



सत्यमेव जयते

भारत सरकार

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS & CLIMATE CHANGE

क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय/Regional Office

Additional Office Block for GPOA, 1st Floor, Shastri Bhawan,

Haddows Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai-600 006;

Ph: 044-28222041; Fax: 28252536;

E-mail: ro.moefccc@gov.in

F.No.4-TNB138/2024-CHN/ 304

Date: 24th February, 2025

To,

The Additional Chief Secretary to the Government of Tamil Nadu,
Environment, Climate Change & Forests Department,
Secretariat, Fort St. George, Chennai - 600 009.

Subject: Diversion of 5.5831 ha of forest area (5.5181 ha in two segments) in Thoppur RF and 0.065 ha (in two segments) in Gummanur RF of Dharmapuri FD for laying underground 24 Inches dia Steel Gas pipeline with Optical Fibre Cable duct for the KKB MPL gas pipe line in Dharmapuri District in favour of GAIL India Limited, Tamil Nadu, T.Nagar, Chennai - Reg.

Madam,

Please refer to the State Government's letter Nos.195/FR.10/2025-1 dated 03.02.2025 and online proposal No.FP/TN/Pipeline/50403/2020, seeking prior approval of the Central Government for diversion of forest land in accordance with Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for the above-mentioned project.

After careful consideration of the proposal of the State Government, and with the recommendation of the 73rd Regional Empowered Committee (REC) meeting held on 21.02.2025, I am hereby directed to convey the Central Government's **In-principle approval (Stage-I)** under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, for diversion of 5.5831 ha of forest area (5.5181 ha in two segments) in Thoppur RF and 0.065 ha (in two segments) in Gummanur RF of Dharmapuri FD for laying underground 24 Inches dia Steel Gas pipeline with Optical Fibre Cable duct for the KKB MPL gas pipe line in Dharmapuri District in favour of GAIL India Limited Tamil Nadu, T.Nagar, Chennai, for a period of 20 years, subject to the following conditions:-

- (i) Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged;
- (ii) Demarcation of the proposed forest area shall be carried out by erecting 4 feet high cement concrete pillars duly numbered at an interval of 20 meters at the cost of the User Agency;
- (iii) The State Government shall charge the Net Present Value of the diverted forest land measuring **5.5831ha** from the User Agency as per the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 28.03.2008 and 09.05.2008 in IA Nos.826 in 566 with related IA's in Writ Petition (Civil) No.202/1995 and Ministry's guideline No. 5-3/2011-FC(Vol-I) dated 06.01.2022 and clarification issued vide letter dated 19.01.2022 and 22.03.2022;
- (iv) 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 this effect;
- (v) All the funds received from the User Agency under the project shall be transferred/ deposited to CAMPA fund only through e-portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>);
- (vi) The State Forest Department shall carry out compensatory afforestation over an extent of **5.5831 ha of non-forest land (4.4431 ha in Sy.No. 692/29 and 1.14 ha in Sy.No.692/30 of Kammampatti Village) and 10 ha of DFL area in Kadathur Reserve Forests as per Compensatory Afforestation Scheme including maintenance for a period of 10 years, at the cost of the User Agency;**
- (vii) The State Forest Department shall also ensure that identified patches of CA land under different proposals may be consolidated while laying fencing and ensure that extent of non-forest land should be received in compliance to the provision of Rule No. 13 of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023;
- (viii) Identified CA area and CA scheme shall not be changed without prior approval of Central Government;
- (ix) The entire non-forest land proposed for CA over an extent of **5.5831 ha of non-forest land (4.4431 ha in Sy.No. 692/29 and 1.14 ha in Sy.No.692/30 of Kammampatti Village)** shall be transferred and mutated in the name of Forest Department and notified as RF/PF prior to Stage-II approval. A copy of the original notification declaring the non-forest land under Section 4 or

Section 29 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927, or under the relevant section of the State Forest Act, shall be submitted by the State Government along with the compliance report;

- (x) **The KML file of the forest area to be diverted and CA area shall be uploaded on the e-green watch portal.**
- (xi) **The User Agency shall ensure that after laying of gas pipe line, the muck generated is back filled and the area should be restored to its natural state.**
- (xii) Even though 609 trees of spontaneous origin is marked for felling, the User Agency shall restrict the felling of trees to minimum number in the diverted forest land and the trees shall be felled under the strict supervision of the State Forest Department and the cost of felling of trees shall be deposited by the User Agency with the State Forest Department;
- (xiii) **The State Forest Department shall take up soil moisture conservation measures to prevent soil erosion at the cost of the User Agency;**
- (xiv) The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government;
- (xv) The User Agency shall provide fire wood preferably alternate fuel to labourers working at the site to avoid damage/tree felling and no labour camp shall be established inside the forest area;
- (xvi) Disturbance shall be kept minimum by creating labour camps outside the forest area as far as possible and it shall be the responsibility of the User Agency to ensure that the labourers& staff engaged in execution of work do not destruct nearby forest flora & fauna;
- (xvii) The total forest area utilized for the project shall not exceed 5.5831ha and the forest area diverted shall not be used for any purpose other than those shown in the diversion proposal. **The User Agency shall furnish an undertaking to this effect;**
- (xviii) The forest land proposed for diversion shall under no circumstances be transferred or sublet to any other agency, department or person without prior approval of the Central Government;
- (xix) No additional or new paths will be constructed inside the forest area for transportation of construction materials for execution of the project work.

- (xx) The User Agency and the State Government shall ensure compliance to provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations and Guidelines, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project;
- (xxi) Any other conditions that the Central Government or Deputy Director General of Forests (Central) of Regional Office, Chennai may impose from time to time in the interest of afforestation, conservation and management of flora and fauna in the area, shall be complied by the User Agency;
- (xxii) In the event of failure to comply with any of the above conditions the User Agency is liable for penal action as per the rules / guidelines issued under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980;
- (xxiii) The State Government shall process and submit compliance report on the above conditions through online (<https://parivesh.nic.in/>);

After receipt of the compliance report on above mentioned conditions, the proposal will be considered for final approval. Where compliance of condition imposed in the 'In-principle' approval is awaited from the State Government, as the case may be, for more than two years, the 'In-Principle' approval shall be deemed to be null and void.

Yours faithfully,

Signed by Karthikeyan

Karuppiah

Date: 24-02-2025 16:50:16

(K.Karthikeyan)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests (Central)

Copy to:-

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Forest Department, Guindy Velachery Main Road, Guindy, Chennai - 32
2. The Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests/Nodal Officer (FCA), Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Forest Department, Guindy Velachery Main Road, Guindy, Chennai - 32.
3. The IGF, RO(HQ) Division, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhavan, Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj, New Delhi -3.
4. Joint Chief Executive Officer, National CAMPA, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj, New Delhi-3.
5. Gail India Limited Tamil Nadu, New No 4 Old No 60 5th Floor Kuppu Arcade Venkatnarayana Road T Nagar Chennai-600017
(E-Mail: ravichandran@gail.co.in)
6. Guard File.

Sd/-

(K.Karthikeyan)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests (Central)