

TAMIL NADU FOREST DEPARTMENT

From
Tmt. K. Geethanjali, I.F.S.,
Chief Conservator of Forests,
Chennai Circle,
Chennai - 06.

To
The Principal Chief Conservator of
Forests
(Head of Department),
Guindy Velachery Main Road,
Chennai - 600 032.

Ref. No. 6276 / 2022 / D, Dated: 21.05-2024

Sir,

Sub: FORESTS - Kancheepuram District - Chengalpattu Division
- Proposal for diversion of 0.686 Ha of forest land in
Paranur RF for relaying and periodical maintenance of GST
road to Vadagal Road at KM 1/314 - 2/0 in Chengalpattu
District - Details called for - Regarding.

Ref: 1. Online application uploaded by the User agency - The
Divisional Engineer, Highways Department, Construction
and Maintenance, Chengalpattu Proposal No.
FP/TN/Road/148740/2021, Dt.05.12.2021 and Re-
submission of revised proposal on.12.01.2022.

2.Forest Range Officer, Chengalpattu Ref No.95/2022
Dt.15.03.23022.

3.District Forest Officer, Chengalpattu Letter No.330/22/D,
Dt. 23.06.2022.

4.Divisional Engineer, Highways Department, Rural Roads,
Chengalpattu Letter No.753/2021/JDO.1/ Dt.26.07.2022.

5. District Forest Officer, Chengalpattu Letter No 330/22/D,
Dt.01.08.2022.

6.Government letter No.5445142/FR.10/2023-1,
Dt.20.10.2023.

7.Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, (Head of Forest
Force) Chennai -32 Ref.No.TS3/39364/21 Dt. 27.10.2023.

8. Divisional Engineer, Highways Department, Rural Roads,
Chengalpattu letter No 753/2022 D/JDO.1 Dated 12-12-
2024.

9.District Forest Officer, Chengalpattu Division letter
No330/22/D dated14-05-2024.

I submit that the District Forest Officer, Chengalpattu Division in the
reference 9th cited has submitted his reply for the query raised by the
Government in the reference 6th cited as follows,

“ As per reference 1st cited, the user agency has submitted a proposal for
relaying and periodical maintenance of GST road to Vadagal Road at KM 1/314
- 2/0 in Chengalpattu District for 0.686 Ha in Paranur RF. It was mentioned in
the proposal that this road was constructed before 1985 and maintained by
Rural Development Department. The last renewal was carried out prior to 2010
and the road is heavily damaged for the past 11 years in forest portion and the
stretch found with lot of surfaces worn outs, ruts, pot holes which is discomfort
to the road users and fast-moving vehicles.

As per reference 2nd cited, Forest Range Officer, Chengalpattu has reported that the road passing through between forest boundary stone No.8 and 9 of Paranur Reserved Forest and there is right of way No.4 in the Paranur Reserved Forest notification along this road of 12 feet with. The existing road width is 7meter.

In reference 3rd cited, a letter was addressed to Divisional Engineer, Highways Department, Rural Roads, Chengalpattu requested to clarify the following.

1. Whether any permission from the Forest Department for black topping and subsequent maintenance was obtained?
2. If yes, kindly provide the order copy or relevant document other of the same.

As per reference 4th cited, Divisional Engineer, Highways Department, Rural Roads, Chengalpattu reported that no documents are available in the office regarding obtaining of permission from forest department for the work carried out earlier.

As per reference 5th cited, the Deputy Director and Project Director, District Rural Development Agency, Chengalpattu was requested to clarify the detailed information of the person responsible for the violation and awaiting response from the District Rural Development Agency for same.

With regard to additional report called for by the Government a letter was addressed to Divisional Engineer, Highways Department, Rural Roads, Chengalpattu and requested the following details.

1. As mentioned in the proposal, the last renewal was carried out for this road before 2010, whether any permission from the Forest Department for black topping and subsequent maintenance was obtained. If yes, kindly provide the copy of the same.
2. If there is no permission obtained then it amounts to violation of provision of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
In this case, provide the details of person responsible for violation, along with the authority. Also provide details of duration during which construction and maintenance work was carried out.

As per reference 8th cited, Divisional Engineer, Highways Department, Rural Roads, Chengalpattu based on District Collector, Chengalpattu letter reference no.4946/2023/A12, dt.07.12.2023 reported that the Chengalpattu District was formed during march 2020 bifurcated from combined Kancheepuram District. Hence, the particulars of Road work executed are not available in Chengalpattu District and not traceable from Kancheepuram District.

As per Government letter reference 6th cited it was instructed to take action. In this regard, it is submitted that, as mentioned above the particulars of the work executed are not available in Chengalpattu or Kancheepuram Districts. Hence, it is not possible to determine the persons responsible for violation, against whom action to be initiated as per Government of India Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (Forest Conservation Division) No. 11/113/2022-FC-Part (1), dt.15.05.2023.

(A) The user agency and official(s) responsible for violation of Forest (Conservation) Act,1980.

As per the proposal the road was constructed before 1985 by District Rural Development Agency. How'ever, as per the 4th and 8th cited, particular of road work executed are not available. Thus, it is not possible to determine official responsible for violation.

(B).Year in which the existing road was built/constructed.

As per the proposal the road was constructed before 1985.

As per the reference 4th and 10th cited, particular of road work executed are not available. Hence, it is not possible to determine exact year in which the existing road was built/constructed.

(C).Forest Department Officials who are all responsible for not preventing of such violation.

As per the proposal the road was constructed before 1985. As per the reference 4th and 8th cited, particular of road work executed are not available. Hence, it is not possible to determine exact year in which the existing road was built/constructed and due to unavailability of documents cannot be found out the departmental officers who are responsible of such violations.

(D). Action Taken by the State Government so far on officials responsible for violation may be submitted.

As a long time has been lapsed since construction of road and due to unavailability of proper documents, it is not possible to determine officials responsible for violation.

I submit herewith the reply received from the District Forest Officer Chengalpattu Division along with enclosures for favour of necessary action.

Encl: As stated above.

Encl: As above.

Yours faithfully,
Sd/- K. Geethanjali,
Chief Conservator of Forests,
Chennai Circle, Chennai.

Copy to the District Forest Officer, Chengalpattu Division. Kancheepuram.

//t.c.b.o.//

Senior Draughting Officer

[Handwritten signature]
21.5.2024

