

C.No.TS3/15481/2015

Office of the Principal Chief Conservator
of Forests (Head of Forest Force),
Panagal Building, Saidapet,
Chennai - 15.

Dated: 10.09.2015.

Sub: Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 - Villupuram Forest Circle / Villupuram Forest Division - Proposal for diversion of 0.176 ha of forest land in Pakkamalai Reserved Forests of Villupuram Forest Division for Nandhan Channel rehabilitation work in Villupuram District in favour of Assistant Executive Engineer, PWD, WRO, Lower Pennaiyar Basin Sub Division, Tindivanam, Villupuram District - Online Submission of proposal by the User Agency - regarding.

- Ref 1 Online application and additional details uploaded by the User Agency - The Assistant Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Water Resources Organisation, Lower Pennaiyar Basin Sub Division, Tindivanam, Villupuram District Pin code 605 602, dated 01.06.2015 and 18.06.2015
- 2 Principal Chief Conservator of Forests letter No. TS3/15481/2015 dated 11.06.2015 & 19.06.2015
- 3 Part II of Form A uploaded by the District Forest Officer, Villupuram Division on 01.09.2015 & C.No. 2247/2015/D, dated 01.09.2015
- 4 Part III of Form A uploaded by the Conservator of Forests, Coimbatore Circle on 07.09.2015 & C. No. D/2058/2015, dated 07.09.2015

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Attention of the Conservator of Forests is invited to the references cited.

On the proposal for diversion of 0.176 ha of forest land in Pakkamalai Reserved Forests of Villupuram Forest Division for Nandhan Channel rehabilitation work in Villupuram District in favour of Assistant Executive Engineer, PWD, WRO, Lower Pennaiyar Basin Sub Division, Tindivanam, Villupuram District, proposal forwarded by the Conservator of Forests has been examined and the following short comings are noticed.

a) The District Forest Officer has reported that 110 trees belonging to various species, of which 95 species are above specified girth are subjected for felling and included in the list.

But he has not specified, whether the 110 trees subjected for felling in the proposed diversion of forest area are planted trees or naturally grown Spontaneous trees.

The Conservator of Forests / District Forest Officer are requested to re-inspect the area and report whether spontaneous trees are noticed in Canal bund or channel bed and also to report whether any felling of trees are necessary for this project i.e., laying of cement concrete pipe line on the existing canal bed. It seems unlikely that so many trees have grown inside the canal bed itself, when the canal is maintained by PWD regularly.

b) As against the removal of 110 trees in the project proposal area, the District Forest Officer has proposed raising of Compensatory Afforestation plantation with first and second year maintenance works in 6 ha of degraded forest land in Krishnapuram RF (Ulundurpettai Range) of Villupuram Division at a project cost of Rs. 10.95 lakhs.

As per Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 guidelines under Compensatory Afforestation, No compensatory afforestation shall be insisted for proposals involving diversion of forest land up to one hectare. However, in such cases, plantation of ten times of trees likely to be felled will have to be carried out by way of compensatory afforestation or any number of trees specified in the order.

As against the removal of 110 trees, the District Forest Officer has proposed planting of 2400 misc seedlings @ 400 seedlings per ha with maintenance of plantation for 1st and 2nd year for the degraded forest area.

As per Government of India guidelines, Compensatory Afforestation Scheme proposal has to be formulated with 7-10 year of maintenance.

c) The Geo reference details of compensatory afforestation area proposed by the District Forest Officer have not been furnished.

The Conservator of Forests is requested to reexamine after a through inspection, rectify the defects and upload the details early, instead of just forwarding the District Forest Officer's report.

Sd/- Ashutosh Samant Singhar
for Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Head of Department) (FAC)

To

The Conservator of Forests, Villupuram Circle, Villupuram.

Copy to the District Forest Officer, Villupuram Division, Villupuram for further action.

/ True copy / By order /

N. Banu
10/9/15
Senior Draughting Officer.

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10/9/15

