#### TAMILNADU FOREST DEPARMENT

From Tmt.R.Padmawathe, IFS.. Chief Conservator of Forests and Field Director. Srivilliputhur Megamalai Tiger Reserve, Madurai - 2.

To The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, (Head of Forest Force) Chennai - 32.

# C.No.9102/2022/D1, Dated: 19.10.2023

Sir,

Forests - Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 - SMTR, Sub: Madurai- Ramanathapuram Forest Division - Proposal for diversion of 28.6132 ha of forest land for the restoration of Rail connectivity between Rameswaram and Dhanushkodi Rameswaram Reserved Forests [FP/TN/Rail/152033/2022] - Online - Proposal Report submission -Additional details called for Report submission of -Reg.

Ref: 1) Principal Chief

Conservator of Forests Letter No.TS4/8098/2022, Dated; 12.092022.

Conservator of Forests and Field Director Srivilliputhur Megamalai Tiger Reserve, Madurai, Ref No9102/2022/D1, Dt:14.02.2023, 21.02.2023, and 17.03.2023.

3) Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Chennai C.No: TS4/8098/2022, Dt: 07.08.2023.

4) District Forest Officer, Ramanathapuram Division, Ramanathapuram C.No.3984/2021/D dt.05.10.23.

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With reference to the above subject, I submit that the additional details called for by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Chennai ref 3rd cited, the details received from the District Forest Officer, Ramanathapuram are as follows.

| - | 1. | What is the benefit of | :   | Railway line existed between Rameswaram and          |
|---|----|------------------------|-----|--|
|   |    | this project?          |     | Dhanushkodi upto 1964 with streamer service to       |
|   |    |                        |     | Sri Lanka. The same was washed out during 1964       |
|   |    |                        |     | cyclone. GoTN has taken over railway land            |
|   |    |                        | Š   | (137.04.5 Ha) for construction of Highway in the     |
|   |    |                        |     | year 2015.   |
|   | _  |                        | 1.5 | Now, the proposal for restoration of erstwhile route |
|   |    |                        | -   | between Rameswaram – Dhanushkodi is needed in        |
|   |    |                        |     | view of strategic importance, better mobility to     |
|   | -  |                        |     | border, enhancing communication with                 |
|   |    |                        |     |  |

|    |   | neighboring country, improving tourism and pilgrimage. This may lead to restoration of ferry service to neighboring country also.   |
|----|---|---|
| 2. | The No. of habitations located at Dhanushkodi | As per the statement of Village Administrative Officer, Rameshwaram Dated. 13.09.2023, there is no permanent habitations and population in Dhanushkodi. All are floating population only. |
| 3. | Total population of<br>Dhanushkodi            | As per the statement of Village Administrative Officer, Rameshwaram Dated. 13.09.2023, there is no permanent habitations and population in Dhanushkodi. All are floating population only. |

This is favour of kind information.

Encl: As stated above

Yours sincerely,
Sd/-R.Padmawathe,
Chief Conservator of Forests and Field Director
Srivilliputhur Megamalai Tiger Reserve,
Madurai

/T.C.B.O/

Senior Draughting Officer

30/10/23

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## **TAMILNADU FOREST DEPARTMENT**

From S.Hemalatha, S.F.S., District Forest Officer, Ramanathapuram Division, Ramanathapuram.

To
The Chief Conservator of Forests and Field
Director,
Srivilliputhur Megamalai Tiger Reserve,
Madurai.

### C.No. 3984/2021/D, Dated: 05.10.2023

Madam,

Sub:

3 OCT 2023

Romests – Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 – SMTR, Madurai Circle / Ramnad Forest Division – Proposal for diversion of 28.6132 Ha of forest land for restoration of Rail Connectivity between Rameshwaram and Dhanuskodi in Rameswaram RF in Ramanathapuram District – Additional details requested – submitted-Reg.

Ref:

- 1. Govt Lr.No. 2869/FR.10/2023-2, Dated. 03.08.2023.
- 2. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Chennai Ref.No.TS4/8098/2022, Dated. 07.08.2023.
- 3. Deputy Chief Engineer, Construction, Arasaradi, Madurai Lr. No. W.571/CN/RMM-DKDI/New Line Dt:25.09.2023.

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May please refer to the communication cited above. In this regard, a details called for in the reference  $1^{st}$  cited are obtained from the user agency vide reference  $3^{rd}$  cited and the reply of the user agency is submitted as follows.

| 1. | What is the benefit of this project?          | • | Railway line existed between Rameshwaram and Dhanushkodi upto 1964 with streamer service to Sri Lanka. The same was washed out during 1964 cyclone. GoTN has taken over railway land (137.04.5 Ha) for construction of Highway in the year 2015.  Now, the proposal for restoration of erstwhile route between Rameshwaram – Dhanushkodi is needed in view of strategic importance, better mobility to border, enhancing communication with neighboring country, improving tourism and pilgrimage. This may lead to restoration of ferry service to neighboring country also. |
|----|---|---|---|
| 2. | The No. of habitations located at Dhanushkodi | : | As per the statement of Village Administrative Officer, Rameshwaram Dated. 13.09.2023, there is no permanent habitations and population in Dhanushkodi. All are floating population only.   |
| 3. | Total population of<br>Dhanushkodi            | • | As per the statement of Village Administrative Officer, Rameshwaram Dated. 13.09.2023, there is no permanent habitations and population in Dhanushkodi. All are floating population only.   |

Encl: As stated above.

Yours faithfully, S.Hemalatha District Forest Officer Ramanathapuram

//By Order/

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#### SOUTHERN RAILWAY

Office of the Deputy Chief Engineer, Construction, Arasaradi, Madurai - 625016. Date:25.09.2023

No. W.571/CN/RMM-DKDI/New Line

To
The District Forest Officer,
Ramanathapuram Division,
Ramanathapuram.

Sub: Proposed New BG line between Rameswaram and Dhanushkodi – Forest Conservation Act – Additional details requested - Reg.

Ref: 1. Statement of VAO, Rameswaram village dated 13.09.2023.

Your letter No. 3984/2021/D Dated: 14.08.2023
 Govt of Tamilnadu Lr.No. 2869/FR.10/2023-2, Dated. 03.08.2023.

4. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Chennai Ref.No.TS4/8098/2022, Dated. 07.08.2023.

With reference to the above subject, the following remarks are furnished.

a) Railway Line existed between Rameswaram and Dhanushkodi up to 1964 with Streamer service to Sri Lanka. The same was washed out during 1964 cyclone. GoTN has taken over railway land (137.04.5 Ha) for construction of Highway in the year 2015.
Now, the proposal for restoration of erstwhile route between Rameswaram – Dhanushkodi is needed in view of strategic importance, better mobility to border, enhancing communication with neighboring country, improving tourism and pilgrimage. This may lead to restoration of ferry service to neighboring country also.

 As cited vide ref (1), there is no permanent habitations and population in Dhanushkodi. All are floating population only.

Hence, submitted for further necessary action please.

Deputy Chief Engineer, Construction/Madurai.

Copy to:

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Forest Headquarters Building, Guindy - Velacherry Main Road, Near Kannigapuram Check post, Guindy, Chennai - 600032. - For kind information and necessary action, please.

CE/CN/East/MS - For kind information.



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