



भारत सरकार

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS &
CLIMATE CHANGE

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फा.नं./F.No. 4-TNB143/2025-CHN/दिनांक/ 311

Date: 23rd February, 2026

सेवा में/To,

The Additional Chief Secretary to the Government of Tamil Nadu,
Environment, Climate Change & Forest Department,
Secretariat, Fort St. George, Chennai – 600 009.

विषय/Subject:

Proposal (FP/TN/Road/42704/ 2019) for diversion of 1.8798 ha of forest land for road upgradation works in Varusanadu - (via) Thummagundu - Valiparai Road (0/0-9/720) Section passing across Myladumparai Bit 39 Reserved Land (0.2438 ha), Myladumparai Bit 47 Reserved Land (0.2455 ha) and Megamalai Reserved Forest (1.3905 ha) of Kadamalaikundu - Myladumparai Panchayat Union, Andipatti Taluk, Theni District in favour of Assistant Divisional Engineer, NABARD and Rural Roads, Highways, Madurai Division-**Additional details sought**-Reg.

संदर्भ/Reference:

Tamil Nadu Forest Department Letter No. 480/FR.10/2025-2 dated 12.01.2026.

Madam,

With reference to the subject and reference cited above, I am directed to inform that, upon scrutiny of the above said proposal, the following observations/issues are made:

- (i) As per the Site Inspection Report, the road is an existing bitumen road running through forest and non-forest areas. The existing road is stated to be included in the Megamalai RF Notification dated 25.11.2009 as RoW No.16 for a length of 2352.2 m and width of 8 m. The present proposal is for upgradation and increase in width of the existing road. Clarification may be furnished regarding the status of the existing RoW vis-à-vis the present proposal.
- (ii) As per Part-I of the proposal, the forest land involved falls in four patches, all in Megamalai RF. However, the Site Inspection Report mentions that only two patches fall in Megamalai RF and the remaining two patches fall in Megamalai RL Nos. 39 and 47. The discrepancy in location details may be clarified.
- (iii) In Part-I, the proposed width in forest area is indicated as 8 m and the KML file uploaded also reflects approximately 8 m width. However, the Site Inspection Report mentions that the width has been reduced to 5 m and the total length of the road is 3759.6 m. The KML file has not been amended. The State Government is requested to clarify the correct dimensions and upload a revised KML file.
- (iv) The Site Inspection Report does not mention the status of the road in RL notification, width of the road etc. The same may be furnished.
- (v) It is stated in the inspection report that Megamalai RF forms part of the core area and Megamalai RL forms part of the buffer area of SMTR. It may be clarified whether proposal for wildlife clearance has been submitted for the entire stretch, including both core and buffer areas, as mentioned in the Site Inspection Report. Clarification may be furnished for further processing of the proposal.
- (vi) The Compensatory Afforestation (CA) land allotted by the Collector, Theni, is indicated as 3.875 ha in five patches, whereas the suitability certificate issued by the DFO indicates the area as 3.76 ha. The discrepancy in extent may be clarified. Further, though the CA land proposed is more than the equivalent diverted area, it has been observed that in certain recent Stage-I approved proposals, the State Forest Department has sought amendment of conditions to reduce CA to equivalent area as per the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act. In this context, justification may be furnished for proposing CA land in excess of the equivalent diverted area.
- (vii) The CA land is allotted in five separate patches and the KML indicates that some patches are not contiguous. The manageability and suitability of such fragmented CA land patches may be examined and clarified.
- (viii) The CA scheme uploaded indicates plantation of 5000 plants over 5 ha. However, DSS analysis indicates presence of canopy cover in some of the proposed CA patches. The CA scheme may therefore be verified and a site-specific CA scheme, may be furnished.

In view of the above, I am directed to request to furnish the above clarifications/documents/information at the earliest for further processing of the proposal.

भवदीय/ Yours faithfully,

Digitally signed by

Yuvaraj S

Date: 23-02-2026

15:45:34

(एस. युवराज/S. Yuvaraj)

Deputy Inspector General of Forests (Central)

प्रतिलिपि/Copy to:

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Forest Department, Guindy-Velachery Main Road, Chennai-32.
2. The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests/Nodal Officer (FCA), Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Forest Department, Guindy-Velachery Main Road, Chennai-32.

Sd/-

(एस. युवराज/S. Yuvaraj)

Deputy Inspector General of Forests (Central)