



भारत सरकार

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS & CLIMATE CHANGE

Regional Office (Southern Zone),

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BY SPEED POST

F. No.4-KLB 1255/2020-BAN

Dated: 04.09.2020

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To

The Additional Chief Secretary,
Government of Kerala
Forest and Wildlife Department,
Secretariat, Thiruvananthapuram
Kerala, PIN-695001

Sub: Diversion of 1.495 ha of forest land for rehabilitation and upgradation of NH-85 from Km 119/017 to 161/300 (Design chainage Km 119/017 to 160/800) from Bodimettu to Munnar on EPC mode in favour of Assistant Executive Engineer, Kerala Public Works Department, Idukki, Kerala -regd.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to Government of Kerala letter No. FWLD-C2/67/2020-FWLD dated 20.08.2020 on the subject mentioned above. In this regard, the aforementioned proposal has been examined in this office as per Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and Guidelines issued there under. In this connection, the said proposal is incomplete with respect to the following;

1. As per part I of the proposal, diversion of forest land is proposed in 12 stretches. However, KML files in respect of stretch No.1 and 11 are not uploaded on Parivesh portal. Therefore, it is requested to upload the correct KML files for all the stretches of forest land proposed for diversion.
2. Further, on perusal of KML files, in certain locations, it appears that there are changes in alignment. It is therefore, requested to clarify whether the proposal involves widening of existing road or it also involves change in the alignment of existing road.
3. As per site inspection report of Divisional Forest Officer, Munnar the proposed forest stretches for diversion are important elephant movement routes. Therefore, Mitigation Plan as approved by the Chief Wildlife Warden may be furnished.
4. It is reported that road expansion work has started in non forest land in same stretch, which is against the spirit of para No. 11.3 of F(C) Guidelines. In such cases user agency is required to give an undertaking to the effect that in case diversion on forest land is denied for widening of road, width of the portion of road falling in the forest land will be maintained at its existing level. Therefore, necessary undertaking in this regard from user agency may be furnished.
5. The land for raising Compensatory Afforestation has been proposed in degraded forest land to an extent of 1.5 ha in Erumely Range in Ranni Reserve Forest. However, as per F (C) Guidelines, CA has to be proposed in non forest land, if it is State Sector project. However, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, New Delhi vide its letter dated 18th August, 2020 has clarified on dispensation of Compensatory Afforestation over double the degraded forest land, instead of equivalent non forest land in respect of Central PSUs/Central Government Project, Therefore, if it is a Central/ Central PSUs project implemented by/ through State Government, in order to avail the said dispensation as per the above guidelines, a certificate from appropriate authority needs to be furnished stating that the said project is Central Government project which is being implemented by State Government. If so, a suitable degraded forest land having crown density less than 40 per cent shall be proposed double the extent of forest area proposed for diversion and necessary CA scheme for the said land shall be prescribed as per para 2.8 (ii) of FC guidelines.


o/c

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6. The status of obtaining FRA compliance certificate may be furnished.

In view of the above, it is requested to furnish the aforementioned details expeditiously to this office for further necessary action at our end. Further, it is also requested that before forwarding the proposal to this office, proposal should be thoroughly scrutinized at the Nodal Officer level to avoid unnecessary delay in processing the proposals.

Yours sincerely,

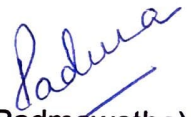


(R. Padmawathe)

Dy. Inspector General of Forests (Central)

Copy to:

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Forest Department, Government of Kerala, Vanalakshmi, 1st Floor, Forest Headquarters, Vazhuthacacaud, Thiruvanahtpuram, 695014, Kerala.
2. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Special Afforestation) and Nodal Officer (FCA), Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Forest Department, Government of Kerala, Vanalakshmi, 1st Floor, Forest Headquarters, Vazhuthacaud, Thiruvanahtpuram, 695014, Kerala.
3. The Assistant Executive Engineer, NH Sub Division, Devikulam, Dist: Idukki, Kerala-685613



(R. Padmawathe)

Dy. Inspector General of Forests (Central)

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4/9/2020