

By e-mail



ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS(FR.10)
DEPARTMENT, SECRETARIAT,
CHENNAI 9.

Letter No.6861/FR.10/2020-4, Dated: 27.11.2020

From
Dr. Sandeep Saxena, I.A.S.,
Additional Chief Secretary to Government

To

✓ The Additional Director General of Forests (Central),
Government of India,
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change,
Regional Office (South Eastern Zone),
1st & 2nd Floor, HEPC Building,
No.34, Cathedral Garden Road,
Nungambakkam, Chennai-34.(w.e)

Sir,

Sub: Forests - Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 – Villupuram Circle /
Division – Diversion of 16.00 ha. of forest land in Koonimedu
Reserved Land for setting up desalination plant at Koonimedu
village for CWSS in Villupuram District – in favour of Executive
Engineer, TWAD Board, Kallakurichi District – Regarding.

- Ref:
1. From the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Chennai
Letter No.TS3/61585/2019, dated 27.05.2020.
 2. Government letter No.6861/FR.10/2020-1, Dated
20.07.2020.
 3. From the Deputy Inspector General of Forests (Central),
Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests and
Climate Change, Letter F.No.4-TNC061/2020-CHN/632,
Dated: 05.08.2020.
 4. Government letter No.6861/FR.10/2020-2, Dated
14.08.2020.
 5. From the Deputy Inspector General of Forests (Central),
Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests and
Climate Change, Letter F.No.4-TNC061/2020-CHN/713,
Dated 04.09.2020.
 6. From the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Chennai
Letter No.TS3/61585/2019, dated 27.10.2020.

...2...

I am directed to forward a copy of the reference sixth cited along with its enclosures wherein the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests has furnished the additional information / documents / clarification as sought for in the references third and fifth cited. I am, therefore, to request you to kindly obtain the concurrence of the Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change and communicate the same to this Government, early.

Yours faithfully,

S. Mohamed Yusuf 27/11/2020.
for Additional Chief Secretary to Government
me
27/11/2020

Copy to:

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Head of Department),
Chennai-15.

The Executive Engineer,
TWAD Board, P.F. Division,
No.3, GST Road, Tindivanam P.O.
Villupuram District -604 001.

By online / Email.

TAMILNADU FOREST DEPARTMENT

From

Thiru S. Yuvaraj, I.F.S.,
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,
(Head of Department)
Panagal Maaligai, Saidapet,
Chennai - 15.

To

The Additional Chief Secretary to
Government,
Environment and Forests Department,
Secretariat,
Chennai 9.

C. No. TS3/61585/2019 Dated: 27.10.2020.

Sir,

Sub: Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 – Villupuram Circle/ Villupuram Forest Division – Setting up desalination plant at Koonimedu village for combined water supply scheme to Villupuram and Tindivanam Municipalities, 2 town panchayats, 692 rural habitations in 5 unions and Govt. Medical College and Hospital at Mundiypakkam in Villupuram District – Diversion of 16.00 ha of forest area in Koonimedi Reserved Land requested - Online Submission of proposal – Additional information requested by the Government of India - Regarding.

- Ref: 1. Online application uploaded by the User Agency - Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board represented by Executive Engineer, TWAD Board, P.F. Division. No. 3, GST Road, Tindivanam PO, Villupuram District - Proposal No. FP/TN/Water/42977/2019
2. Part-II of Form-A uploaded by the District Forest Officer, Villupuram Division on 10.04.2020
3. Part-III of Form-A uploaded by the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Vellore Circle and Conservator of Forests (i/c), Villupuram Circle on 05.05.2020.
4. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests C. No. TS3/61585/2019, dated 27.05.2020
5. Government letter No. 6861/FR.10/2020-1, dated 20.07.2020
6. Government of India letter F. No. 4-TNC061/2020-CHN/632, dated 05.08.2020
7. Government letter No. 6861/FR.10/2020-2, dated 14.08.2020
8. Government of India letter 4-TNC061/2020-CHN/713, dated 04.09.2020

* * *

With reference to the letters cited, report on additional details called for by the Government of India in the references 6th and 8th cited are furnished below.

S.No	Required Information/ Clarification	Reply
I	Additional information/ documents/clarification requested in Govt of India letter dated 05.08.2020	
1	In online application, DFO reported that 2319 number of trees are enumerated in the forest area proposed for diversion. However, in all other documents, it has been mentioned to fell 2092 number of trees. Hence actual number of trees exists in the area and number of trees to be felled may be reported.	There are a total of 2093 trees to be felled. Necessary corrections have been made in the proposal and the updated, height and girth details have also been uploaded in the additional details information section of Part-II of Form-A.
2	Status of obtaining of CRZ Clearance may be reported	The user agency have stated that the process of obtaining CRZ clearance is under progress and CRZ clearance will be obtained within 2 months.
3	Map clearly depicting the proposed component wise details may be furnished	Map clearly depicting the proposed Desalination Plant (DSP) component wise details has been uploaded by the user agency under additional information details section in PARIVESH website (Part-I of Form-A).
4	Soil conservation plan to prevent soil erosion may be prepared and furnish the same	The user Agency has reported that as per shoreline change map of the Tamil Nadu, the area proposed is not falling under high erosion area. Compound Wall will be provided around the Plant Area. They have also reported that a Soil conservation plan will be prepared and submitted along with CRZ clearance proposal.
5	Undertaking from the UA to effect that the desalinated water will be utilized for drinking water purpose only	The user agency has uploaded the required Undertaking in PARIVESH website in additional details section. In that the user

		<p>agency have stated that as per G.O. Ms No. 2 MA&WS (WS4) Dept dated 03.01.2011 of Government of Tamil Nadu permits to earmark a quantity provision at 10% of total demand towards Industrial / Commercial needs. Only 3.30 MLD has been provided for SIPCOT, Tindivanam which is only 4.80%of the ultimate stage domestic need of 68.76 MLD of the project.</p> <p>- Domestic need of the project is 68.76 MLD - Industrial quantity provision for SIPCOT, Tindivanam is 3.30 MLD Total for the project is 72.06 MLD.</p> <p>Details have been mentioned in the undertaking and EDS reply uploaded under additional Information details section.</p>
6	<p>The UA proposed 7.5 Ha (half of the forest area proposed for diversion) for green belt area and for future expansion. Hence, DFO may be directed to rework on barest minimum forest area required for the project</p>	<p>User Agency has insisted that 16 hectare is the barest minimum area necessary for the project. They have cited the water deficient condition of Villupuram district and non-availability of perennial sources of water as the reason. The same has been communicated by District Collector, Villupuram, also during coordination meetings.</p> <p>They have also stated that at Present 60MLD capacity desalination plant is proposed to be established for the intermediate stage (2037) requirement with future expansion for the ultimate stage (2052) requirement of 72.06MLD which requires additional area for additional units. They have stated that the lay out Project area (16 ha) for the proposed 60mld capacity DSP now furnished has been</p>

		<p>arrived for estimate purpose only. But the implementation of Desalination plant will be done on DBOT basis. The components of the plant will be redesigned based on the detailed study to be carried out by the Tenderer, which may require additional space at the time of project implementation. Considering the above facts provision of 4.32 ha is made towards future area. Further, twice the extent i.e.32.47 hectare has already been identified for compensatory afforestation land and the proposal for transferring the land to Forest Department is in advanced stage of approval by the Government Tamil Nadu.</p> <p>User agency has also stated that for obtaining CRZ clearance, 1/3 rd of Project area is to be provided for Green belt area and hence provision of 3.18 ha is made for Green belt area.</p> <p>Considering all the above facts, User agency demand for 16 hectares as barest minimum forest area may be considered.</p>
7	<p>UA proposed 16 Ha of forest area in the middle of the forest block and which may leads to fragmentation and difficult for protection and management of forest area. Hence, may kindly resurvey the area and may propose actual/ barest minimum forest area in one side of the forest area.</p> <p>Revised map duly countersigned by the District Forest Officer concerned</p>	<p>The District Forest Officer, Villupuram Division has reported that above issue was discussed with user agency during the initial stage of the proposal and during joint inspection. But they have insisted that the selected location is the ideal one for the construction of DSP which was selected by conducting Oceanographic study on the suitable location of intake and outfall that was determined after a thorough assessment and careful environmental evaluation and based on</p>

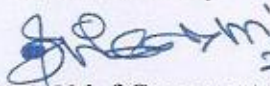
	<p>may be uploaded in online application and submit the same.</p>	<p>the detailed investigation report submitted by the CRZ project Expert and Tamil Nadu Water Investment Company (TWIC).</p> <p>User agency have stated that the proposed forest land of 16 hectares is fulfilling the ecological requirement, land suitability and technical requirements like suitable depth of sea bed, fixing of intake and outfall and other related marine and engineering parameters.</p> <p>They have also stated that the above site has been selected in such a way to avoid disturbance to the existing fishing communities/ hamlets located on either side of the selected site.</p> <p>Hence User agency have expressed their inability to shift the proposed location to one side of the forest area citing suitability of the current location only based on oceanographic study. The same may be considered.</p>
II	<p>Additional information/ documents/clarification requested in Govt of India letter dated 04.09.2020</p>	
1	<p>State Government shall submit detailed report on purposes for which desalinated water will be utilised with quantity of water allocation for each purpose</p>	<p>The user agency has furnished detailed report on the project with demand and allocation of purpose on water supply scheme. Copy enclosed.</p>
2	<p>Certificate from the concerned competent authority to the effect that the non-forest area identified for CA purpose is free from encroachment and litigation.</p>	<p>Certificate issued by the District Collector, Villupuram in letter No. B10/2450/2019, dated 25.09.2020 is enclosed.</p>

3	Detailed report on the representation received from Shri M. Vallathan, Nochikuppam Village Administrative Committee	Detailed report furnished by the District Forest Officer, Villupuram Division is enclosed.
---	---	--

I am enclosing herewith the hard copy of the documents furnished in duplicate copies. I request that the details may be forwarded to the Government of India for their consideration of the proposal.

Encl: As stated above.

Yours faithfully

 22/10/2020

For Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Head of Department)

6
22/10/2020

Tamil Nadu Forest Department

From
Thiru. Abhishek Tomar, I.F.S.,
District Forest Officer,
Viluppuram Forest Division,
Near Circuit House,
Master plan Complex,
Viluppuram.

To
**The Principal Chief Conservator of
Forests (Head of Forest Force),**
Chennai-15

(Through Conservator of Forests,
Viluppuram Circle, Viluppuram)

C.No.10309/ 2019/P1 dated.21 .08.2020

Sir,

Sub:- Forests (Conservation) Act, 1980 – Villupuram Circle / Villupuram Forest Division – Setting up desalination plant at Koonimedu vilage for combined water supply scheme to villupuram and Tindivanam Municipalities, 2 town panchayats, 692 rural habitations in 5 unions and Govt. Medical College and Hospital at Mundiampakkam in Villupuram District – Division of 16.00 ha of forest area in Koonimedu Reserved Land requested – Online Submission of proposal – Additional information requested by the Government of India – regarding.

Ref: 1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force),
Chennai Ref No.TS3/61585/2019, Dated.14.08.2020.

With respect to the above reference, the additional information /documents/ clarifications on the proposal is hereby submitted and uploaded online in the parivesh portal also.


S.No	Required Information/ Clarification	Reply
1	In online application, DFO reported that 2319 number of trees or enumerated in the forest area proposed for diversion. However, in all other documents, it has been mentioned to fell 2092 number of trees. Hence actual number of trees exists in the area and number of trees to be felled may be reported.	There are a total of 2093 trees to be felled. The necessary corrections have been made in the proposal and the updated height and girth details have also been uploaded in the additional details column.
2	Status of obtaining of CRZ Clearance may be reported	The user agency have stated that the process of obtaining CRZ clearance is under progress and that CRZ clearance will be obtained within 2 months.

3	Map clearly depicting the proposed component wise details may be furnished	Map clearly depicting the proposed DSP component wise details has been uploaded under additional details section by the user agency in PARIVESH website.
4	Soil conservation plan to prevent soil erosion may be prepared and furnish the same	As per agency compound Wall will be provided around the Plant Area. They have also agreed to submit a Soil conservation plan will be prepared and submitted along with CRZ clearance proposal.
5	Undertaking from the UA to effect that the desalinated water will be utilized for drinking water purpose only	The required Undertaking has been uploaded in PARIVESH website in additional details section. In that they have stated that 3.30 MLD has been provided to SIPCOT Tindivanam also. Details have been mentioned in the undertaking.
6	The UA proposed 7.5Ha (half of the forest area proposed for diversion) for green belt area and for future expansion. Hence, DFO may be directed to rework on barest minimum forest area required for the project	User Agency has insisted that 16 hectare is the barest minimum area necessary for the project. They have cited the water deficient condition of Villupuram district and non-availability of perennial sources of water as the reason. The same has been communicated by District Collector, Villupuram, also during coordination meetings. They have also stated that at Present 60MLD capacity desalination plant is proposed to be established for the intermediate stage (2037) requirement with future expansion for the ultimate stage (2052) requirement of 72.06MLD which requires additional area for additional units. They have stated that the lay out Project area (16 ha) for the proposed 60mld capacity DSP now furnished has been arrived for estimate purpose only. But the implementation of Desalination plant will be done on DBOT basis. The components of the plant will be redesigned based on the detailed study to be carried out by the Tenderer, which may require

		<p>additional space at the time of project implementation. Considering the above facts provision of 4.32 ha is made towards future area. Further, twice the extent i.e.32.47 hectare has already been identified for compensatory afforestation and the proposal for transferring the land to Forest Department is in advanced stage of approval by the Government Tamil Nadu.</p> <p>User agency has also stated that for obtaining CRZ clearance, 1/3 rd of Project area is to be provided for Green belt area and hence provision of 3.18ha is made for Green belt area.</p> <p>Considering all the above facts, User agency demand for 16 hectares as barest minimum forest area may be considered.</p>
7	<p>UA proposed 16Ha of forest area in the middle of the forest block and which may leads to fragmentation and difficult for protection and management of forest area. Hence, may kindly resurvey the area and may propose actual/ barest minimum forest area in one side of the forest area.</p>	<p>The above issue was discussed with user agency during the initial stage of the proposal and during joint inspection. But they have insisted that the selected location is the ideal one for the construction of DSP which was selected by conducting Oceanographic study on the suitable location of intake and outfall that was determined after a thorough assessment and careful environmental evaluation and based on the detailed investigation report submitted by the CRZ project Expert and Tamil Nadu Water Investment Company (TWIC).</p> <p>User agency have stated that the proposed forest land of 16 hectares is fulfilling the ecological requirement, land suitability and technical requirements like suitable depth of sea bed, fixing of intake and outfall and other related marine and engineering parameters.</p> <p>They have also stated that the above site has been</p>

		<p>selected in such a way to avoid disturbance to the existing fishing communities/ hamlets located on either side of the selected site.</p> <p>Hence User agency have expressed their inability to shift the proposed location to one side of the forest area citing suitability of the current location only based on oceanographic study. The same may be considered.</p>
--	--	--

Yours faithfully,


21/08/20

District Forest Officer,
Viluppuram Division,
Viluppuram.