



GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

Forest & Wildlife (C) Department

No.C2/67/2020-FWLD

31/03/2021, Thiruvananthapuram

From

The Principal Secretary to Government

To

The Deputy Inspector General of Forests (Central),
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change Regional
Office (Southern Zone),
Kendriya Sadan, IVth Floor, E&F Wings,
17th Main Road, IInd Block,
Koramangala, Bangalore - 560034

Sir,

Sub: Forest & Wildlife Department - Proposal for diversion of 1.495 ha of forest land under Section (2) of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for rehabilitation and upgradation of NH85 from Bodimettu to Munnar road on EPC mode - Clarification - reg.

Ref: 1. D.O.No.4-KLB 1255/2020-BAN/1340 dated 12.03.2021 from the Deputy Director General of Forests(Central), Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Government of India.
2. Letter No. FC2-42531/2017 dated 25.03.2021 of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests(FM) & NO, F(C) Act.

I am directed to invite your attention to the reference cited and to forward herewith the copy of the letter in reference 2 cited along with all the necessary details sought for vide Letter in reference 1 cited above for further processing of the proposal.

Yours faithfully,

RAJESH.G.R

DEPUTY SECRETARY

For Principal Secretary to Government.

5099006/2021/(C) F&WLD

FC2- 42531/2017

Forest Headquarters,
Vazhuthacaud,
Thiruvananthapuram - 14.
Ph: 0471-2529243, 2529325
E-mail: apccf-sa.for@kerala.gov.in
Date : 25.03.2021

From

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,
(Forest Management) &
Nodal Officer, F(C)Act,
Forest Headquarters, Vazhuthacaud,
Thiruvananthapuram.

To

The Principal Secretary,
Forest & Wildlife Department,
Secretariat, Thiruvananthapuram..

Sir,

Sub :- Forest Clearance – Proposal for diversion of 1.495 ha of forest land under section (2) of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for rehabilitation and upgradation of NH85 from Bodimettu to Munnar road - regarding.

- Ref :-**
1. This office letter on even No. dated 07.08.2020.
 2. Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change letter F.No.4-KLB1255/2020-BAN/512 dated 04.09.2020.
 3. This office letter on even No. dated 17.12.2020 and 28.12.2020.
 4. Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change letter F.No. 4-KLB1255/2020-BAN/1050 dated 06.01.2021.
 5. This office letter on even No. dated 08.01.2021.
 6. Letter No. C5-3229/2020 dated 05.02.2021 of Chief Conservator of Forest (High Range Circle) Kottayam.
 7. Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change letter F.No. 4-KLB 1255/2020-BAN/1209 dated 24.02.2021 and 08.03.2021.
 8. Letter No. C5-3036/2016 dated 17.03.2021 of Conservator of Forest (High Range Circle) Kottayam.

Inviting your kind attention to the references cited. A proposal for diversion of 1.495 ha of forest land for the rehabilitation and upgradation work of NH85 under section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 submitted by Assistant Executive Engineer was received through Chief Conservator of Forest (High Range Circle) Kottayam.

As the area proposed for diversion is above 1 ha Compensatory Afforestation is mandatory as per the guidelines of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change. An area of 1.5 ha of degraded forest land of Ranni Reserve in Erumely Range in Kottayam Forest Division was identified for Compensatory Afforestation. The KML file and the Compensatory Afforestation scheme was submitted by the Divisional Forest Officer, Munnar along with the proposal (Part II filed by Divisional Forest Officer, Munnar) and the same is uploaded in the online portal for Forest Clearance. The proposal after scrutiny was recommended to Government of Kerala vide reference 1st dated 07.08.2020 for onward submission to Government of India. The KML file and the detailed Compensatory Afforestation Scheme is once again enclosed herewith as Annexure - I.

The proposal after examining by Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change sought the following clarifications as per reference 2nd cited.

1. Upload the KML files for all the stretches.
2. Clarify whether the proposal involves widening of existing road or change in alignment of existing road.
3. Mitigation plan approved by Chief Wildlife Warden.
4. Undertaking to the effect that in case diversion on forest land is denied for widening of road width of the portion of road falling in the forest land will be maintained at its existing level.
5. Compensatory Afforestation Scheme of double the extent of degraded forest land proposed for diversion.
6. FRA compliance certificate.

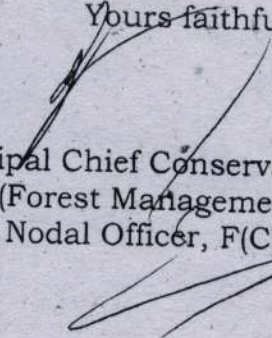
The reply to the queries (1), (2), (4) and (5) given on 17.12.2020 and (3) and (6) on 28.12.2020. In the reply itself it was made clear that the User Agency has been asked to provide equal extent of non-forest land for Compensatory Afforestation which is being identified by them and will be handed over to Forest Department. However as per F(C)Guidelines – the compensatory principle of 'land for land' and 'tree for tree' is being followed. Hence equal extent of degraded forest land has been identified under Kottayam Division which is found suitable for taking up Compensatory Afforestation plantation @ 1000 seedlings/ Ha. The State of Kerala vide G.O.(Rt)No. 421/2017/F&WLD dated 06.11.2017 directed to

insist on non-forest land during the diversions under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The identified non-forest land need to be handed over to Forest Department before processing for Stage-II clearance.

The Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change as per letter F.No.4-KLB 1255/2020-BAN/1050 dated 06.01.2021 again requested to submit the location details of proposed non forest land towards Compensatory Afforestation and a detailed Compensatory Afforestation scheme. In view of the above the User Agency through Chief Conservator of Forest (High Range Circle) Kottayam vide reference 6th cited informed that an extent of 1.495 ha of non-forest land has been identified in the Chinnakanal Village of Survey No. 20/1, 34/1 towards Compensatory Afforestation. The KML file of the non-forest land and the Compensatory Afforestation Scheme was forwarded to Government of India from this office on 12.02.2021. Again Government of India vide reference 7th cited informed to submit the KML file of the non-forest land and detailed Compensatory Afforestation Scheme. Chief Conservator of Forest (High Range Circle) Kottayam vide reference 8th cited informed that the Compensatory Afforestation land is a shola grass land and does not require afforestation. The larger polygon is the survey No. which will be transferred to Forest Department and the smaller polygon of 1.5 ha will be apportioned for the present project. Rest of the area is meant for future project.

In this regard, the verified KML file of the non-forest area identified in the Chinnakanal village is submitted herewith. I am also submitting herewith the detailed Compensatory Afforestation Scheme on degraded forest land at Vandanpathal Forest Station in Kottayam Division along with KML file and toposheet for information and necessary action.

Yours faithfully,


Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Forest Management) &
Nodal Officer, F(C) Act

