

Spere Copy

TAMILNADU FOREST DEPARTMENT

From
Dr. P. Durairasu, IFS.,
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,
(Head of Department),
Panagal Maaligai, Saidapet,
Chennai - 600 015.

To
The Additional Principal Chief
Conservator of Forests (Central),
Government of India,
Ministry of Environment, Forests and
Climate change, Regional Office,
HEPC Building, Nungambakkam,
Chennai 34.

C.No.TS4/ 42075/2018, Dated: 10.01.2020.

Sir,

Sub: Forests - Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 –Tirunelveli
Circle / Thoothukudi Division - Proposal for diversion
of 0.4626 ha for improvement of existing Korampallam
surplus course bridge in Mullakadu Reserved Forest of
Mullakadu village – VOC Port Trust - Thoothukudi
District – Online proposal submission by the User
Agency ie. Mr. Sudalai, Executive Engineer, VOC Port
Trust, Thoothukudi - Reply sending of - Regarding.

- Ref:
1. Proposal No. FP/TN/Road /35317/2018.
 2. Government of India, MoEF & CC, Chennai
Letter F.No:4-TNB045/2019/-CHN/1572 dated
20.09.2019.
 3. District Forest Officer ,Thoothukudi
C.No:5348/2018/D dated 13.11.2019 and
30.12.2019.
 4. Chief Conservator of Forests ,Tirunelveli
C.No:D/10392/2018 dated 18.11.2019.

I wish to state that the replies to the queries raised by the Government of India in the reference 2nd cited are furnished below.

Query No.1 The proposal is for improvement of existing Korampallam Surplus Course Bridge with 14.87 mts width on the northern side and 7.10 m width on the southern side in the mangrove area. It was reported that a totaa of 109 spontaneously grown mangrove plants are present in the proposed area for diversion. Hence a detailed report on the how the work is proposed to be executed without disturbing the Mangrove spread area may be furnished.

The VOC port trust has reported that they have proposed to follow the below methodology to execute the work of "Improvement of existing Korampallam Surplus

Course Bridge at VOC Port Trust" without disturbing the Mangrove spread area as follows.

- i. The Bridge widening work will be carried out by erecting Gantry from the existing road level. Gantry will act as a complete overhead structure with a platform supporting all equipments used for execution and no equipment will be installed within the mangrove spread area. Over the gantry platform, the piling work will be done by erecting 1000mm dia individual MS Caissons placed at identified locations where there is no Mangrove exists at an interval of 13.35m centre to centre in longitudinal direction throughout full length of the bridge on either side.
- ii. After the individual piling work done using gantry platform, all other required structural elements such as Pile cap, Griders, shutter slabs etc.,(pre-cast form of the above said elements) will be erected by engaging cranes from the old bridge itself.
- iii. Consequent to the erection of above said pre-cast elements, the cast in-situ concrete work will be carried out for deck slab of new bridge and hence, ensuring that mangrove spread area will not get disturbed at any stage of Construction work. (Copy of layout enclosed).

2. As no trees are proposed to be felled and total area of diversion is less than 1ha,a justification for proposing CA scheme(at a cost of Rs.17.24 lakhs) may be furnished.

Though there is no tree felling in the proposed diversion site and the area requested for diversion is also less than one hectare, no mandatory for compensatory afforestation. But considerably the Thoothukudi district with geographical area of 4,74,500 ha with Forest land of 11,001.92 ha with forest cover of 27,200 ha comprising only 5.73% of geographical area of the district(as per ISFR 2017 report), which much below the State and National Forest cover percentage. In view of these, it is requested to permit for Compensatory Afforestation through this Forest diversion.

3. A point wise compliance report on the de-reservation approval letter of the Government of India dated 12.05.2015 may be furnished.

The point wise compliance report of the Government letter dated 12.05.2015 is as follows.

Compliance report for de-reservation of 457.25 ha Forest Land in Mullakadu Reserve Forest in Thoothukudi Division Thoothukudi District to V.O.C Port Trust Proposal submitted under section 24 of Tamil Nadu Forest Act 1882-reg F.No.8-68/2014-FC, dated 12.05.2015 from MoEF &CC.

S.No	Non-compliances reported by MoEF&CC (FC Division)	Action taken
1.	The legal status of the land will be changed to revenue land and the requisite notification for de-notification of forest land will be issued by the State Government and the copy of the same will be submitted to the Ministry:	Port has already furnished the application form for seeking approval under section form for seeking the Forest (conservation) Act 1980 for de-reservation of the reserve forest land of 457.25 Hectare belonging to VOCPT from 1918, owned, and used by the port vide Port's letter dated 02.08.2014
2.	The State government shall change additional Net Present Value of the total forest land to be diverted under this proposal from the User Agency, If so determined as per the final orders of the Hon'ble Supreme court of India.	Considering the verdict delivered by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, New Delhi on 24.02.2014, the VOCPT has already deposited the minimum NPV amount Rs.20.03 crores in the fund of "Compensation Afforestation fund Management and planning Authority (CAMPA) "as per Hon'ble Supreme Court Order UTR No IOBAH 14076075179 in A/C No 344902010105433 (IFS Code: UBIN 0534498) dated 17.03.2014.
3.	Trees shall be felled only when it becomes necessary and that too under strict supervision of State Forest Department.	The area of 21.73 ha already handed over to the State Forest Department for the protection and maintaining of mangroves. The cost of the protection and maintenance were already paid by V.O.C Port Trust.
4.	No damage to the Flora and Fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused:	The State Government (State Forest Department) is being monitoring the protection of Flora and Fauna There are no damages caused by Port as the Reserve Forest 21.73 ha is protected.

7.	The legal Status of 21.73 ha Under mangroves already transferred by The VOC Port Trust, Tuticorin to the Forest Department for management on 006/12/2014, as communicated by the State Government vide their letter No.TS4/13492/2014 dated 29 th April 2015 will continue to be "Reserve Forest"	As per the legal Status, 21.73 ha of land is diverted into Reserve Forest and the same will be maintained as Reserve Forest handed over to the State Forest Department.
8.	A Plan for protection, Management and development of this mangrove forest including expansion of this mangrove area in case found feasible by the State Government, shall be prepared by the State Government within 6 months from the date of issue of this letter and intimated to this Ministry. The cost of preparation & implementation of this plan will be borne by V.O.C Port Trust as per the undertaking given by the User Agency.	V.O.Chidambaranar Port Trust has already paid Rs.5,29,000.00 DD.No 200121 dated 25.04.2019 for preparation of plan and protection, management and development of the mangrove forest including expansion of this mangrove area.
9.	The current green cover in the Port area as per the map statement and satellite picture submitted to the Ministry by the State Government vide their letter reference number TS4/ I 3492/2012 dated 15.12.2014 in addition to the 21.73 ha	As per the legal Status, 21.73 ha of land is diverted into Reserve Forest and the same will be maintain as Reserve Forest and handed over to the State Forest Department.
10.	Afforestation shall be done in the reclaimed area in any	VOC Port Trust is already more than six thousand saplings have been planted and being maintained. The Process of the plantation is in progress for further green belt development.
11.	The approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is subjected to clearance under all other Acts, Rules and Regulation and Guidelines.	VOC Port Trust undertakes that Port will comply with all applicable Acts, Rules, regulation and guidelines as applicable to the project.
12.	Any other condition that the concerned Re Office of the Ministry may stipulate, from time to time, in the interest of conservation, protection and development of Forest & wild life	VOC Port Trust undertakes that Port will comply with all applicable Acts, Rules, regulation and guidelines as applicable to the project.

13.	The User Agency and the State Government shall ensure compliance to provisions of the all Acts, Rules, Regulations and Guidelines, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project.	VOC Port Trust undertakes that Port will comply with all applicable Acts, Rules, regulation and guidelines as applicable to the project.
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I request that the proposal may kindly be considered and Government of India approval may please be obtained and communicated early.

Yours faithfully,



for Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Head of Department)

Copy to
The Principal Secretary to Government, Environment and Forests Department,
Secretariat, Chennai 9.

10-01-2020