

By e-mail



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

Letter No.14963/FR.10/2022-3, dated 16.03.2023

From  
Tmt.Supriya Sahu, IAS.,  
Additional Chief Secretary to Government.

To

- ✓ The Assistant Inspector General of Forests (Central),  
Government of India,  
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change,  
Integrated Regional Office,  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Additional Office Block for GPOA,  
Shastri Bhawan, Haddows Road,  
Nungambakkam, Chennai-600 006. (w.e).

Sir,

Sub: Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 – Proposal (FP/TN/Road/  
147758/2021) for diversion of 5.00 ha (now revised to 4.00 ha)  
of forest land in Pallipatti RF, Thombakal RF and Thombakal  
Extension RF of Harur Range in Dharmapuri Forest Division for  
approach road from Vachathi to Kalasapadi Road via  
Arasanatham and Poigundanvalasu tribal habitations of Sitheri  
Panchayat in Pappireddipatti Taluk in Dharmapuri District in  
favour of the Block Development Officer, Pappireddipatti,  
Dharmapuri District - Additional details - Furnishing of -  
Regarding

- Ref: 1. From the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, letter  
No.TS3/37648/2021, dated 18.08.2022.  
2. Government letter No.14963/FR.10/2022-1, dated  
30.09.2022.  
3. Your office letter No.4-TNB096/2022-CHN/1244, dated  
22.11.2022.  
4. Government letter No.14963/FR.10/2022-2, dated  
30.12.2022.  
5. From the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, letter  
No.TS3/37648/2021, dated 15.02.2023.

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I am directed to forward a copy of the reference fifth cited along with its enclosures, wherein the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests has furnished the clarification details as called for in your office letter third cited and revised proposal for diversion of 4.00 ha of forest land in Pallipatti RF, Thombakal RF and Thombakal Extension RF of Harur Range in Dharmapuri Forest Division, for approach road from Vachathi to Kalasapadi Road via Arasanatham and Poigundanvalasu tribal

habitations of Sitheri Panchayat in Pappireddipatti Taluk in Dharmapuri District, in favour of the Block Development Officer, Pappireddipatti, Dharmapuri District.

2. I am therefore to request you to obtain the concurrence from the Competent Authority for the revised subject proposal and communicate the same to Government immediately.

Yours faithfully,

M. Megala  
16/3/2023

for Additional Chief Secretary to Government

16/03/2023

FR 10 [Prec. no. 14963/FR-10/2022]

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TAMILNADU FOREST DEPARTMENT

From

To

Subrat Mohapatra, I.F.S.,  
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,  
(Head of Forest Force)  
Forest Head Quarters Building, Guindy-  
Velachery Main Road, Guindy, Chennai-32.

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

C. No. TS3/37648/2021 Dated: 15.02.2023.

Madam,

Sub: Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 - Diversion of 5.00 ha (now revised 4.00 ha) of forest land in Pallipatti RF, Thombakal RF and Thombakal Extension RF of Dharmapuri Forest Division for formation of approach road from Vachathi to Kalasapadi Road via Arasanatham and Poigundanvalasu tribal habitations of Sitheri Panchayat in Pappireddipatti Taluk in Dharmapuri District in favour of the Block Development Officer, Pappireddipatti, Dharmapuri District furnished - Additional/clarification details called for by the Government of India - Regarding.

- Ref: 1 Online forest clearance proposal uploaded by the Block Development Officer, Pappireddipatty Union, Pappireddipatty, Dharmapuri District - Proposal No. FP/TN/Road/147758/2021
- 2 Part II of Form-A uploaded by the District Forest Officer, Dharmapuri Division on 23.05.2022 and EDS reply uploaded on 21.07.2022
- 3 Part-III of Form-A uploaded by the Conservator of Forests, Dharmapuri Circle on 15.06.2022 and EDS reply uploaded on 26.07.2022
- 4 Principal Chief conservator of Forests Ref. No. TS3/37648/2021, dated 18.08.2022
- 5 Government letter No. 14963/FR.10/2022-1, dated 30.09.2022
- 6 Government of India letter No. 4-TNB096/2022-CHN/1244, dated 22.11.2022
- 7 Government letter No. 14963/FR.10/2022-2, dated 30.12.2022

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8 Revised proposal uploaded by the user agency on 29.01.2023

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With reference to the Government letter 7<sup>th</sup> cited above, I wish to state the following.

1) For the forest clearance proposal forwarded to the Government of India vide Government letter 5<sup>th</sup> cited above, some additional/clarification details have been called for in Government of India letter 6<sup>th</sup> cited above.

i) Further based on the decision taken in the Regional Empowered Committee meeting held on 31.10.2022, REC Subcommittee comprising Member Dr. C. N. Rao IFS (Retd) and Assistant Inspector General of Forests (Central), MoEF&CC, IRO Chennai have inspected the Project site as well as land identified for compensatory land from 12.12.2022 to 14.12.2022. A copy of the minutes of the 58<sup>th</sup> meeting of Regional Empowered Committee of Integrated Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Chennai held on 19.12.2022 is enclosed herewith for information.

ii) Based on the field inspection and observations made by the REC Subcommittee with the user agency and the District Forest Officer, Dharmapuri Division, the user agency has revised the forest clearance proposal by reducing the width of the road from 7.50m to 6.00m and the forest area requirement has been revised to 4.00 ha from the earlier proposal of 5.00 ha and necessary corrections were carried out in the Part-I of Form-I in the parivesh web portal and the revised proposal has been forwarded by the District Forest Officer, Dharmapuri Division and by the Conservator of Forests, Dharmapuri Circle and furnished the hard copy of the proposal.

2) Revised forest clearance proposal details and details called for by the Government of India are furnished as follows.

i) Revised proposal for diversion of 4.00 ha of Forest land in Pallipatti RF, Thombakkal RF and Thombakkal Extension Reserved Forests of Harur Range in Dharmapuri Forest Division for approach road from Vachathi to Kalasapadi via Arasanatham and Poigundanvalasu Tribal habitations in Sitheri Panchayat in Pappireddipatty Taluk and Dharmapuri District had been uploaded by the User

Agency ie., Block Development Officer, Pappireddipatty Panchayat Union of Dharmapuri District in the parivesh web portal.

ii) The User Agency, Block Development Officer, Pappireddipatti is unable to edit/change the previous details uploaded for diversion of Forest area in PART I of Form A at Parivesh web portal. Hence a separate letter has been uploaded by the user agency under Additional information details

iii) Revised total forest area required for the proposed road in Pallipatti RF, Thombakkal RF and Thombakkal Extension Reserved Forests of Harur Range in Dharmapuri Forest Division is as follows.

Road in Pallipatti RF : 2473m X 6.00m = 14838.00 Sq.m.

Road in Thombakkal RF : 900m X 6.00m = 5400.00 Sq.m.

Road in Thombakkal Extn. RF: 1800m X 6.00m = 10800.00 Sq.m.

Add for Curves : 8962.00 Sq.m.

Total area = 40000.00 Sq.m (or) 4.00 ha

iv) Regarding the Compensatory Afforestation land, the user agency i.e., the Block Development Officer, Pappireddipatty Taluk of Dharmapuri District has identified the non-forest land in Survey Field No. 692/7 of No.18 Kammampatti village to an extent of 8.00 ha. The Consent letter furnished by the District Collector, Dharmapuri is enclosed in the revised project proposal, since in the earlier proposal, compensatory afforestation land has been proposed for 10.00 ha area for the diversion of 5.00 h a forest area.

v) The Non-Forest land in Survey Field No. 692/7 of No.18 Kammampatti village has been inspected by REC Sub-committee with the District Forest Officer, Dharmapuri on 13-12-2022. This non-forest land is supporting good growth of vegetation such as Acacia nilotica, Prosopis sps, Acacia leucophloea, Azadirachta indica, Albezzia lebbeck, Acacia ferruginea etc. This area was planted during 1975-1980 under Social Forestry Scheme. Considering the good growth & stock of the plantation in the non-forest land, planting of seedlings as proposed earlier in the CA scheme is not possible. Therefore the Compensatory afforestation to be proposed to be raised at Thoppur Reserved Forest (Degraded Forest area) in 8.00 Ha area in Dharmapuri Range. This portion of the Thoppur Reserved Forest area also inspected

by the REC subcommittee along with the District Forest Officer, Dharmapuri and ascertained that this area can be chosen for the CA area for protecting this forest area from encroachment and to improve the vegetation in the area. It is quite suitable for raising compensatory afforestation and also approachable and manageable on protection point of view.

vi) The User Agency has furnished the certificate from the District Collector, Dharmapuri that, no alternative suitable non-forest land available and not covered under Tribal and Traditional Forest Dwellers Forest Rights Recognition Act 2006 for the project.

vii) In the alignment of the proposed road of 6m in width, there are exists 16 numbers of trees which are spontaneous growth in nature. Hence as per the opinion of the REC subcommittee during the field inspection on 13.12.2022, the tarring (Black top) portion of 3.75mtr width will be made along the alignment of the existing mud road such that, the marked trees need not to be felled. Accordingly the User agency has furnished a letter vide Roc.No.1435/2019/R2 dated.20.01.2023 that the road carriage way shall be done to a width of 3.75m so as to avoid felling of trees marked in the alignment (A copy of letter is enclosed).

Further, as per the orders issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India judgment dated 11.01.2023 in I.A Nos 168328/2022 and 168313/2022 and I.A Nos. 191583/2022, order requiring permission of this Court for felling of trees in all forest areas in respect of any road projects initiated by NHAI or any other instrumentality of the State, which involves cutting of up to 500 trees is recalled. Hence Hon'ble Supreme Court of India permission is also needed if any tree felling involved in this project for the identified 16 number of trees.

viii) The User agency has furnished necessary undertaking for the payment of Annual Lease Rent as assessed by the Forest Department. All the "Undertaking" given by the User Agency are enclosed in the proposal.

3) Revised recommendation of the project has been uploaded under additional information details section of Part-II of Form-A by the District Forest Officer, Dharmapuri Division.

i) The Rate of Net Present Value is fixed based on the Honourable Supreme Court of India judgment dated 28-03-2008 and 07-05-2008 in IA.No.826 in 566 and also the revised rate as per the Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Climate Change (Forest Conservation Division), New Delhi, File No.5-3 / 2011-FC (Vol-I) dated.06-01-2022. Proposed diversion area consist of ECO class III – consisting of tropical dry deciduous forest of 0.25 density.

In this case, the rate for open forest is fixed as Net Present Value for 4.00Ha. i.e.,  $4.00 \text{ ha} \times \text{Rs.}9,57,780 / \text{ha.} = \text{Rs.}38,31,120/-$ . Regarding this, the User Agency has given necessary “Undertaking” for the payment of Net Present Value and Additional Net Present Value if any as fixed by the Forest Department.

ii) The Compensatory Afforestation land identified by the User Agency in S.F.No.692/7 of No.18.Kammampatti village is already having a good growth of vegetation. Hence the improvement activities such as fire line clearing, removal of invasive species, Soil Moisture Conservation works, gap plantation will be carried out in future to augment the forestry activity in that area.

iii) The chain link fencing is proposed for Compensatory afforestation area in degraded forest area of Thoppur Reserved Forest of Dharmapuri Range over 8.00 Ha which is very much necessary to protect plantation from biotic pressure and cattle grazing. The chain link fencing is to be covered for a peripheral length of 1580mtr only, because one end is adjoining to the Compensatory afforestation area (5.82Ha) proposed for Thimmalanmedu to Kotturmalai road FCA proposal is covered.

iv) In Parivesh Webportal, there is no option to upload the KML file of degraded forest land, therefore the Proposed Compensatory Afforestation land identified to raise CA in degraded forest area of Thoppur Reserved Forest of Dharmapuri Range, KML file is enclosed in Compact Disc. There is a provision for uploading KML file of CA land and the same has been uploaded by User Agency in Part -I of form A.

v) Editing/delete of already uploaded details/documents of some sections are not made available in the parivesh web portal. Hence revised recommendation letter of District Forest Officer has been uploaded under additional information details section.

vi) The Compensatory Afforestation scheme is revised as per the para 2.4(vi) under chapter 2 of Compensatory Afforestation of handbook of Forest Conservation Act,1980 and Forest Conservation Rule 2003 issued by the Government of India during 2019. Hence the Compensatory afforestation to be raised 1000 plants per hectare at Thoppur Reserved Forest (Degraded Forest area) over 8.00Ha as 8000nos of plants to be planted. This portion of the Thoppur Reserved Forest area also inspected by the REC subcommittee along with the District Forest Officer, Dharmapuri on 13.12.2022 and ascertained that this area can be chosen for the CA area that can support a minimum of 1000 seedlings per ha. It is also approachable and manageable on protection point of view.

vii) The Work Cost estimate of Chain link fencing around the Compensatory afforestation plantation area with the working sheet is uploaded in PART II of form A on PARIVESH Web portal and also furnished in the hardcopy

viii) The Survey of India topo sheet is mentioned with SOI map number and the DGPS readings of the selected degraded forest area is given in separate tabulation and the same is uploaded in additional details of PART II of form A and furnished in the hardcopy.

ix) The work cost of compensatory afforestation scheme for 8.00 ha degraded forest area selected in Thoppur RF including protection of CA plantation area with chain link fencing proposed to Rs. 127.998 lakhs,

4) Clarification details called for by the Government of India is furnished below.

(i) Legal status of existing mud road:

The proposed road starts from Vachathi village near a eucalyptus plantation and the mud road width varying from 3m to 3.5mts. The existing mud road proceed towards east direction for about 3km then progressing towards south about 2kms to reach Kalasapadi.

In pallipatti Reserved Forest, Right of way is mentioned in the Reserved Forest Gazette notification in Remarks as "Row is admitted for men and cattle to a width not exceeding six yards" as per Sl.No.V (Copy of notification is enclosed).

This road was utilized only as a foot path by the villagers, but during 2000, this road was developed/ widened by the villagers illegally and in this connection, a Forest



offence was registered as OR.No.61/2000-2001 and subsequently this case was compounded for Rs.25,000/- (Copy of Offence Register is enclosed).

(ii) Electricity line and year of formation of such electricity line:

Along the proposed road side, a water pipeline was laid up to the settlement for which Forest land having extent of 0.48ha was diverted under General approval category by the state Forest Department as per GO.(Ms) No.101 Environment & Forest (FR.10) department dated.23-08-2011 (Copy of G.O is enclosed).

The transmission line passing all along the road side was laid as per TANGEDCO Sanction Order No.626/S/05/14-15. dated.25-03-2015 for the above said project (copy of Service connection is enclosed). But prior approval from Government of India for laying transmission line in the Forest area was not obtained. Hence the Concerned User Agency has been informed by the District Forest Officer Dharmapuri to obtain approval from Government of India for the transmission line laid in the earlier project. Accordingly, the User Agency TWAD Board, Project Maintenance Division, Dharmapuri has furnished a letter stating that necessary application will be submitted under Forest Conservation Act 1980 vide Lr.No.F.PkgIII/JDO/PMD/DPI/2023/Dt.20.01.2023 (A copy of letter is enclosed).

Mitigation measures regarding the safety of animals crossing the road :

The User Agency has been informed to erect sign boards, awareness boards and to construct multiple speed breakers in the proposed alignment of road during the execution of project for considering the safety of animals crossing the road. Accordingly the User agency, Block development Officer, Pappireddipatti has furnished a letter vide Roc.No.1435/2019/R2 dated.20.01.2023 (A copy of letter is enclosed).

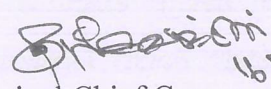
5) Revised forest clearance proposal furnished by the user agency and the District Forest Officer, Dharmapuri Division along with connected documents are enclosed herewith.

I request that the revised proposal for diversion of 4.00 ha of Forest land in Pallipatti RF, Thombakkal RF and Thombakkal Extension Reserved Forests of Harur Range in Dharmapuri Forest Division for approach road from Vachathi to Kalasapadi via Arasanatham and Poigundanvalasu Tribal habitations of Sitheri Panchayat in


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Pappireddipatty Taluk of Dharmapuri District and clarification details furnished as above may be considered and forwarded to the Government of India for their approval.

Yours faithfully

  
16/02/2023

For Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
(Head of Forest Force)

  
16/02/2023

Minutes of the 58<sup>th</sup> meeting of Regional Empowered Committee (REC) of Integrated Regional Office, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Chennai held through video conference on 19.12.2022 at 11.30AM

The 58<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Regional Empowered Committee (REC) of Integrated Regional Office, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Chennai was held through video conference;

The following members / special invitees were present during the meeting.

1. Shri.R.Hemanth Kumar, IFS,  
DDG/ Regional Officer (Central), Ministry of  
Environment, Forests & Climate Change  
Integrated Regional Office (SEZ), Chennai ...Chairman
2. Shri.K.Jude Sekar, IFS (Retired)  
Flat No. R-33, Arihant Heirloom Apartments,  
P.O. Thalambur, Off. OMR Chennai -600130 ...Member
3. Shri.B.S.S.Reddy, IFS (Retired)  
107, White House Apartments, Road No.13,  
Banjara Hills, Hyderabad ...Member
4. Dr.C.N. Rao, IFS (Retired) 9-10-3 Giddi Lane  
Gandhi Nagar, Kakinada,  
East Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh ... Member
5. Smt V. Karuna Priya, IFS ...Special Invitee  
APCCF/ Nodal Officer,  
Forest Dept., Tamil Nadu
6. Shri. S. Sasikumar, IFS ....Member  
Deputy Inspector General of Forests (Central)  
Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change  
Integrated Regional Office, Chennai



Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change,  
Integrated Regional Office, Chennai

20 December 2022

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7. Shri.K. Karthikeyan, IFS  
Assistant Inspector General of Forests (Central),  
Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change  
Integrated Regional Office, Chennai

... Member Secretary

At the outset, Chairperson extended a warm welcome to the members of REC and other participants. As directed by the Regional Officer (Central)/ Chairman REC, the Assistant Inspector General of Forests made presentation on action taken on the decisions made by the committee during 57<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 31.10.2022 as below;

Agenda No	State	File Number/ Proposal No	Name of the proposal	Area (ha.)	Action Taken
01	Tamil Nadu	FP/TN/ROA D/147758/2021	Diversion of 5.00 ha of forest land in Pallipatti RF, Thombakal RF and Thombakal Extension RF of Dharmapuri Forest Division for formation of approach road from Vachathi to Kalasapadi Road via Arasanatham and Poigundanvalasu tribal habitations of Sitherei Panchayat in Pappireddipatti Taluk in Dharmapuri District to a length of 5.173 km and to a width of 7.50m in favour of the Block Development Officer, Pappireddipatti Dharmapuri District.	5.00	As decided by the REC, the sub-committee inspected the forest area proposed for diversion and the area identified for CA purpose.  The proposal was considered by the REC during present 58 <sup>th</sup> REC meeting



Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change,  
Integrated Regional Office, Chennai

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State: Tamil Nadu

Agenda No 01: Diversion of 5.00 ha of forest land in Pallipatti RF, Thombakal RF and Thombakal Extension RF of Dharmapuri Forest Division for formation of approach road from Vachathi to Kalasapadi Road via Arasanatham and Poigundanvalasu tribal habitations of Sitherei Panchayat in Pappireddipatti Taluk in Dharmapuri District to a length of 5.173 km and to a width of 7.50m in favour of the Block Development Officer, Pappireddipatti Dharmapuri District

The Regional Empowered Committee (REC) has noted the following facts of the proposal:

1. The State Government vide letter No. 14963/FR.10/2022-1 dated 30.09.2022 forwarded the proposal for diversion of 5.00 ha of forest land in Pallipatti RF, Thombakal RF and Thombakal Extension RF of Dharmapuri Forest Division for formation of approach road from Vachathi to Kalasapadi Road via Arasanatham and Poigundanvalasu tribal habitations of Sitherei Panchayat in Pappireddipatti Taluk in Dharmapuri District to a length of 5.173 km and to a width of 7.50m in favour of the Block Development Officer, Pappireddipatti Dharmapuri District and requested to accord approval under FCA, 1980. The Subject proposal has been processed and forwarded by the State Government through online vide proposal No. FP/TN/ROAD/147758/2021
2. Purpose wise breakup of the forest area required for diversion: 5173 mtrs length with 7.5 mtrs width of road. It is reported that no RoW admitted in the RF area and reported that earthen road is existing in the area;
3. Legal Status of Forest land: Reserved Forest
4. Type of the project: Reported as linear
5. Status of User Agency: Reported as State Government
6. Density of Vegetation: 0.25 and Eco class 3
7. Cost of the project: Rs.600 lakhs
8. UA reported that 150 permanent and 100 number of person-days of temporary employment will be generated under the project;
9. DFO Dharmapuri Forest Division reported that there is no erosion in this forest area;
10. The Divisional Forest Officer Dharmapuri Division has reported that proposed forest area is not forms part of National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant Corridor etc and also reported that no national park, wildlife sanctuary, biosphere reserve, tiger reserve, elephant corridor, wildlife migration corridor etc., is located within 1 Km. from boundary of the forest land proposed for diversion;



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11. The Divisional Forest Officer Dharmapuri Division has reported that no rare/ endangered / unique species of flora and fauna are found in the area.
12. The Divisional Forest Officer Dharmapuri Division has reported that no protected archaeological/ heritage site/ defence establishment or any other important monument is located in the area
13. The Divisional Forest Officer Dharmapuri Division has reported that the requirement of forest land for diversion as proposed by the UA is unavoidable and the barest minimum for the project.
14. The Divisional Forest Officer Dharmapuri Division has reported that no work in violation of FCA, 1980 has been carried out by the User Agency;
15. As reported, 16 number of spontaneous trees to be felled. Enumeration list of trees has been uploaded in the online application. Approval from the Hon'ble SC of India / CEC is yet to be obtained.
16. The User Agency identified 10.00 ha of non-forest area in Sy No 692/7 of Kammampatty in Nallampalli Taluk of Dharmapuri District and reported that naturally grown trees area existing in the area and the land is suitable for raising CA and reported that the land is approachable and manageable on protection point of view;
17. It is reported that as the targeted plantation not be able to carry out in the non forest area, an extent of 5.00 ha of DFL identified in Parigam A RF and reported that plantation @ 600 per ha in the NFL and @ 800 in DFL area will be carryout as CA;
18. CA scheme including fencing, engaging protection mazdoor with financial out lay of Rs. 1,58,40,000/- for both DFL & NFL together has been submitted.
19. **CA map, kml file, scheme etc has been uploaded in the portal.**
20. Site Inspection report of the DFO, Dharmapuri Division has been uploaded in the online application.
21. Site Inspection report of the CF, Dharmapuri Circle has been uploaded in the online application.
22. RoFR certificate (Form I) has been furnished;
23. The subject proposal has been processed through DSS cell and found to be not inviolate;
24. The proposal is recommended at all levels in the State Government. The State Government Recommended for 20 years, whereas the UA proposed for diversion for 99 years;
25. The subject proposal was considered by the REC in its 57<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 31.10.2022, After detailed deliberation the committee decided that, subcommittee of the REC will inspect the forest area proposed for diversion to ascertain the actual required width of



- the road, wildlife presence and likely impact on wildlife due to formation of road, mitigation measures if any and also inspect the non forest area identified for CA purpose to ascertain its suitability. Further, The Committee decided to consider the proposal along with the report of the subcommittee and report from the Nodal Officer;
26. As decided by the REC, the sub-committee of the REC carried out site inspection of both forest area proposed for diversion and land proposed for CA purpose. **The site inspection report of the sub-committee was considered by the committee;**
27. The Nodal Officer was requested to submit detailed report on the existing road & electricity line as assured to the committee in the 57<sup>th</sup> REC meeting held on 31.10.2022.

**Deliberation:** The Committee deliberated the facts of the proposals and examined the report submitted by the sub-committee of the REC and the committee noted the following,

- (i) There is a Kachha / mud road exists with a width varying from 3 to 3.5 m. The existing mud road proceed towards east direction for about 3 Km then progressing towards south about 2 Km to reach Kalasapady.
- (ii) In Pallipatti RF, RoW is mentioned in the Reserved Forest Gazette notification in REMARKS as "RoW is admitted for men and cattle over the under mentioned paths to a width not exceeding six yards. But no such RoW provisions were allowed in the Thombakkal & Thombakkal Extension RF Notifications;
- (iii) As informed by the forest officials that earlier this road was utilized only as a foot path by the villagers, but during 2000, this road was developed/ widened by the villagers illegally and in connection with that a forest offence was registered as OR No. 61/2000-2001 and subsequently this case was compounded for Rs.25,000/- and closed;
- (iv) All along the proposed road side a water pipeline was laid upto the settlements for which forest land having extent of 0.48 ha was diverted under General Approval category by the State Forest Dept. as per G.O.(Ms) No.101 of Environment & Forest (FR.10) department dated 23.08.2011;
- (v) With regard to the transmission line passing all along the road side, it was informed that in order to provide electricity connection for the water supply scheme sanctioned under General Approval category as mentioned above, a 11KV /440 V transmission line was laid as per TANGEDGO sanction order No. 626/S/05/14-15 dated 25.03.2015. **But prior approval from GoI for laying transmission line in the forest area was not obtained.**
- (vi) The Subcommittee reported that 16 numbers of trees of spontaneous origin was marked for felling for this proposals, but all are located outside the existing



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Integrated Regional Office, Chennai

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mud/metal road having width varying from 3 to 3.5m;

- (vii) The Committee noted that non-forest land over an extent of 10 ha area in Sy No 692/7 of Kammampatty is good growth of vegetation such as Acacia nilotica, Prosopis sps, Acacia leucophloea, Azadirachta indica, Albezzia lebbeck, Acacia ferruginea etc and no scope for carry out fresh plantation in the said area;
- (viii) The Committee noted that an extent of 5 ha of degraded forest land area in Parigam-A RF identified for CA is lying contiguous to the non-forest land and supports the vegetation as the same status of the non-forest land and not suitable for carryout required number of plantation;

With the above observation, the committee, accepted the facts reported by the subcommittee and decided that, the State Forest Department shall require to identify the required extent of degraded forest area Thoppur RF as suggested by the subcommittee and shall revise CA scheme accordingly and to ensure required number of trees to be planted in such DFL area as per the Ministry guidelines;

The Committee opined, that the 11KV /440 V transmission line laid as per TANGEDGO sanction order No. 626/S/05/14-15 dated 25.03.2015 is without prior approval from GoI and noted that the as per the Ministry Guidelines, standard RoW for specific voltage / capacity of the transmission line is required to be maintained in the forest area. Hence, committee decided that, the existing transmission line shall not be considered as diverted under FCA, 1980 and the State Government shall take necessary action as per the provision made in the hand book Para 1.21 (i) (a & b);

✓  
④ The subcommittee in its report informed the following;

*"The subcommittee on 13.12.2022, while travelling from Dharmapuri to the proposed road diversion site via Harur, forest dept's vehicle (Bolero Jeep) which escorted our vehicle hit a spotted deer while it was crossing the road in the Harur RF area. Harur to Sindhalpadi Major District Road is passing around 3 Km inside Harur Reserve Forest i.e. both the sides of the road is RF area. It was informed by the staff that recently due to an Auto rickshaw hit the deer while it was crossing, the driver of Auto rickshaw was died. The RFO, Harur Range informed that already a request was made before the State Highway Authorities & Police to make speed breakers on the portion of the road passing through the RF area for reducing speed of vehicles and to avoid such accidents in future, but there was no response from the concerned authorities. Hence it is suggested by the subcommittee that within three months necessary mitigation measures shall be done by the authorities concerned"*

Though the above observation not related to the subject proposal, the committee considered the concerns made by the subcommittee and the committee noted that the said road i.e. Harur to Sindhalpadi Major District Road is passing around 3 Km inside Harur Reserve Forest i.e. both the sides of the road is RF area, after deliberation on the above matter,



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The committee opined that, as the said road is passing through the RF, details of approval obtained FCA, 1980 for the said road needs to be obtained / details of RoW in case the road is existing prior to FCA, 1980 and opined that instead of approaching Police department to make speed breakers, the State Forest Department shall direct the User Agency concerned to provide speed breaker wherever necessary at the project cost and in case approval was accorded by the GoI for the said road project, the State Government may inform the same to the IRO Chennai so as to issue appropriate orders to impose suitable conditions in conservation point of view.

Recommendation: After detailed deliberation of the proposals and examination of the report submitted by the subcommittee of the REC, the committee considered that the proposed road is very much important for transportation requirement of the tribal people residing at this locality and their accessibility needs such as health, education, employment etc., the committee **RECOMMENDED** the proposal to issue Stage-I (in-principle) approval subject to the standard conditions with the following specific conditions;

- (i) The BT portion / carriage way shall be restricted to 3.75 mtrs.
- (ii) The User Agency shall avoid felling of trees of spontaneous origin and in case of felling of such species is unavoidable, then the UA shall obtain prior approval of the CEC/ Hon'ble Supreme Court of India before felling of trees of spontaneous origin;
- (iii) The State Forest Department shall taken over non-forest land over an extent of 10 ha area in Sy No 692/7 of Kammampatty and as the area is good growth of vegetation, suitable SMC works etc may be carried out at the cost of the User Agency;
- (iv) The State Forest Department shall identify the required extent of degraded forest area in Thoppur RF as suggested by the subcommittee and shall revise CA scheme accordingly and to ensure required number of trees to be planted in such DFL area as per the Ministry guidelines at the cost of the User Agency;
- (v) As the wildlife presence in this locality is more of small animals such as wild boar, monitor lizard, hares, deer and reptiles etc, the User Agency shall provide culverts and other structures as per the requirement in consultation with the DFO concerned at appropriate places to ensure safe movement of wild animals;
- (vi) The User Agency shall provide speed breakers at appropriate places in the forest area in consultation with the DFO concerned;
- (vii) The User Agency may restrict the speed limit of the vehicles to 40 kmph or as appropriate in the forest area to avoid wild animal hits and display board regarding speed limit shall be erected at appropriate intervals in the entire stretch of the road in the forest area to sensitize the commuters;

*The IRO, Chennai shall issue Stage I approval after ensuring identification of suitable DFL area for CA purpose and uploading of details like CA map, Kml, CA scheme, suitability*



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certificate etc in the online application.

With regard to the existing transmission line in the forest area, the committee noted that the 11KV /440 V transmission line laid as per TANGEDGO sanction order No. 626/S/05/14-15 dated 25.03.2015 is without prior approval from GoI and noted that the as per the Ministry Guidelines, standard RoW for specific voltage / capacity of the transmission line required to be maintained in the forest area. Hence, the State Government shall not consider the existing transmission line as diverted under FCA, 1980 and the State Government shall take necessary action as per the provision made in the hand book Para 1.21 (i) (a & b);

With regard to the recommendation of the subcommittee of the REC on providing of speed breakers in Harur to Sindhalpadi Major District Road passing around 3 Km inside Harur Reserve Forest, the committed decided that, as the said road is existing in the RF, the State Government may submit the following

- (a) Details of approval obtained FCA, 1980 for the said road / details of RoW in case the road is existing prior to FCA, 1980;
- (b) The State Forest Department shall direct the User Agency concerned to provide speed breaker wherever necessary at the project cost and in case, approval was accorded by the GoI for the said road project, the State Government may inform the same to the IRO Chennai so as to issue appropriate orders to impose suitable conditions in conservation point of view.

**Agenda No 02: Diversion of 14.029 ha of forest land in Tiruvallur Forest Division for construction of six lane highways from Chittoor to Thatchur road (NH 716 B) lies in 3.4186 ha of area in Thirumalairajupettai Reserved Forests and 10.6103 ha of forest area in Nediya RFs of Tiruvallur District in favour of the Project Director, National Highways Authority of India, PIU-Kancheepuram, Chennai.**

The Regional Empowered Committee (REC) has noted the following facts of the proposal:

1. The State Government vide letter No. 17849/FR.10/2022-2 dated 18.11.2022 forwarded the proposal for diversion of 14.029 ha of forest land in Tiruvallur Forest Division for construction of six lane highways from Chittoor to Thatchur road (NH 716 B) lies in 3.4186 ha of area in Thirumalairajupettai Reserved Forests and 10.6103 ha of forest area in Nediya RFs of Tiruvallur District in favour of the Project Director, National Highways Authority of India, PIU-Kancheepuram, Chennai and requested to accord approval under FCA, 1980. The Subject proposal has been processed and forwarded by the State Government through online vide proposal No. FP/TN/ROAD/53276/2020



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2. Purpose wise breakup of the forest area required for diversion:

- A. Carriageway : 4.9954 ha  
 B. Shoulders : 1.0696 ha  
 C. Drain : 0.2692 ha  
 D. RoW : 7.6948 ha

**Total : 14.029 ha**

3. Legal Status of Forest land: Reserved Forest
4. Type of the project: Reported as linear
5. Status of User Agency: Reported as State Government
6. Density of Vegetation: **0.4 and Eco class 4**
7. Cost of the project: Rs. 384000 lakhs
8. UA reported that 100 permanent and 2000 number of person-days of temporary employment will be generated under the project;
9. DFO Tiruvalur Forest Division informed that the forest area is not vulnerable for erosion
10. The DFO Tiruvalur Forest Division has reported that proposed forest area is not forms part of National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant Corridor etc and also reported that no national park, wildlife sanctuary, biosphere reserve, tiger reserve, elephant corridor, wildlife migration corridor etc., is located within 1 Km. from boundary of the forest land proposed for diversion
11. The DFO reported that wild pig, Monitor lizard, hares, Deer are present in and around the forest land proposed for diversion
12. The DFO Tiruvalur Forest Division has reported that no rare/ endangered / unique species of flora and fauna are found in the area
13. The DFO Tiruvalur Forest Division has reported that no protected archaeological/ heritage site/ defence establishment or any other important monument is located in the area
14. The DFO Tiruvalur Forest Division has reported that the requirement of forest land for diversion as proposed by the UA is unavoidable and the barest minimum for the project.
15. The DFO Tiruvalur Forest Division has reported that no work in violation of FCA, 1980 has been carried out by the User Agency;
16. As reported, 1783 numbers of trees are enumerated. It is reported that, out of 1783 trees, **264 trees are spontaneous origin. Approval from the Hon'ble SC of India is yet to be obtained;**
17. An extent of 28 ha of DFL area i.e. 10.45 ha in Mylarwada RF, 7.12 ha in Konasamuthiram Extension Reserved Forest and 10.488 ha area in Konasamuthiram Reserved Forest have been identified for CA purpose. CA scheme with a financial out lay of Rs.5,93,51,282/- has been submitted. The CA scheme includes Raising and maintenance of plantation of 28 ha area over a period of ten years Plantation Protection



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measures and water harvesting structures, Creation and maintenance of fire lines 1.0 km length- four years, Removal of grass in 28 ha CA plantation area yearly twice for four year period, Providing water harvesting structures 2 No. of Percolation ponds and 2 No. of check dam.

18. Site Inspection report of the DFO Tiruvalur Forest Division has been uploaded in the online application.
19. RoFR certificate (Form I) has been uploaded in the portal.
20. Map with DGPS co-ordinates of the forest area proposed for diversion has been furnished and uploaded kml file in the online application; The User Agency uploaded kml file entire stretch of road including non forest area;
21. Map with alternatives examined has been submitted;
22. The subject proposal has been processed through DSS cell and found to be not inviolate;
23. The proposal is recommended at all levels in the State Government;
24. As instructed by the ministry, the forest area proposed for diversion and degraded forest area identified for CA purpose was inspected by the AIGF(Central), IRO Chennai.  
**Site inspection report was considered by the Committee.**
25. The Proposal is being reviewed during FRCMs and this proposal was reviewed by 9th Group of infrastructure projects headed by the Hon'ble Minister of road and High Ways.

**Deliberation:** The Committee deliberated on facts of the proposal and examined the site inspection report and the committee enquired the representative of the user agency on alternatives examined and possibilities to avoid diversion of fresh forest area. The representatives of the User Agency submitted to the committee that, all possible alternatives have been examined / explored and after considering the topography / displacement of people etc and with unavoidable circumstance and to ensure to maintain safety standards of the said road, the forest area of 14.029 ha has been finalized.

The Committee examined the nature of wildlife present in and around the forest area proposed for diversion and opined that necessary culverts / underpasses required to be provided to safe guard the wildlife from road hits and to ensure easy passage. The User Agency assured to the committee that the required number of culverts / underpasses will be provided wherever necessary at the cost of the project.

The Committee noted the recommendation of the State Government to erect the chain link fencing on either side of the road to prevent the biotic pressure. The committee discussed with the Nodal Officer (FCA) Tamil Nadu and opined that, wildlife conservation plan may be prepared by the DFO concerned which includes measures like providing of culverts / underpasses,



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fencing on either side of the road alignment, solar powered bore wells to ensure to provide water to the wild animals etc and such plan shall be implemented by the User Agency / State Forest Department at the cost of the project;

The Committee noted that the project involves felling of 1783 numbers of trees which includes 264 trees are spontaneous origin and prior approval of CEC / Hon'ble supreme Court of India is required;

The committee discussed with the Nodal Officer(FCA) Tamil Nadu and the Committee opined that provision of addition one year for removal of grass in 28 ha CA area yearly twice as against proposed four years may be made in the CA scheme and the State Forest Department shall ensure successful plantation in the identified DFL area.

**Recommendation:** After detained deliberation on facts of the proposal and examination of site inspection report and discussion with the Nodal Officer (FCA), Tamil Nadu and the representative of the User Agency and considering the importance of the project, the committee **RECOMMENDED** the proposal to issue *Stage-I (in-principle)* approval subject to the standard conditions with the following specific conditions;

- (i) Wildlife conservation plan may be prepared by the DFO concerned which includes measures like providing of required numbers of culverts / underpasses, fencing on either side of the road alignment, solar powered bore wells to ensure to provide water to the wild animals etc and such plan shall be implemented by the User Agency / State Forest Department at the cost of the project;
- (ii) Provision of addition one year for removal of grass in 28 ha of DFL area identified for CA as against proposed four years may be made in the CA scheme, if required and the State Forest Department shall ensure successful plantation in the identified DFL area.;
- (iii) The State Forest Department shall ensure at least 15% of trees of fruit bearing species to be raised in the DFL area identified for CA purpose;
- (iv) The User Agency shall obtain prior approval of CEC / Hon'ble Supreme Court of India approval for felling of trees of spontaneous origin;
- (v) The User Agency shall raise and maintain avenue trees on both sides of the road at the cost of the project;



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The Chairman thanked all members of the committee, Nodal Officers and representatives of the User Agencies who participated in the 58<sup>th</sup> REC meeting. The meeting ended with thanks to the chair.

*21/12/2022*  
(Shri.R.Hemanth Kumar)  
Regional Officer & Chairman

*(Approved through mail)*  
(Shri.K.Jude Sekar)  
Member

*(Approved through mail)*

(Shri BSS Reddy)  
Member

*(Approved through mail)*

(Dr.C.N.Rao)  
Member

*(Approved through mail)*

(Shri S Sasikumar)  
DIGF (Central), Member

*20/12/2022*  
(Shri.K.Karthikeyan)  
AIGF(Central), Member Secretary

