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

**Letter No.21555/FR.10/2016-5, Dated:13.03.2017.**

From  
Thiru. Md. Nasimuddin, 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

Sir,

Sub: Forests – Forest(Conservation)Act, 1980 - Diversion of 0.88 ha of forest land in Tirunelveli Circle / Kanniyakumari Forest Division for laning of NH-47 B Nagercoil to Kavalkinaru - Online proposal submission by the User Agency in favour of Project Director, NHAI PIU, Kanniyakumari – under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 - Requested – Regarding.

- Ref: 1. From the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests letter No.TS4/21927/2015, dated 25.07.2016.  
2. Government letter No.21555/FR.10/2016-1, E&F(FR.10)Department, dated 30.09.2016.  
3. From the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Letter No. TS4/21927/2015, dated 20.12.2016.  
4. Government Letter No.21555/FR.10/2016-2, dated 20.01.2017.  
5. From the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Letter No.TS4/21927/2015, dated 08.02.2017.

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I am directed to state that the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force) has sent a proposal for diversion of 0.88 ha of forest land in Tirunelveli Circle / Kanniyakumari Forest Division for four laning of NH-47 B Nagercoil to Kavalkinaru. The User Agency has submitted online proposal for permission in favour of Project Director, National Highways Authority of India, Project Implementation Unit, Kanniyakumari, under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

2. The User Agency (i.e. Project Director, NHAI PIU, Kanniyakumari ) has proposed for diversion of forest land for a period of year 99 year, for four laning of road from Kerala-Tamil Nadu border to Kanniyakumari section of NH 47 including Nagercoil to Kavalkinaru section of NH 47B and uploaded all the necessary documents / undertakings of Web Portal of Forest Clearance in this Project.



.2.

3. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests has also stated that the District Collector, Kanniyakumari has certified that there is no primitive S.T. (or) pre- Agricultural Communities found in the forest land to an extent of 0.88 hectares which is proposed to be diverted for the project of four laning of Nagercoil to Kavalkinaru road section from km 0/0 to 16/376 of NH 47B in Thovalai village, Thovalai Taluk, Kanniyakumari District.

4. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests has further stated that the District Forest Officer, Kanniyakumari Division has inspected the area along with National Highways Authority of India officials on 12.8.2015 and 17.11.2015. An area of 0.88ha has been sought in 2 bits of Therkkumalai west Reserve Forests for the purpose of laying four lane road (NH / 47B - Nagercoil - Kavalkinaru) by National Highways Authority of India. He has also reported that a new alignment is proposed by National Highways Authority of India for this portion of the four lane road, instead of widening the existing two lane road between Nagercoil and Kavalkinaru citing reasons of crammed traffic and heavy built up area flanking the existing road. Moreover, the National Highways Authority of India has opined that widening of existing road will not be able to meet the required standards as per IRC for NH and may cause considerable land acquisition laborious work, huge cost, profound dislocation and relocation of people and disturbance to the public at large. The proposed alignment traverses the Therkkumalai west Reserve Forests at two locations along the boundary, seeking diversion of 0.88ha in two bits i.e. Bit-I (0.60ha) and Bit-II (0.28ha). The National Highways Authority of India has certified that various alternatives have been considered before finalizing this proposal and no suitable alternative along non forest land is available, which is also endorsed by the District Collector. Therkkumalai West Reserve Forests supports dry deciduous to dry scrub / thorn forests with a crown density < 0.4 Acacia planiferons, Acacia leucophloea, Morinda tinctoria and Albizzia amara are the predominant vegetation with associate shrub species like Randia, Zizyphus, Dodonia and Cymbopogon grass sp. The area falls in Therkkumalai west Reserve Forests which is part of Kanniyakumari wildlife Sanctuary. There are no reports of unique / endangered fauna and flora identified from this area. The area lies on the edge of the Reserved Forest where practically wildlife is absent and also it forms part of artificial plantation raised by TAP scheme during 1998 and all those trees are planted ones. The new road formation is for the National Development. Hence, the Conservator of Forests and District Forest Officer, Kanniyakumari District have recommended this proposal.

5. The proposal in the part IV is also recommended by the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (FCA) / Nodal Officer, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. **The total period for which the forest land is proposed to be diverted is only 20 years.**

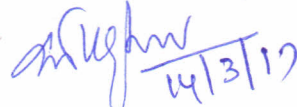
6. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests has also informed that action is being taken by him for getting necessary approval from the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife (NBWL), for the Wildlife Act clearance of above proposal.

7. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests has therefore requested the Government to forward the above said proposal to the Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change for concurrence.

.3.

8. This Government have proposed to accept the proposal of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests for diversion of 0.88 ha. of forest land in Tirunelveli Circle / Kanniyakumari Forest Division for four laning of NH-47 B Nagercoil to Kavalkinaru, through online proposal submission by the User Agency in favour of the Project Director, National Highways Authority of India, Project Implementation Unit, Kanniyakumari under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 subject to the approval of the National Board for Wildlife and decided to forward the same to the Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change for concurrence. I am, therefore, to request you to kindly obtain the concurrence of the Government of India, Ministry of Environment and Forests and Climate Change, Chennai and communicate the same to this Government, early.

Yours faithfully,

  
14/3/17  
for Principal Secretary to Government

**Copy to:**

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
(Head of Forest Force), Chennai-15.  
The Project Director,  
National Highways Authority of India,  
Project Implementation Unit,  
Kanniyakumari.