



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

Letter No.20624/FR.10/2019-1, Dated. 24.01.2020

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

To
X 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: Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 - Chennai Forest Circle / Kancheepuram Forest Division – Proposal for diversion of 3.256 ha forest area in Sonalur Reserved Forests for erection of 230 Kv DC transmission line from Ottiyampakkam 400 KV Sub Station to Omega 230 KV Substation in Kancheepuram District in favour of Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation, Chennai 2- Online Submission of proposal by the User Agency - Regarding.

Ref: From the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoD), letter No.TS3/27203/2015, dated 26.11.2019.

I am directed to state that the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests has sent a proposal for diversion of 3.256 ha. of forest land in Sonalur Reserved Forests for erection of 230 Kv DC transmission line from Ottiyampakkam 400 KV Sub Station to Omega 230 KV Substation in Kancheepuram District in favour of Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation, Chennai 2, under Section 2 of Forest Conservation Act, 1980.

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

- i. Density of the forest area is 0.30 and Eco class three and not vulnerable to erosion.

(P.T.O)

- ii. There are 255 numbers of trees are existing in the proposed diversion area, which are required to be felled before taking up the project. In the site inspection report, he has stated that the plantation available along the stretch of the transmission line is manmade plantations and there is no spontaneous growth along the transmission line.
- iii. Spotted deer, Bonnet Macaque, Indian Hare, Reptiles and Birds are present in and around the forest land proposed for diversion.
- iv. 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.
- v. There is no rare / endangered / unique species of flora and fauna found in the area.
- vi. There is no protected archaeological / heritage site / defence 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.

3. The District Forest Officer, Chegalpattu Division has inspected the proposed site on 09.11.2019 and he has stated that the proposed area is a linear stretch of Reserve Forests land to a length of 930 mts and a width of 35 mts on the North Western part of Sonalur Reserve Forests. Three towers have to be erected in this stretch inside the Reserve Forests. There is a fairly large water body (Siruseri Periya Yeri) outside the southern boundary of the proposed site in contiguous to the boundary. The project of erection of 230 kv DC transmission line is very important to ensure reliable electricity supply to OMEGA Industrial estate at Mahabalipuram. This diversion is proposed for a project which may lead to the industrial development of the State. Diversion of the particular stretch may not cause much disturbance to wildlife or adversely affect eco system. The plantations available along the stretch of the transmission line are manmade plantations and ascertained that there is no spontaneous growth available along the transmission line. Taking into the consideration of above facts, he has recommended the proposal submitted by the User Agency for diversion of forest land in Sonalur Reserve Forests.

4. The District Forest Officer, Changalpattu Division has also proposed Compensatory Afforestation scheme for planting of 6212 seedling planting in the 6.512 ha. of degraded forest area in Sonalur Reserve Forest of Kancheepuram District with maintenance of Plantation for 10 years at a cost of Rs.1,27,65,799/-. He has also uploaded the Site Suitability Certificate of proposed Compensatory Afforestation.

(P.T.O)

5. The Chief Conservator of Forests, Chennai Circle has inspected the site on 11.11.2019 and recommended the project stating that the project will not affect the flora and fauna of Reserved Forests and it is required to meet the growing power requirement in Kancheepuram District. Under Part-IV, the Nodal Officer / Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980) has also recommended the above proposal.

6. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Department) has stated that the User Agency has requested forest area diversion for a period of 30 years and the District Forest Officer, Chengalpattu Division, Kancheepuram and Chief Conservator of Forests have recommended the diversion of forest land for three years. However, erection of transmission line projects are recommended for thirty years period in other cases. Based on the above, diversion of forest area for the project has been recommended for 30 years.

7. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoD) recommended the proposal for diversion of 3.256 ha. of forest land in Sonalur Reserve Forests of Kancheepuram Forest Division for erection of 230 Kv DC transmission line from Ottiyampakkam 400 KV SS to Omega 230 KV substation in Kancheepuram District in favour of Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation Limited, Chennai-2 under section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for a period of 30 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 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.
- d. 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.
- e. 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.
- f. 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.
- g. The User Agency has to pay the cost towards felling and transportation of trees in the proposed forest area division area.

(P.T.O)

- h. The user agency has to carry out plantation of dwarf species of medicinal plants under the transmission line and maintenance of plantation for five years period and to provide two mazdoors under the control of District Forest Officer for the protection and maintenance of dwarf species and protection and maintenance of transmission path in the forest area.
- 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.

8. The Government have examined the proposal of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoD) and proposed to divert 3.256 ha. of forest land in Sonalur Reserve Forests of Kancheepuram Forest Division for erection of 230 Kv DC transmission line from Ottiyampakkam 400 KV SS to Omega 230 KV substation in Kancheepuram District in favour of Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation Limited, Chennai-2 under section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for a period of 30 years subject to the conditions in para 7 above and to forward the same to Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change for concurrence.

9. I am therefore request you to kindly obtain the concurrence of the Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change on the above proposal, and communicate the same to the Government, early.

Yours faithfully,

S. Mohamed Yusof 24/11/2020.
for Principal Secretary to Government

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24/11/2020

Copy to:-

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

The Executive Engineer / Civil,
Transmission Projects / GCC-II,
A-10, Thiru Vi. Ka. Industrial Estate,
Guindy, Chennai-32.

for 12.

PART - V

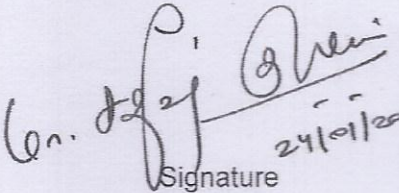
(To be filled in by the Secretary in charge of Forest Department or by any other authorized officer of the State Government not below the rank of an Under Secretary)

Proposal for diversion of 3.256 ha. of forest land in Sonalur Reserve Forests of Kancheepuram Forest Division for erection of 230 Kv DC transmission line from Ottiyampakkam 400 KV SS to Omega 230 KV substation in Kancheepuram District in favour of Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation Limited, Chennai-2 under section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for a period of 30 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 -

60.  24/01/2020.
Signature

Name & Designation

(Official Seal)

[N. SATHISH KUMAR]

Under Secretary to Government,

Environment and Forests Department,

Secretariat, Chennai-9

Date : .01.2020

Place : Chennai-9.