

Justification for locating the Project in Forest Land and Details of alternate examine:


Name of the Project: Construction of steel bridges in 7 locations across river streams from Dhaniparai to Arulmigu Sundaramahalingam Temple located in Saptur R.F. of Srivilliputhur Wildlife Division in Madurai District.

Arulmigu Sathuragiri Sundara Mahalingam Thirukkivil is located within Saptur R.F. is a pilgrimage site located 10 km away from Watrap near Srivilliputhur. The above said temple is located at a height of 3050 ft. There are three approach path ways available to this temple. The devotees are climbed up the hills from Thaniparai of Virudhunagar District, Vazhaithoppu in Madurai District and Varushanadu, Uppuparai in Theni District.

Hundreds of pilgrims from various districts thronged this temple on the occasions like Adi Amavasai, Pradosham and all the full moon and new moon days of the month. During full moon and new moon, devotees visit the temples and pay their penance and have darshan. Pilgrims will climb the mountain only in groups and not in solo, since the forest is full of animals.

Especially, during the day of Adi Amavasai (July – August), a festival will be celebrated at a grand level and attracts about 2 to 3 lakhs devotees who come there to have the darshan of the Lord Sundar Mahalingam Swamy. On these particular days, generators have been used for lighting facilities. The temple is seen without electricity. There are three main temples in the hill, Sri Sundara Mahalingam Swamy Temple, Sri Santhana Mahalingam Swamy Temple and Anandavalli Amman Temple.

On the above festival days, when it rains, people find it difficult to climb on rock areas, therefore it is necessary to cut the rocks on the trekking path as they are slippery in the rainy season and make them safe for trekking and iron bridges over the streams so that people can cross easily as the water in the streams overflows even if it rains a little.



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The temple owns 63 acre 76 cents in survey No.517 of Saptur R.F. There are seven river streams are available in this RF area for construction of steel bridges to easy movement of the devotees. They are Palamarathadi Karuppanasamy Kovil Odai, Vellaiparai Odai, Sannathi Entrance Odai and Odai in front of Arulmigu Sundaramahalingam Sannathi and in Survey No.518, Mangani Odai, Ezhumbu Odai (Vallalam Parai Odai), Sangiliparai Odai. For construction of bridges over the above streams, an estimate has been prepared by the Assistant Divisional Engineer, HR&CE to the tune of Rs.4.70 crores. The HR&CE will carry out the work after getting permission from Forest Department.

Hence, considering the Forest Conservation Act, 1980, Executive Officer, Arulmigu Sundaramahalingam Swamy Temple, Sathuragiri has been authorized by the Joint Commissioner, Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowment Board, Dindigul for preparing this proposal for obtaining permission from the Government of India through online. The area requested for erection of steel bridges is the minimum considering the requirements and considering the improvement of public usage.

The norms/standard for construction of steel bridges will be followed as prescribed in the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and Forest Conservation Rules, 2003 (Guidelines & Clarifications).

The area required for diversion is the barest minimum, which is a part of the protected forest land. The already existing foot pathway for the temple, this is the only shortest way is possible to approach the temple with shortest distance without affecting the forest area and animals and also considering the jurisdiction of the implementing office.

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