of Form-A uploaded by the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Vellore Circle and Conservator of Forests (i/c), Villupuram Circle on 05.05.2020.

I wish to state that the Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board represented by Executive Engineer, TWAD Board, P.F. Division. No. 3, GST

Road, Tindivanam PO, Villupuram District has uploaded online application under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for Diversion of 16.00 ha of forest area in Koonimedi Reserved Land in Villupuram Forest Division for Setting up desalination plant at Koonimedu village for combined water supply scheme to Villupuram and Tindivanam Municipalities, 2 town panchayats, 692 rural habitations in 5 unions and Govt. Medical College and Hospital at Mündiyapakkam in Villupuram District under proposal No. FP/TN/Water/ 42977/2019.

Subsequently, the Executive Engineer, TWAD Board, RWS Division, Kallakuruchi, Kallakuruchi District in his letter 2nd cited above has reported that the P.F Division, Tindivanam has been redeployed and formed as RWS Division, Kallakuruchi and proposal furnished by P.F Division, Tindivanam will be followed as same from RWS Division, Kallakuruchi.

ii) After obtaining proposal copy from the user agency, the proposal was forwarded to the District Forest Officer, Villupuram Division for taking appropriate action under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 guidelines.

2. i) The User Agency has uploaded the proposal in the prescribed format of Form A - Part I - under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of fresh forest area.

ii) In the short narrative of the proposal for which forest land is required, the User Agency has reported that forest land is required for drinking water supply to Villupuram district beneficiaries with setting up desalination plant at Koonimedu as source.

iii) Diversion of 16.00 ha of forest has been requested in Villupuram Forest Division area in Villupuram District. Name of the village reported as Koonimedu in Villupuram District. Forest area diversion has been requested in the Section 4 notified area of Koonimedu forest block.

iv) Location map of the forest land proposed to be diverted in kml file of google earth, Scanned copy of Survey of India topo sheet indicating the boundary of forest land proposed to be diverted, Scanned copy of Geo referenced location details and DGPS co-ordinates of the proposed alignment path have been furnished.

v) The user agency has reported that main scope of the proposed scheme is to supply drinking water to the beneficiaries of Villupuram District for which source as 60MLD capacity desalination Plant. Hence 16 hectares land is required for the establishment of desalination plant. While seeking for the appropriate land, S.F. No. 94/2 at Koonimedu panchayat has been found as apt one for installation of 60MLD capacity desalination plant which comes under the classification of forest land. Moreover, the mentioned forest land of 16 ha is fulfilling the land suitability and technical requirements like close proximity to seashore, suitable depth of seabed, fixing of intake and outfall for desalination plant, optimum tide levels and other marine parameters for setting up 60 MLD capacity desalination plant.

vi) The User Agency has stated that this project does not involve displacement of people due to the project and not requires clearance under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the project or part thereof is not located in any protected area or their Eco sensitive zone.

vii) The User Agency has furnished the certificate issued by the District Collector, Villupuram District about completion of process for settlement of rights under Forest Rights Act, 2006 on the forest land proposed for diversion.

viii) The User Agency has identified compensatory land for Compensatory Afforestation as detailed below.

- a) Name of the village : Karattai, Kattalai villages in Villupuram District
- b) Extent of CA land proposed : 32.47 ha
- c) S.F. No. : 5/1,2,3, 7/1, 8/1,2, 12, 36/1, 37/1 of Kattalai Village and SF No. 108, 109/1,2, 119, 120/1,2, 127, 128/1,2, 135, 136/1,2 & 146 of Karattai village
- d) Present owner of land : Others

ix) The user agency has furnished following certificates/ undertakings/ details under additional Information details section.

a) certified that no violation has been occurred under the provision of Forest Conservation Act, 1980 occurred.

b) Undertaking to bear the Net Present Value which will be fixed as per the guidelines of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India as fixed by the Forest Department.

c) Undertaking to bear the additional cost towards Net Present Value which will be fixed in future as per the guidelines of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India as fixed by the Forest Department

d) Undertaking to deposit the cost of raising compensatory afforestation / 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.

e) Undertaking to bear the cost along with any escalation for exploitation of trees in the forest land to be diverted for the project.

f) Certified that no suitable alternative non forest land is available for the project.

g) Certified that the demand for the forest land for the project is minimum.

h) Undertaking to pay 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 to the above project.

i) District Collector, Villupuram certificate on no alternate suitable non forest land is available for the project (Certificate letter No. B10/2450/2019, dated 25.12.2019)

j) District Collector, Villupuram certificate on completion of process for settlement of rights under Forest Rights Act 2006 on the forest land proposed for diversion – Form-II for projects other than linear projects and plantations Certificate No. R.C B10/2450/2019, dated 03.02.2020.

k) FMB sketch prepared for the CA areas along with GPS reading

l) The user agency has uploaded three kml file for the proposed CA land as detailed below.

Bit I – 11.055 ha – Karattai village

Bit-II – 14.325 ha – Kattalai village

Bit-III – 7.090 ha – Kattalai village

Total – 32.470 ha

- 5 -

3) Specific remarks on the proposal forwarded and recommended by the District Forest Officer, Villupuram Division and by the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Vellore Circle and Conservator of Forests (i/c), Villupuram Circle are detailed below.

In the Part-II of Form-A, the District Forest Officer, Villupuram Division has furnished following particulars.

i) The legal status of the proposed site of diversion of 16.00 ha of forest land requested for the project is area notified under Section 4 of the Tamil Nadu Forest Act, 1882.

As per site inspection report, name of the forest land is "Koonimedu Forest Block Reserved land" and extent of area proposed for diversion is 16.00 ha

ii) The District Forest Officer has reported that, density of the forest area is 0.7 and Eco class of forest area is five

iii) The District Forest Officer has reported that the area is having 2092 number of planted trees mainly consisting of casurina and palmyrah trees are there.

iv) On vulnerability of the forest land proposed for diversion, the District Forest Officer reported that the area proposed for diversion is adjoining the sea. The area is plain and soil has high sand content. Hence there is possibility of erosion by sea.

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

The District Forest Officer has reported that no major wildlife sighting has been there in the area. There is no rare/ endangered/ unique species of flora and fauna found in the 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) For the diversion of 16.00 ha of forest land, the user agency has identified 32.00 ha of non-forest area as compensatory land in Karattai village (11.055 ha identified effective area) and Kattalai village (21.415 ha identified effective area) villages in Villupuram District.

District Forest Officer, Villupuram Division has proposed compensatory afforestation scheme with maintenance of plantation over a period of 10 years with escalation of wage rate for an financial out lay of Rs. 5,82,85,431/- (Rs. 17,95,055/- per ha).

The District Forest Officer has reported that the compensatory land proposed by the user agency has been inspected on 21.03.2020 and found that the area is suitable to raise mixed species plantation as compensatory afforestation.

ix) In the site inspection report, the District Forest Officer has stated that, site inspected on 06.12.2019 and 23.03.2020. The area proposed for diversion is along the sea coast. The area falls within Koonimedu Forest block which has been notified under Section 4 of Tamil Nadu Forest Act, 1882. Soil in the area has a very high sand content. The area is having standing casurina and palmyrah trees. TWAD Board staff explained the location of the various components of the desalination plant. They also explained that based on hydrological studies, including study of ocean characteristics, this area has been found apt for setting up of desalination plant. As informed by the field staff, no major wildlife sighting has been reported in the proposed area.

x) In the specific recommendation, the District Forest Officer has stated that no protected area is located in the vicinity of the project area and the proposed area also does not form part of any eco-sensitive zone. Hence because of the essential requirement of drinking water for Villupuram District and technical suitability of the proposed location for setting up of a desalination plant, the project is recommended subject to the acceptance of Compensatory Afforestation Scheme.

- 7 -

4) The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Vellore Circle and Conservator of Forests (i/c), Villupuram Circle has inspected the area on 04.05.2020 and in his recommendation has stated that the area is having 2092 nos of planted trees mainly consisting of casurina and palmyrah trees. As per the proposal submitted by the TWAD Board, this area and the nearby areas have been studied and after investigation it was found that this particular area is fulfilling technical requirements like close proximity to sea shore, suitable depth of sea bed, optimum tide levels and related marine parameters. Villupuram District has major problems of water scarcity and the project is essential to keep up with the drinking water requirements of Villupuram District. Because of the essential requirements of drinking water for Villupuram district and technical suitability of the proposed location for setting up of a desalination plant, the project is recommended.

5) The User Agency has requested forest area diversion for a period of 30 years. The District Forest Officer, Villupuram Division has recommended the forest area diversion for a period of 30 years

Based on the recommendations made by the District Forest Officer, diversion of forest area for the project proposal has been recommended for a period of 30 years.

6) As recommended by the District Forest Officer, Villupuram Division and Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Vellore Circle & Conservator of Forests(i/c), Villupuram Circle, the proposal of diversion of 16.00 ha of forest area in Koonimedi Reserved Land in Villupuram Forest Division for Setting up desalination plant at Koonimedu village for combined water supply scheme to Villupuram and Tindivanam Municipalities, 2 town panchayats, 692 rural habitations in 5 unions and Govt. Medical College and Hospital at Mundiypakkam in Villupuram District in favour of Executive Engineer, TWAD Board, P.F. Division. No. 3, GST Road, Tindivanam PO, Villupuram District has been recommended subject to the following additional 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 fence, mutate and transfer double the extent of non-forest land indentified in 5/1,2,3, 7/1, 8/1,2, 12, 36/1, 37/1 of Kattalai Village (21.415 ha) and SF No. 108, 109/1,2, 119, 120/1,2, 127, 128/1,2, 135, 136/1,2 & 146 of Karattai village (11.055 ha) of Villupuram District to the Forest Department.
- d) 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.
- e) 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.
- f) 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.
- g) 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.
- h) The total forest area utilized for the project shall not exceeds 16.00 ha
- i) Period of lease can be thirty (30) years. The User Agency has to apply renewal proposal before one year of expiry of lease with the State Forest Department.

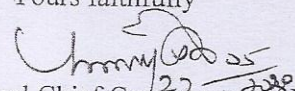
7) The proposal is sent herewith duly recommended by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden & Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (i/c) (Forest Conservation Act) / Nodal Officer, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 of the State of Tamil Nadu. I request that the proposal may be considered and Government of India approval may be obtained for diversion of 16.00 ha of forest area in Koonimedi Reserved Land in Villupuram Forest Division for Setting up desalination plant at Koonimedu village for combined water supply scheme to Villupuram and Tindivanam Municipalities, 2

- 9 -

town panchayats, 692 rural habitations in 5 unions and Govt. Medical College and Hospital at Mundiypakkam in Villupuram District in favour of Executive Engineer, TWAD Board, RWS Division, Kallakuruchi, Kallakuruchi District for a period of 30 years.

Encl: As stated above.

Yours faithfully


For Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Head of Forest Force)

W/125/2010