

TAMILNADU FOREST DEPARTMENT

From

Subrat Mohapatra, I.F.S.,
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To

The Additional Chief Secretary to
Government,
Environment, Climate Change and
Forests Department,
Secretariat, Chennai 9.

C. No. TS3/39365/2021 Dated: 03.01.2024.

Madam,

Sub: Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 – Proposal for diversion of 4.46 ha of forest land in Vandalur RF for formation of Tambaram Eastern Bypass road branching from km 17/4 of Malmalong bridge-Irumbuliyur road from Rajakilpakkam via Agaramthen road towards Perungalathur at km 0/0-9/300 in Chengalpattu District in favour of the Divisional Engineer, Highways, Chennai Metropolitan Development Plan Division-I, Chennai - Proposal forwarding - Regarding.

- Ref: 1 Online application uploaded by the Divisional Engineer, Metro, Highways Department, CMDP Division-I, No. 78 Real Diamond Building, Annasalai, Guindy Chennai-32 - Proposal No. FP/TN/Road/148656/2021, dated 22.10.2021 and Resubmission of proposal on 13.03.2023 and 25.03.2023
- 2 Part-II of Form-A uploaded by the District Forest Officer, Chennai Forest Division, Chennai on 15.05.2023
- 3 Part-III of Form-A uploaded by the Chief Conservator of Forests, Chennai Circle, Chennai on 10.07.2023 and resubmission of proposal on 22.07.2023
- 4 Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Ref. No. TS3/39365/2021 Dated: 25.07.2023
- 5 Government of India, MoEF&CC, IRO Chennai letter F. No. 4-TNB109/2023-CHN/1035, dated 29.08.2023
- 6 Government of India, MoEF&CC, IRO Chennai letter F. No. 4-TNB109/2023-CHN/1035, dated 29.08.2023
- 7 Government letter No. 5227778/FR.10/2023-2, dated 15.09.2023

With reference to the Government letter cited, I wish to inform the following details.

1) Government of India, MoEF&CC, Regional Office, Chennai in the reference 5th cited has informed to the State Government that, the Chief Engineer, Metro, Highways Department has submitted two proposals i.e. FP/TN/ROAD/ 151930/2022 for 0.95472 ha and FP/TN/ROAD/148656/2021 for 4.46 ha and noted that above mentioned two proposals are in same stretch and continuous in alignment. The State Government vide letter dated 03.08.2023 requested the RO Chennai to convey approval for felling of 204 spontaneous trees under proposal No FP/TN/ROAD/151930/2022 involves diversion of 0.95412 ha and whereas submitted the subject proposal to this office for approval under FCA, 1980;

i) It has been informed that, splitting of same stretch of road in to smaller area shall not be done and especially for linear proposals, proposal shall be submitted for its entirety. By splitting of proposals, competent authority to decide on such proposal will also change as per the delegation of powers and such artificial splitting is not permissible.

ii) Considering the above facts, it is requested that State Government may inform all stake holders including forest department Officials not to split the proposals in future. Further, the UA i.e. Chief Engineer, Metro, Highways Department may be directed to withdraw the above two proposals from the PARIVESH and to submit a fresh proposal for the revised area by combining 0.95472 ha + 4.46 ha- 5.41472 ha.

iii) As the combined area will be more than 5 ha, the revised proposal needs to be processed through Project Screening Committee (PSC) as per the provision of FC rules 2022. Further, it is also noticed that, the proposed CA scheme is not as per the provision of FC rules 2022, hence, Nodal Officer may be advised to re-examine the CA scheme and to submit appropriate CA scheme along with the said revised proposal.

2) In this regard, observation made by the Government of India has been informed to the user agency for revising and furnishing consolidated proposal.

The Chief Engineer, Highways, Metro has reported that the Forest Conservation Act 1980 proposals for formation of Tambaram Eastern Bypass and Construction of R.O.B at LC-32 are evolved at the different dates. Accordingly, the proposal for

diversion of Forest Land were submitted to the Forest Department at various dates. The fact of these two Projects are furnished as detailed below: -

i) Land Acquisition for the work of Formation of Tambaram Eastern by pass road at Km 0/0 - 9/300 has been sanctioned vide ref.1st cited by Govt. of Tamilnadu on 23.09.2004. The stretch from Km from 8/000-9/300 falls in Vandalur Reserve Forest area to an extent of 4.46 Ha. Hence proposal for diversion of forest land of 4.46 Ha in Vandalur RF was uploaded online in Parivesh Portal vide online proposal No FP/TN/Road 148656/2021 on 22.10.2021.

ii) The work of Construction of ROB in lieu of LC-32 at Perungalathur in between Tambaram and Vandalur Railway stations has been sanctioned vide ref 2nd cited by the Government of Tamilnadu on 01.12.2010. For this work, forest land to an extent of 0.95472 Ha in Vandalur Reserve Forest land is required. Hence proposal for diversion of forest land of 0.95472 Ha in Vandalur RF was uploaded online in Parivesh Portal vide online proposal No FP/TN/Road/151930/2022 on 02.2.2022.

The requirement of forest land for the above two works were assessed at different dates and accordingly the proposals for diversion of forest land was submitted for approval in parivesh portal.

iii) The facts on each scheme are tabulated below:

S.no	Description	Proposal 1:	Proposal 2:
		Formation of Tambaram Eastern Bypass Km 0/0-9/3 Proposal No. FP/TN/Road 148656/2021	Construction of LC 32 ROB Proposal No. FP/TN/Road/ 151930/2022
1.	Name of the Work.	Formation of Tambaram Eastern Bypass	Construction of ROB in lieu of LC-32 at Perungalathur in between Tambaram and Vandalur Railway stations
2	Scheme	2004-2005 Traffic Improvement Scheme	Railway Work Program for the year 2010-2013
3	Administrative sanction by Government of Tamil Nadu	G.O No. 264, Highways (HW1) Department, dated 23.09.2004	G.O No. 230, Highways (HQ2) Department, dated 01.12.2010.

			RAS G.O (Ms) No. 34, Highways and Minor Ports Department, dated 07.03.2019
4	Extent of Forest land involved	4.46 Ha	0.95472 Ha
5	Actual Date of Initiation of Diversion of Forest land proposal	Divisional Engineer (H) Thiruvallur & Divisional Engineer (H) CMDP-1 addressed District Collector, Kanchipuram requesting alternative double extent of compensatory land on 06.12.2005 & 09.01.2012 respectively.	Divisional Engineer (H) CMDP-2 addressed the District Collector, Chengalpattu requesting alternative double extent of compensatory land on 20.10.2021.
6	Proposal submitted to Forest department in Parivesh Portal by User agency	22.10.2021 Proposal No: FP/TN/Road/148656/2021	02.02.2022 Proposal No: FP/TN/Road/151930/2022
7	Alternate land approved by State Government	8.92 Ha Non-Forest land in SF. No: 96/1 of Vedhanarayanapuram village in Chengalpattu District	Not Applicable (Since extent is less than 1 Ha)
8	Compensatory Afforestation	Planting of 8920 number seedlings proposed in 8.92 Ha of degraded forest land in Gudulur RF including maintenance and protection of plantation for 10 years period.	Planting of 1909 number seedlings proposed in 1.909 Ha of degraded forest land in Vandalur RF including maintenance and protection of plantation for 10 years period.

The Chief Engineer, Highways, Metro has stated that though the combined area of Forest Area is more than 5 Ha for the two Projects, the two Projects have been sanctioned in different dates and diversion proposals also initiated at different dates depending upon the execution stage of above schemes and the proposals have not been split up intentionally.

Hence, the Chief Engineer, Highways, Metro has requested to consider above Proposals in order to complete the work as early as possible.

In view of the details furnished by the Chief Engineer, Metro, the proposal furnished for diversion of 4.46 ha of forest land in Vandalur RF for formation of Tambaram Eastern Bypass road branching from km 17/4 of Malmalong bridge-Irumbuliyur road from Rajakilpakkam via Agaramthen road towards Perungalathur at km 0/0-9/300 in Chengalpattu District in favour of the Divisional Engineer, Highways, Chennai Metropolitan Development Plan Division-I, Chennai may be considered separately and approval may be obtained from the Government of India.

Yours faithfully

S. Alayaz 11/24
For Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Head of Forest Force)

04/01/24