

TAMILNADU FOREST DEPARTMENT

From

To

Thiru S. Yuvaraj, I.F.S.,
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Head of Department),
Panagal Maaligai, Saidapet,
Chennai - 600 015.

The Additional Chief Secretary to
Government,
Environment and Forests Department,
Secretariat,
Chennai 600 009.

C. No. TS3/7022/2020 Dated: 27 .01.2021.

Sir,

Sub: Forests - Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 – Vellore Circle /
Tirupathur Forest Division – Proposal for diversion of 3.439 ha of
forest land in Necknamalai Reserved Forests of Tirupathur Forest
Division for formation of road from Muniranvattam to
Necknamalai to a length of 5.525 km in Tirupathur District in
favour of Block Development Officer, Alangayam Union,
Alangayam Tirupathur District – Additional details called for -
Regarding.

- Ref: 1. Proposal submitted by the user agency - Block Development
Officer, Alangayam, Tirupathur District in proposal no.
FP/TN/Road/47745/2020
2. Part-II of Form A uploaded by the District Forest Officer,
Tirupathur Division and EDS replies uploaded in web portal
3. Part-III of Form A uploaded by the Additional Principal Chief
Conservator of Forests, Vellore Circle and EDS replies uploaded
in web portal
4. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests C No. TS3/7022/2020,
dated 11.11.2020 and 04.12.2020
5. Government letter No. 15941/FR.10/2020-2, dated 21.12.2020

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With reference to the Government letter cited, I wish to state the following.

1) The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Vellore Circle has reported that the then Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests has recommended the forest clearance proposal on the following grounds.

a) while approving the proposal under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, Net present value of forest diversion area and compensatory afforestation amount to carry out afforestation are to be collected from the user agency based on the

guidelines under Forest Conservation Act 1980. With the NPV amount, Annual Plan of operation (under State CAMPA) may be submitted and action may be taken to prevent / minimize the forest fires, man-animal conflicts, providing in-situ drinking water to animals and to facilitate natural vegetation.

b) After getting final approval for the forest diversion area, Annual Plan of Operation for CA scheme and forest area protection will be undertaken. After getting approval from the State CAMPA, fund will be utilized for clearing and maintenance of forest fires, engaging fire watchers and providing drinking water facilities to the animals.

2) As the proposed road is in hilly terrain, there is no possibility of overpass / underpass for the wildlife movement in the present alignment of road. Hence the District Forest Officer has stated that providing underpass or overpass is not feasible.

3) In this regard I wish to state that, this forest diversion proposal has been furnished to construct road connectivity to the Neckanamalai hill village surrounded by Reserved Forests all sides to the main land in the foot hill. The formation of new road is inevitable which would facilitate in easy access of hospital, market place of their crops, reducing school dropout and also improving the standard of living of the local people. The Neckanamalai road is most important and longtime expectations to the Neckanamalai villagers and public.

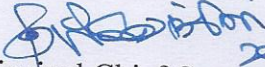
For the diversion of forest land for the welfare purpose of formation of roads by Rural Development Department / State Highways Department / National Highways Authority of India, no such condition on year wise fund allotment has been imposed so far.

Considering the long standing demand of road connectivity to the hill village, special condition of allotting Rs. 20.00 lakhs every year or for first five years to prevent/ minimise the forest fires, man animal conflicts, providing in situ drinking water to animals to prevent them to go in search of water and to facilitate natural vegetation proposed by the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests has not been imposed.

4) Since the road formation work proposed in the hill slope and no critical flora and fauna available in the area, construction of underpass or overpass is not needed.

I request that the proposal may be considered and Government of India approval may please be obtained for diversion of 3.439 ha of forest land in Necknamalai Reserved Forests of Tirupathur Forest Division in newly bifurcated Tirupathur District for formation of road from Muniranvattam to Necknamalai to a length of 5.525 km in Tirupathur District in favour of Block Development Officer, Alangayam Union, Vaniyambadi Taluk in Vellore District.

Yours faithfully


For Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Head of Department)

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29/01/21