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

Letter No: 16671/ FR.10/2019-9, dated: 20.09.2021

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,
No.34, Cathedral Garden Road,
Nungambakkam, Chennai-34.

Sir,

Sub: Forests - Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 – Vellore Circle / Tirupathur Forest Division - Proposal for renewal of lease for diversion of 40 ha. of forest land for Vainu Bappu Observatory in Kavanur Indian Institute of Astrophysics in Jawadi Hills in Tirupathur Forest Division in Vellore District - in favour of the Administrative Officer, Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bangalore - Regarding.

- Ref: 1. Government letter No.16671/FR.10/2019-6, dated 07.09.2020
2. From the Assistant Inspector General of Forests (Central), Government of India, MoEF&CC, Chennai letter F.No.TNC067/2020-CHN/263, dated 24.12.2020.
3. From the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, letter No.TS3/38628/2018, dated 31.08.2021.

With reference to your letter second cited, I am directed to furnish the following details received from the Principal Chief Conservator Forests in reference third cited.

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| 1. | Actual area under possession of the institute shall be demarcated; that is demarcation of all structures including road, common area utilized etc; within the 40 ha. Of forest area diverted shall be done and proper map with DGPS co-ordinates of the same shall be submitted to the IRO, Chennai. | As informed in the 44 th Regional Empowered Committee meeting conducted on 18.12.2020 by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Demarcation of area under actual possession of the Astrophysical Institute in the field has been carried out and map along with DGPS co-ordinates submitted by the User Agency is enclosed herewith. |
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| 2. | Detailed justification on the requirement of keeping the entire 40 ha. Forest area by institute shall be furnished. | Detailed justification of requirement of keeping the entire 40 ha forest are submitted by the User Agency is enclosed herewith. |
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2. I am therefore directed to request to kindly obtain Stage-I approval for the above said proposal from the Competent Authority and communicate the same to this Government early.

Yours faithfully,

S. Mohamed Yusuf 20/9/2024.
For Principal Secretary to Government