



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

**Letter No.6734/FR-10/2019-4, Dated. 21.08.2019**

From  
Thiru. Shambu Kallollikar, I.A.S.,  
Principal Secretary to Government.

TS4

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

Sir,

Sub: Forests - Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 – Tirunelveli Circle /  
Thoothukudi Division - Diversion of 0.4611 ha. for  
improvement of existing Korampallam surplus course bridge in  
Mullakadu Reserved Forest of Mullakadu village – in favour of  
the Executive Engineer, VOC Port Trust, Thoothukudi –  
Regarding.

Ref: 1. From the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Letter  
No.TS4/42075/2018, dated 11.04.2019.  
2. Government letter No.6734/FR.10/2019-1, dated  
06.05.2019, 17.06.2019 and 19.07.2019.  
3. From the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Letter  
No.TS4/42075/2018, dated 04.06.2019, 02.07.2019 and  
22.07.2019.

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I am directed to state that in the reference first cited, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests has stated that the User Agency (i.e. VOC Port Trust, Thoothukudi ) has furnished and uploaded online application under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in the prescribed format of Form A– Part I for diversion of 0.4626 ha. of fresh forest area for improvement of existing Korampallam surplus course bridge at Thoothukudi District in the Online Submission and Monitoring of Forests Clearances Proposal (OSMFCP) portal for a period of 999 years. The User Agency has uploaded necessary Certificates and Undertakings.

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2. He has further stated that the User Agency has reported in the justification report that the proposed improvement is in existing Korampallam Surplus Course (KSC) Bridge at VOC Port Trust, which already passes through Thoothukudi Reserved Forest to a length of 277m. The Thoothukudi Reserve Forests has a total area of 11.010 ha. out of which 0.46 ha. of forest land is required for diversion (including the area of forest land in the existing road). The VOC Port Trust has also justified that,

1. Korampallam Surplus Course (KSC) Bridge is the only connectivity of VOC Port Trust to NH-45B (Madurai and NH-7A (Tirunelveli) to cater all measures of import and export cargoes, machineries and employee.
2. Tourist attraction for Harbour beach and Hare Island.
3. Better connectivity for local people TTPS, NTPL and Customs House.
4. Boost the economy of the area by generating more employment through cargo handling and other allied activities.

3. The District Forest Officer, Thoothukudi has uploaded the online proposal of Form-A Part II with the field inspection notes dated 30.03.2019 and stated that the District Forest Officer, Thoothukudi has inspected the proposed site on 28.02.2019 for widening of the bridge over Korampallam Surplus Course Bridge and Roll over bridge canal at Mullakadu Reserve Forests of Mullakadu village in Thoothukudi Range of Thoothukudi Forest Division by the VOC Port Trust, Thoothukudi along with User Agency. The proposed project area is around 0.4626 ha of forest land in Mullakadu Reserve Forests of Thoothukudi Forest Range. The over bridge was already constructed by the Port Trust and now improvement of existing bridge on the Korampallam Surplus Course Bridge, (North side 183.39m length and width 14.87m = 2727.009sqm, South side 265.38m x 7.10 = 1884.19sqm, Total 0.4611 ha in Mullakadu RF) has to be done. The bridge is only connectivity of VOC Port Trust to NH-45B(Madurai and NH-7A (Tirunelveli) to cater all measures of import and export cargoes and better connectivity for the people, TTPS, NTPL and Customs House. It is across the Korampallam canal and Mullakadu Reserved Forest. No protected Archaeological site is nearby. The land required is only barest minimum.

4. The District Forest Officer, Thoothukudi has also stated that 109 nos. of Mangrove plants of spontaneous growth are available in the area proposed for the diversion by the User Agency (i.e.) VOC Port Trust, Thoothukudi and no felling of mangrove trees is required to carry out for this project. The list of 109 nos. of spontaneous growth (Mangrove trees) are uploaded in Part II of Form A.

5. The Chief Conservator of Forests, Tirunelveli Circle has inspected the proposed project area on 18.12.2018 and stated that the proposed project site of proposal for diversion of forest land in Mullakadu Reserve Forests of Mullakadu village in Thoothukudi Range of Thoothukudi Forest Division for "improvement of the existing Korampallam surplus course bridge at Mullakadu RF, Mullakadu village, Thoothukudi district" (FP/TN/Road/35317/2018) by VOC Port Trust, Thoothukudi along with the District Forest Officer and field staff and User Agency. The proposed area is partially vegetated with Mangrove species and partially slushy and water logged due to being in tidal zone. The details of flora and fauna is submitted by the District Forest Officer in Part II. No protected archaeological site is situated nearby. The area proposed for diversion is bare minimum. Based on the site inspection report dated 28.02.2019 by

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the District Forest Officer, Thoothukudi, Part II and recommendation were uploaded by the District Forest Officer along with the undertaking by the User Agency to carry out the work without felling of mangroves of spontaneous growth. The Chief Conservator of Forests has recommended the proposal in Part III on 03.04.2019.

6. The proposal has been recommended in the Part IV format by the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (FCA) / Nodal Officer (Forest Conservation Act).

7. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests has further stated that the area proposed for diversion has been mentioned as 0.4626 ha. for the improvement of the existing Korampallam surplus course bridge at Mullakadu Reserve Forests, Mullakadu village, Thoothukudi district by the User Agency i.e. Executive Engineer, VOC Port Trust, Thoothukudi. But the component wise requirement of forest land has been furnished in Part I B.2.4 of Form A as 0.4611 ha. as follows:-

Northern side of Korampallam

surplus course bridge – 0.27270093 ha.

Southern side of Korampallam

surplus course bridge – 0.1884198 ha.

**Total area – 0.46112073 ha.(or) 0.4611 ha.**

8. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests has stated that the District Forest Officer has also recommended for diversion of 0.4611 ha. for this project.

9. On further clarifications, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests has stated that it is inadvertently stated in his letter first cited that the proposed area for diversion is in Thoothukudi Reserve Forests instead of Mullakadu Reserve Forests of Mullakadu village in Thoothukudi District and the Korampallam surplus course bridge is situated in Mullakadu Reserve Forests. He has further stated that the proposed area for diversion does not include the area of existing road lies in the area (457.25 ha.) already de-reserved to VOC Port Trust in Government of India Letter No.8-68/2014-FC, dated 12.05.2015. He has also stated that the road on the bridge is not part of Reserve Forests and due to widening of bridge, an extent of 0.4611 ha. is essentially required within the balance area of Mullakadu Reserve Forests under the control of Forest Department.

10. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests has, therefore recommended the proposal and requested to consider the proposal for diversion of 0.4611 ha. of forest land for improvement of the existing Korampallam surplus course bridge at Mullakadu RF, Mullakadu village, Thoothukudi district in favour of the Executive Engineer, VOC Port Trust, Thoothukudi, for a period of twenty years and forward the same to the Government of India for obtaining their concurrence, subject to the following conditions:-

- 1) The legal status of the land shall remain unchanged and shall remain as Reserved Forests.
- 2) Felling of trees of spontaneous origin shall not be carried out. User Agency shall furnish an undertaking to this effect.
- 3) The demarcation of the proposed forest area shall be carried out by erecting 4 feet height cement concrete pillars duly numbered at an interval of 20 mts. at the cost of User Agency.

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- 4) The User Agency shall pay the Net present value of the diverted forest area at the rates stipulated by the Ministry of Environment and Forests from time to time, as per the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 28.03.2008 and 09.05.2008 in I.A. Nos. 826 in 566 with related I.A.s in Writ Petition (Civil) No.202/1995.
- 5) The 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 the effect.
- 6) The User Agency has to pay the cost of raising Compensatory Afforestation and maintenance of plantation, Protection of plantation etc. as fixed by the Forest Department and willingness to deposit additional amount if any suggested and demanded subsequently.
- 7) The User Agency shall be responsible for any loss to Flora and Fauna in the surroundings and shall take all possible measures to conserve the same.
- 8) The forest land shall not be used for any other purpose other than that specified in the proposal.
- 9) The lease rent should be realized from the User Agency as per G.O.Ms.No.272, Environment and Forests (FR.XIII) Department dated 15.04.1991 and subsequent changes.
- 10) Period of lease is twenty years. The User Agency has to apply renewal proposal before 6 months of expiry of lease with the State Forest Department.
- 11) The District Forest Officer may impose any other condition in the interest of conservation /protection and development of forests.

11. The Government have carefully examined the proposal of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests for diversion of 0.4611 ha. of forest land under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for improvement of the existing Korampallam surplus course bridge at Mullakadu Reserved Forests, Mullakadu village, Thoothukudi district for a period of twenty years, in favour of the User Agency (i.e.) Executive Engineer, VOC Port Trust, Thoothukudi and decided to forward the same. I am, therefore, 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,

G. R. Sundar

for Principal Secretary to Government

Copy to:

- ✓ The Principal Chief Conservator of Forest  
(Head of Department), Chennai-15.

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The Executive Engineer (Civil),  
Road and Civil Maintenance Division,  
V.O.Chidambaranar Port Trust,  
Bharathi Nagar, Thoothukudi-628 004.