



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

Letter No.6353 /FR.10/2020 - 5, Dated : 30.07.2021

From  
Tmt.Supriya Sahu, IAS.,  
Principal Secretary to Government.

To

The Assistant Inspector General of Forests (Central),  
Government of India,  
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change,  
Integrated Regional Office,  
1 & 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, HEPC Building,  
No.34, Cathedral Garden Road,  
Nungambakkam, Chennai-34.(w.e)

Sir,

Sub: Forests – Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 – Madurai Circle /  
Theni Division – Proposal for diversion of 2.839 ha. of forest  
land for the improvement work of Theni Bye-pass road  
connecting Dindigul-Theni road and Madurai-Cochin road  
across Valkaradu RF – in favour of Divisional Engineer,  
Highways Construction and Maintenance, Theni – Regarding.

- Ref: 1. Government letter No.6353/FR.10/2020-1, dated  
17.10.2020.  
2. Your letter F.No.4-TNB0768/2020-CHN/248, dated  
21.12.2020.  
3. From the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests letter  
No;TS4/39100/2019 dated 18.02.2021.

I am directed to invite attention to your letter second cited and to state that the  
replies to the queries raised therein are as follows:-

(Query No:1) Clarification on acquiring the non forest area prior consideration  
of the proposal and approval from competent authority and also further clarification  
required for considering forest clearance for 3<sup>rd</sup> reach alone when UA applied for  
4.295 ha in 3 stretches.

Reply: The User Agency has proposed to seek clearance under Forest  
Conservation Act to improve the existing road in 2013 and has applied for Forest  
Conservation Act clearance for diversion of 4.295 ha of Forest land in Valkaradu  
Reserved Forest as below:

Sl.No.	Survey No. involved in the Alignment	Classifications	Length of road	
			Patta/Karadu Poramboke	Forest
1	108, 109, 110, 111, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 142, 143, 258, 1367, 256, 1378, 1377, 1376, 189 & 190	Patta Land	1505 m	-
2	1237	Karadu Poramboke	1005 m	-
3	Valkaradu I	Reserved Forest	-	1 <sup>st</sup> reach 278m 2 <sup>nd</sup> reach 950m 3 <sup>rd</sup> reach 662m
Sub Total			2510m	1890m
Total				4400m

From the above, forest land required is  $1890 \times (22+23.44)/2 = 42950 \text{ m}^2$  (i.e.) 4.295 Ha. The User Agency has handed over 8.59 ha of non forest land in Sy.No.1511 of Veerapandi Village, Theni Taluk of Theni District to forest department as a compensatory land for the proposed diversion and is notified under Section 4 of Tamil Nadu Forest Act 1882 and the notification under section 16 of Tamil Nadu Forest Act 1882 is under process. The proposal was not pursued further. A separate proposal was initiated by the User Agency for diversion of 0.7944 ha land (III<sup>rd</sup> reach 662m length and 12m width) stating that this portion of the road formed prior to Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and permission was accorded, vide Principal Chief Conservator of Forests C.No. TS1/34967/2013 dated 27.08.2013 (Copy enclosed).

(Query No:2) The State Government has to provide details of clearance i.e. copies of the Stage I & II approval for 0.7944 ha if any.

Reply: A fresh proposal for improvement and re-gradation of road III<sup>rd</sup> reach from Theni Bus Stand to Madurai – Cochin road for a length of a 662 mts. and a width of 12 mts i.e. 0.7944 ha was received from Highways Department stating that this portion of the road formed prior to Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and being utilized for public purpose and hence permission accorded, vide Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Chennai Ref. No. TS1/34967/2013 dated 27.08.2013 for improvement of existing road.

(Query No:3) Legal status of the existing road needs to be provided and whether existing road (width of 7 mtr) also included in the present proposal needs to be explained.

Reply: In the notification of Reserved Forests, no mention about the road. However it has been reported that the existing road was present even before the year 1980. The present proposal is including the existing road of 7 mts width.

(Query No:4) As per the Site inspection Report of Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Madurai Circle, Considering the wild animal movements in the road appropriate mitigation plan needs to be submitted.

Reply: The User Agency has reported that there are no possibilities to make a provision for underpass or overpass for free movement of the wildlife. Alternatively they are proposing to control the speed limit of road traffic by providing caution boards and reflection board to safeguard the wildlife.

2. I am also directed to enclose the copies of letters received from the District Forest Officer, Theni district and the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Madurai and to request you to kindly obtain the concurrence from the Competent Authority and communicate the same to this Government early.

Yours faithfully,

S. Mohamed Yusuf 4/8/2021.  
for Principal Secretary to Government  
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