



सत्यमेव जयते

भारतसरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS & CLIMATE
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F.No.4-TNC043/2019-CHN/
Date 31st October, 2022

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To,

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

Subject: Diversion of 5.42 ha of forest land in Magimandalam Reserved Forests of Vellore Forest Division for Construction of 4-Lane Bangalore-Chennai Expressway by the National Highways Authority of India- Reg.

Madam,

Please refer to the State Government letter Nos. 14924/FR 10/2017-10 dated 20.06.2019, 14924/FR.10/2017-15 dated 25.02.2021 and online proposal No.FP/TN/ROAD/8238/2014 seeking prior approval of the Government of India in accordance with Section '2' of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for the above mentioned project. The project was accorded in-principle approval (Stage-I) by the Central Government vide letter dated 13.05.2021. The State Government have reported compliance vide letter dated 17.10.2022 (received on 20.10.2022) to the conditions stipulated in the in-principle approval;

After careful consideration of the compliance report submitted by the State Government, I am directed to convey the Central Government's approval (*Stage-II*) under Section '2' of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of **5.42 ha** of forest land in Magimandalam Reserved Forests of Vellore Forest Division for Construction of 4-Lane Bangalore-Chennai Expressway by the National Highways Authority of India for a **period of 30 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 User Agency;
- (iii) The State Forest Department shall carry out Compensatory Afforestation and its maintenance (CA) in the degraded forest area identified over an extent of **10.84 ha in Ammoor RF of Arcot Range in Vellore Division** from the amount already been realized from the User Agency. As far as possible, a mixture of local indigenous species shall be planted and monoculture of any species may be avoided;