

Letter No.4737213/FR.10/2023-4, Dated:22.08.2024

From
Thiru.T.Ritto Cyriac, I.F.S.,
Special Secretary (Forests).

To
✓ The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Head of Forest Force), Chennai-32. (w.e.)

Sir,

Sub: Forests – Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 – Proposal (FP/TN/Road/ 151612/2022) for diversion of 0.768 ha of forest land with Carriage way @ 7.00m width and berm width @ 2.50m on either side for 640m length road lies in forest land of Ravathanallur Reserved Forests of Villupuram Forest Division for road expansion work on Vellimalai Moolakadu road between Pakkam and Ravathanallur villages across Ravathanallur Reserved Forest in Kallakuruchi District in favour of Assistant Divisional Engineer, Highways, Construction and Maintenance Sankarapuram Sub division, Sankarapuram, Kallakuruchi District – EDS query called for - Regarding.

- Ref: 1. Your letter No.TS3/2374/2022, dated 09.05.2023.
2. Government letter No.4737213/FR.10/2023-1, date 20.06.2023.
3. Your letter No. TS3/2374/2022, dated 07.12.2023.
4. Government letter No.4737213/FR.10/2023-2, dated 29.12.2023.
5. Your letter No.TS3/2374/2022, dated 09.01.2024.
6. Government letter No.4737213/FR.10/2023-3, dated 06.05.2024.
7. From the Assistant Inspector General of Forests (Central), Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Regional Office, Chennai, Letter F.No.4-TNB123/2024-CHN/1101, dated 19.07.2024.

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I am directed to enclose a copy of the Government of India's letter seventh cited and to request you to furnish the details, as called for therein and to send the revised proposal to this Government immediately, for onward transmission of the same to Government of India, for obtaining their concurrence for the subject proposal.

Yours faithfully,

A. Malathy
22/8/24
for Special Secretary (Forests)

22/8/24

uploaded in P.P. 1.0 on 29/7/2024
by G02

no. 4737213/FR.10/2023

-117-

भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS & CLIMATE
CHANGE



पञ्चमहा जयन्ती

Regional Office, Chennai
1st Floor Additional Office Block for GPOA, Shastri
Bhawan,
Haddows Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai -600 006.
email: ro.moefccc@gov.in

F.No. 4-TNB123/2024-CHN/1101

Dated 19th July, 2024

To

The Principal Secretary to the Government of Tamil Nadu,
Environment & Forests Department.
Secretariat, Fort St. George, Chennai – 600 009.

Subject: Proposal for diversion of 0.768 ha. of forest land with carriageway @ 7.0 m width and berm width @ 2.5 m on either side for 640 m length road lies in forest land of Ravathanallur Reserved Forests of Villupuram Forest Division for road expansion work on Vellimalai Moolakadu road between Pakkam and Ravathanallur villages across Ravathanallur Reserved Forest in Kallakuruchi District in favour of Assistant Divisional Engineer, Highways, Construction and Maintenance Sankarapuram Sub Division, Sankarapuram, Kallakuruchi District (Proposal No.FP/TN/ROAD/151612/2022) - Reg.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the State Government's letter no. 4737213/FR.10/2023-3 dated 6/5/2024 on the above subject. In this regard, it is informed that as per the guidelines issued by MOEF&CC for use of additional forest land required for upgradation/widening of road constructed in the forest area prior to 1980, the details of existing forest land involved in the carriageway of road constructed prior to 1980 should also be included in the application for diversion of forest land. In view of the above, the State Government is requested to examine the same and revise the proposal accordingly.

Yours faithfully

Signed by Karthikeyan

Karuppiah

Date: 19-07-2024 16:52:47

(K. Karthikeyan)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests (Central)

Copy to:

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Forest Department, Guindy Velachery Main Road, Guindy, Chennai – 32.
2. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests/Nodal Officer (FCA), Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Forest Department, Guindy Velachery Main Road, Guindy, Chennai – 32.

3. The Assistant Divisional Engineer, Highways, Construction and Maintenance
Sankarapuram Sub Division, Sankarapuram, Kallakuruchi District.

Sd/-

(K. Karthikeyan)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests (Central)



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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS &
CLIMATE CHANGE

क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय/ Regional Office

Additional Office Block for GPOA, 1st Floor, Shastri Bhawan,
Haddows Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai-600 006;

Ph: 044-28222041; Fax:28252536;

E-mail: ro.moefccc@gov.in/ roefccc1@gmail.com



File No. 4-TNB123/2024-CHN/ 1046

Date: 15th July, 2024

To

The Additional Chief Secretary,
Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Environment & Forest Department,
Secretariat, Fort St. George, Chennai-600 009.


Subject: Forwarding-Site Inspection Report -Reg.

Madam/Sir,

With reference to the subject, I am directed to inform that the following project was inspected by this office and a copy of the site inspection report are enclosed herewith for information and further necessary action.

Sl. No.	Proposal details	Date of Monitoring
1.	Diversion of 0.768 ha of forest land with Carriage Way @ 7.00m width and berm width @ 2.50m on either side for 640m length road lies in forest land of Ravathanallur RFs of Villupuram FD for road expansion work on Vellimalai Moolakadu road between Pakkam and Ravathanallur villages across Ravathanallur RF in Kallakuruchi District in favour of Assistant Divisional Engineer, Highways, Construction and Maintenance Sankarapuram Sub division, Sankarapuram, Kallakuruchi District.	10.07.2024

Action taken report may kindly be sent to this office for taking further action, in due course.


(S. Yuvaraj)

Deputy Inspector General of Forests (Central)

-120-
Copy to:

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

(S. Yuvaraj)

Deputy Inspector General of Forests (Central)

Site inspection report of diversion of 0.768 ha of forest land with Carriage Way @ 7.00m width and berm width @ 2.50m on either side for 640 m length road lies in forest land of Ravathanallur RFs of Villupuram Forest Division for road expansion work on Vellimalai Moolakadu road between Pakkam and Ravathanallur villages across Ravathanallur RF in Kallakuruchi District in favour of Assistant Divisional Engineer, Highways, Construction and Maintenance Sankarapuram Sub division, Sankarapuram, Kallakuruchi District.

1. Introduction:

A proposal for diversion of 0.768 ha of forest land with Carriage Way @ 7.00m width and berm width @ 2.50m on either side for 640 m length road in forest land of Ravathanallur RFs of Villupuram FD for road expansion work on Vellimalai Moolakadu road between Pakkam and Ravathanallur villages across Ravathanallur RF in Kallakuruchi District in favour of Assistant Divisional Engineer, Highways, Construction and Maintenance, Sub division, Sankarapuram, Kallakuruchi District vide FR letter No. 4737213/FR.10/2023-3 dated 6.05.2024 at (P.1-105/C) was received from Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Government of Tamil Nadu and requested the Regional Office, Chennai to obtain and communicate the approval of Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change under Section-2 of (Forest Conservation) Act, 1980. The proposal was considered for Stage I approval by Regional Office, Chennai considering the importance of road connectivity of remote villages in Kallakuruchi District. During the examination of the proposal it was noticed that the proposal involves widening of road from the width of 5.50 m to 7.5 m carriage way and construction of berm of 2.5 m on either side on the existing road which passes through Ravathanallur RF in Sankarapuram Range, Kallakuruchi District. However, the status of existing road was not clear i.e. Whether the existing road was laid prior to 1980. In order to ascertain the status of existing road, it was decided to carry out site inspection by Regional Office and accordingly the undersigned carried out the site inspection on 10.07.2024.

2. Details of the proposal:

The proposal is for diversion of 0.768 ha. of forest land with carriageway @ 7.0 m width and berm width @ 2.5 m on either side for 640 m length road in forest land of Ravathanallur Reserved Forests of Villupuram Forest Division for road expansion work on Vellimalai Moolakadu road between Pakkam and Ravathanallur villages across Ravathanallur Reserved Forest in Kallakuruchi District in favour of Assistant Divisional Engineer, Highways, Construction and Maintenance Sankarapuram Sub Division, Sankarapuram, Kallakuruchi District.

S. J. J.

The User Agency in their justification note has stated that the existing road is damaged in many locations with unmotorable conditions and the local villagers and road users finding it difficult while plying through this road. The UA has also stated that the existing damaged road width is 5.50 m and the road width to be expanded in each side is 0.75 m. to make the road width for the black top is 7.0 m. It is also proposed a 5.0 m (2.5 m. each side) for berm, hence, total requirement of road width is 12 m. The width of the road proposed is also considering the future maintenance and upgradation works. District Collector, Kallakurichi has certified that no alternate land other than forest land is available for the project.

As per Part-II of the proposal, the legal status of proposed area is Reserved Forest area and comes under Eco-class-5 with canopy density 0.2. The proposal involves felling 16 trees. It is reported that the proposed site is undulating plain interspersed with hillock and thus, prone to soil erosion. Spotted deer, Jackal, Wild boar, Black naped hare are present in the proposed area. Also, the proposed area does not form part of National Park, Wildlife sanctuary, Tiger Reserve etc. No violation is reported.

DFO, Villupuram has proposed plantation of 1536 no. of miscellaneous seedlings in 1.54 ha of degraded forest area in Thagarai Reserved Forest at the project cost of Rs. 19,48,382/- including 10-year maintenance of plantation.

The requirement of non-forest land is not mentioned in the proposal. Regarding the existing road, the UA has stated that it is constructed prior to 1980. However, the inspection report of State Forest department officials, there is no specific comment on the existing road. In order to ascertain the status of existing road, it was decided to carry out site inspection by Regional Office.

3. Details of site inspection of proposal for road:

During inspection of the diversion proposal for road, Shri. A. Periasamy, CCF, Villupuram, Shri. Sumesh Soman, DFO, Villupuram, Shri. Sivasubramanian, ADE, Highways Department, Shri. Sharma, AE, Highways Department, Sankarapuram and other field officials from the Forest Department and Highways Department were present. It was informed by the officials of Highway Department that the the existing damaged road width is 5.50 m and the road width to be expanded in each side is 0.75 m. to make the road width for the black top is 7.0 m. It is also proposed a 5.0 m (2.5 m. each side) for berm and hence, total requirement of road width is 12 m. The width of the road is proposed considering the future maintenance and upgradation works. The proposed road widening comes under the category of Major District Road and the width prescribed for such category is up to 7 m. The road is important for the residents of Vellimali Taluk in Kalvarayan Hills to reach the district headquarters. They also informed that the widening of road

S. J. J.

on non-forest land is already done in 2022-23 and widening is not done in the forest patches. CCF Villupuram informed that the road was in existence as per the RF notification published in 1897 and right of way for the cart track from Ravathanallur to Pakkam road for 6 yards (5.48 m) width and nearly three furlongs (603.5 m) is allowed in the Ravathanallur RF block and black topping was done in 1980-81 as per the Road Chart record available with the Highways Department.

4. Observations of the proposed road site:

The diversion proposal for 0.768 ha of forest land in Ravathanallur RF, Sankarapuram Range, Kallakuruchi District passes through the forest patch which is leased to TAF CORN. The total area of the RF block is 471 ha and Eucalyptus plantation is observed on either side of proposal. The existing width and length of the road was measured and it is found to be 5.5 m width and approximately 600 m length. The right of way is allowed for people, cattle and carts as per the RF notification published by *Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), Forest No.492, 13th November, 1897* which reads as:

REMARKS – A. The under mentioned rights of way are allowed within the block:

.....
(4) Cart-track from Ravattanallur to Pakkam six yards wide and open for people, cattle and cart. It enters the block about one and three fourth chains south of the south-east corner of survey No.484 of Ravattanallur and running eastwards for nearly three furlongs leaves the reserve forest about two chains west of the north-east corner of survey No.488 of Ravattanallur.

- i. On either side of the road avenue trees predominantly Neem is present. It was informed by the User Agency that widening will be done such a way that only least number of trees would be required to be felled. 16 trees are proposed to be felled. Widening of road was done on the non-forest area. In the proposed diversion, there is no violation. As the widening is proposed between forest patches, speed brakers/sign board to be made at suitable places in consultation with the DFO.

5.1 Details of inspection of the proposed CA areas:

Compensatory afforestation for planting 1536 no. of miscellaneous seedlings in 1.54 ha of degraded forest area in Thagarai Reserved Forest at the project cost of Rs. 19,48,382/- including 10-year maintenance of plantation.

5.2 Observations in proposed CA in degraded forest land:

- ii. Compensatory afforestation in an area of 1.54 ha of degraded forest land in Thagarai RF, Kallakuruchi Range is proposed with a financial outlay of Rs.19.48 lakhs. During inspection, it was noticed that the proposed DFL is adjoining an earthen dam which is located in the RF. CCF, Villupuram informed that CA for various proposals is taken in the degraded patch of the RF block. During monitoring, enroute to the CA site, CA plantation done in 2022-23 was noticed with very

S. J. J.


-124-
good growth but there was no display board about the compensatory afforestation. It is suggested to erect Display board of all CA plantation done in Thagari RF.

Photographs taken during the field inspection is enclosed as **Annexures**.

6. Conclusion:

The existing road between Ravuthanallur to Pakkam road is a cart track of six yards (5.48 m) wide and 3 furlongs (603.5 m) distance. The right of way is allowed for people, cattle and carts as per the RF notification published by Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), Forest No.492, 13th November, 1897. (Copy of the notification is annexed) which proves that the road was in existence prior to 1980 and black topping was done in 1980-81. (Copy of the Road chart is annexed). No work is carried out in the forest area. As per the clarification issued by the Ministry vide FC-11/117/2019-FC 1/39693/2023 regarding widening and upgradation of roads existing prior to 1980, While seeking prior approval for use for additional forest land required for upgradation/widening of such roads, the detail of existing forest land involved in the carriageway of road constructed prior to 1980 should also be included in the application for diversion of forest land. As the non-forestry use of forest land involved in the carriage way constructed prior to 1980 has already been allowed before 1980, the provision of raising compensatory afforestation and payment of NPV are not be insisted for such portion of forest land involved in the upgradation/widening of forest land. Accordingly, the proposal has to be amended by the State Government.

Signature

Name and Designation of Inspecting Officer: 
DIGF(C), RO, Chennai

Date of Inspection: 10.07.2024
Date of submission: 12.07.2024

-126-
Annexure -2. Inspection of diversion of 0.768 ha of forest land of Ravathanallur RFs of Villupuram FD for road expansion work on Vellimalai Moolakadu road between Pakkam and Ravathanallur villages Sankarapuram, Kallakuruchi District.

Copy of Road Chart maintained by Highways Department.

ROAD CHART

NAME OF ROAD

CENSUS POINT

TRAFFIC INTENSITY

COMMERCIAL VEHICLES

POSITION OF QUARRY AND WATER SPOTS

METAL

GRAVEL

SAND

NO.

TONNES PER DAY

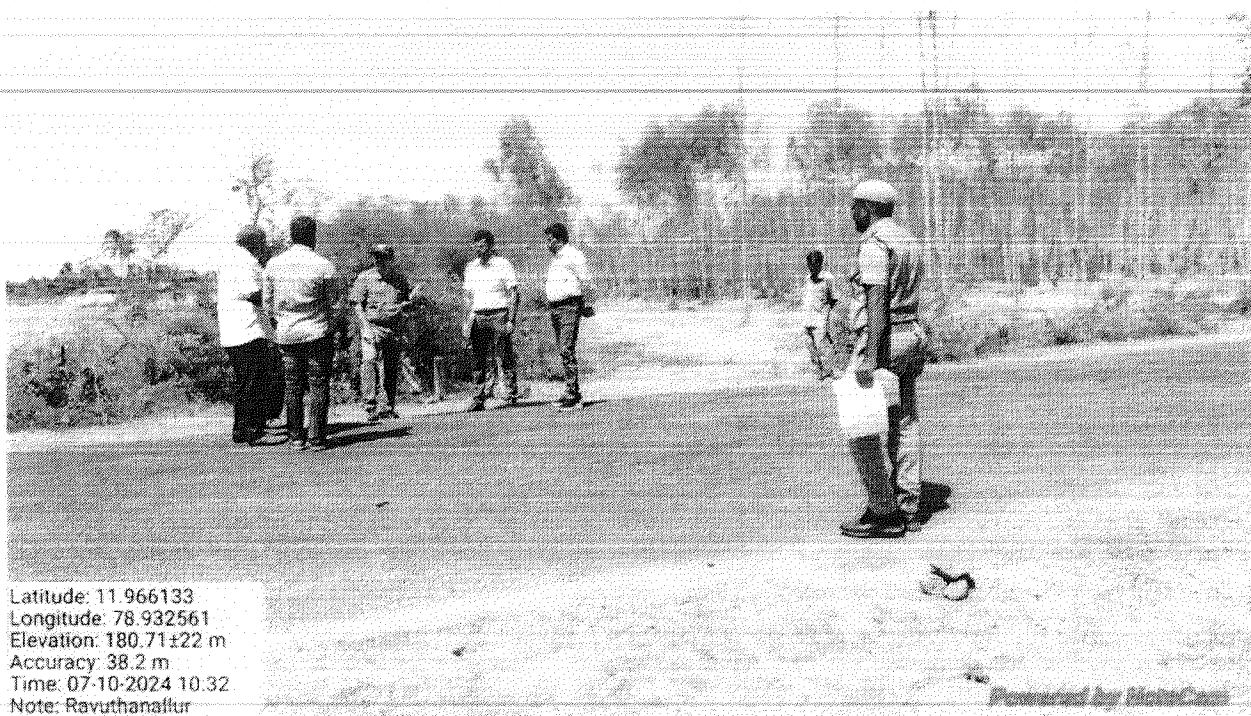
RENEWALS DONE IN

K.M. and H.M. of the Road	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
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Assistant Divisional Engineer (H)
C & M, Sankarapuram.

S. J. J.

Annexure -3. Photographs taken during Inspection of diversion of 0.768 ha of forest land of Ravathanallur RFs of Villupuram FD for road expansion work on Vellimalai Moolakadu road between Pakkam and Ravathanallur villages Sankarapuram, Kallakuruchi District.



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