

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
SOUTHERN ZONE BENCH, CHENNAI**

**ORIGINAL APPLICATION No. 107 of 2025**

Tribunal On Its Own Motion Suo Motu  
Based On the News Item in The Hindu  
Dated 13 April 2025 Titled 40 Trees Felled  
in Maysuru for Road Widening Sparking  
Outrage Among Activists Vs Central  
Pollution Control Board Through Its  
Member Secretary

And

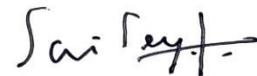
1. Karnataka Forest Department  
Through Principal Chief Conservator of Forest  
& Others

... Respondents

**INDEX TO REPLY AND DOCUMENTS FILED BY 4<sup>TH</sup> RESPONDENT**

SNo	Particulars of documents	Pg No
1	Reply Affidavit filed by MoEF&CC	1-5
2	A copy of State Government Report dated 8.8.2025	6-14

Dated at Chennai this the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of September 2025.



**Counsel for Respondent-4 (MoEF & CC)**

Name and Address for service:

**Sai Srujan Tayi**  
No. 319 (Old No. 155), Linghi Chetty Street,  
George Town, Chennai – 600 001.  
Contact No: 98414 41438  
Mail ID: [sai@girisai.com](mailto:sai@girisai.com)

**IN THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL (SZ), CHENNAI**

**IN**

**ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 107 OF 2025 (SZ)**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

Tribunal on its own motion SUO MOTU based on the news item published in The Hindu, Chennai edition e-paper dated 30.07.2024, titled "Wayanad landslides Live updates : 54 killed, over 100 feared missing in Kerala hill station; relief operations delayed".

**REPLY AFFIDAVIT ON BEHALF OF MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & CLIMATE CHANGE i.e. RESPONDENT NO. 4**

I, Praneetha Paul, Daughter of C. Itty Paul, aged about 49 years, currently working as Deputy Inspector General of Forest (Central) in the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Regional Office, Bengaluru, do hereby solemnly affirm and state on oath as follows:

1. That, I have read and understood the contents of the present Affidavit, the contents thereof are true, and no part of it is false, and nothing material has been concealed therefrom.

  
**Praneetha Paul**  
Dy. Inspector General of Forest(C)  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & CLIMATE CHANGE  
Integrated Regional Office, Kendriya Sadan  
IVth Floor, E&F Wings, Bengaluru - 560 034.

2. That, the issue raised in the present application is based on the news item published titled "40 trees felled in Mysuru for road widening sparking outrage among activists" appearing in The Hindu dated 13.04.2025.
3. That at the outset, it is humbly submitted that the MoEFCC deals with policy and regulatory issues at a broader level. The role of the MoEFCC is to frame policy, provide directions and guidance in an advisory capacity, as well as to provide necessary approvals under the provisions of the relevant Central Acts so far as the protection and conservation of forest, wildlife and other environmental resources are concerned.
4. That the 'land' is a subject matter of the State Government. The forest areas and the legal boundaries thereof are determined and maintained by the concerned State Government. That being the repository of land records, the State Government has the primary responsibility to determine the status of any parcel of land, giving due regard to gazette notifications, provisions under State and Central Acts, and concerned judgments and directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.
5. It is submitted that the felling of trees on non-forest land is regulated by the respective State Government /UT Administration as per the provisions of various State Acts and Rules made thereunder. Many States have specific Tree Preservation Acts / Tree Felling Acts including guidelines for regulating the felling of trees on revenue lands and penal

**Praneetha Paul**

Dy. Inspector General of Forest (C)

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & CLIMATE CHANGE

Integrated Regional Office, Kendriya Sadan

IVth Floor, E&F Wings, Bengaluru - 560 034.

provisions for the violations. The implementation of these rules is supervised by designated authorities in the State Government whose permission is necessary for the felling of reserved trees in Non- Forest Land, under such rules.

6. That, prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2 of the "Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam", 1980, [earlier known as the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980] (hereinafter referred to as "Van Adhiniyam, 1980") is required for carrying out any non-forest activity on forest land. Any contravention of the above provision would amount to a violation of the Act, 1980 and attract the penal provisions in it.
7. To ascertain the correct position/veracity of the issues raised through the news article, the answering respondent vide letter dated 10.07.2025 sought a factual report from the State Forest Department of Karnataka in the matter. The State Forest Department of Karnataka through its letter dated 08.08.2025 informed that the permission had been granted to clear trees under section 8(3) of the Karnataka Trees Preservation Act 1976 after considering the public interest involved in road widening project and there is no violation in granting permission to the Mysore Municipal Corporation from Deputy Conservator of Forest (T), Mysore Division Office to cut down 40 trees (38 *Peltophorum pterocarpum*, 1 *Samanea*

**Praneetha Paul**

Dy. Inspector General of Forest(C)

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & CLIMATE CHANGE

Integrated Regional Office, Kendriya Sadan

IVth Floor, E&F Wings, Bengaluru - 560 034.

saman (Rain tree) and 1 Vachellia nilotica (Gobbli) (list of trees enclosed) standing on both sides of the road for the expansion of Hyder Ali Road within the limits of Mysore city to a length of 360 meters.

8. The State Government has also informed that no violation has happened in the process and due procedure of law involved in awarding the permission under Karnataka Trees Preservation Act 1976 and rules were followed by the Deputy Conservator of Forest (T), Mysore Division diligently. A copy of the State Government Letter dated 08.08.2025 is enclosed as **Annexure-1**.
9. That, the answering respondent reserves the right to file additional information before the Hon'ble Tribunal, if required till Pendente-lite.
10. That, in view of the afore-mentioned facts and circumstances, this Hon'ble Tribunal may kindly be pleased to pass appropriate order(s)/directions as the Hon'ble Tribunal may deem fit and proper in the interest of justice.

**DEPONENT**  
**Praneetha Paul**

Dy. Inspector General of Forest (C)  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & CLIMATE CHANGE  
Integrated Regional Office, Kendriya Sadan  
IVth Floor, E&F Wings, Bengaluru - 560 034.

**Verification**

Verified at Bengaluru on this 1<sup>st</sup> Day of September 2025, that the contents of this affidavit are true and correct to my knowledge based on the official record maintained in the daily course of its business, no part of this affidavit is false and nothing material has been concealed therefrom.

**DEPONENT****Praneetha Paul**

Dy. Inspector General of Forest(C)

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST &amp; CLIMATE CHANGE

Integrated Regional Office, Kendriya Sadan

IVth Floor, E&amp;F Wings, Bengaluru - 560 034.

**GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA**

No.APCCF(FRM)B5/B5/OA/CR137/  
2016-17



Office of the  
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,  
(Head of Forest Force),  
Aranya Bhavan, Malleshwaram,  
Bengaluru-03, Dated: 08.08.2025

To,

Deputy Director General of Forests (C),  
Regional Office (Southern Zone),  
Kendriya Sadan, IVth Floor, E&F Wings,  
17th Main Road, IInd Block,  
Koramangala, Bangalore-560034.

Sir,

**Sub:** Original Application No.107 of 2025(SZ) (Earlier OA No. 186 of 2025] News item in The Hindu dated 13.04.2025 titled, "40 trees felled in Mysuru for road widening sparking outrage among activists."-reg.

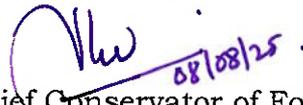
**Ref:** 1. Your office letter No: F. No. F(C)A/12.7/760/NGT/ KAR Dated 10.07.2025.  
2. Chief Conservator of Forests, Mysore Circle, Mysore Letter No: A4/complaint-GL269/2025-26 Dated 05.08.2025.

\*\*\*\*\*

With reference to the letter referred above, the factual report on the issue raised in the OA has been submitted by the Conservator of Forests, Mysore Circle, Mysore is enclosed herewith for further necessary action.

Thanking You,

Yours Faithfully,

  
Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,  
(Forest Resource Management).

**Copy to:**

1. Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka, Forest Ecology & Environment, MS Building, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bangalore for kind information.
2. Conservator of Forests, Mysore Circle, Mysore for information.



Telephone: 0821-2483853

E-mail-ccfmysore@gmail.com

### Conservator of Forests, Mysuru Circle, Mysuru.

No: A4/ complaint –GL269/2025-26

Dt: 05.08.2025

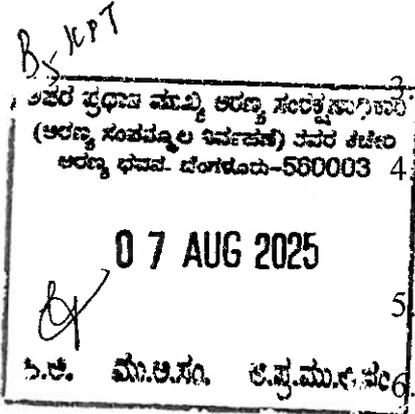
To,

Additional Principal Chief Conservator  
of Forests,(Forest Resource Management),  
Aranya Bhavana,  
Mallesvaram,Bangalore-3.

Respected Sir,

Sub:- Original Application No.107 of 2025(SZ) (Earlier OA No.186 of 2025) News item in the Hindu Dated 13.04.2025 titled, 40 trees felled in Mysuru for road widening sparking outrage among activities-reg.

- Ref:-
1. Your Office Letter No: APCCF(FRM)/B5/OA/CR-137/2016-17, Dated: 21.07.2025.
  2. This Office Letter NO: A4 complaint – GL269/ 2025-26 Date:17.07.2025 from Conservator Forests Mysore circle Mysore
  3. Your Office Letter No: APCCF(FRM)/A9/TC/GL-/2025-26, dated: 09.05.2025. (Received on 16.05.2025)
  4. District Urban Development cell, Mysore District, Mysore Letter No: ಮುನಿಸಿ(4)/ MCC/SFC/SA/APO/CR-8/2024-25, Dated: 22.06.2024.
  5. Assistant executive Engineer, Horticulture Division, Mysore Letter No: MCC/HD/AEE/50/2024-25, Dated: 15.06.2024.
  6. Deputy Range Forest Officer-Cum-Surveyor of Mysore North Section, Mysore Range Letter Dated: 22.07.2024.
  7. Range Forest Officer, Mysore Range, Mysore D.O Letter No: MR/TA/CR-11/64/2024-25/96, Dated: 08.01.2025.
  8. Assistant Conservator of Forests, Mysore Sub-Division, Mysore Letter No: ACF/MSD/TVF/CR-49/2024-25/88, Dated: 15.01.2025.
  9. Development Officer, Zone-7 Lashkar Mohalla, Mysore Municipal Corporation, Mysore Letter No: MCC/ZO/7/JE/2024-25, Dated: 22.01.2025.
  10. Demand Notice No: A3/ Tree/ MR/ UP/ CR-5/ 2024-25, Dated:12.02.2025. Of the DCF(T) Mysore Division.



11. Government Order No:FEE 168/FDP 2017, Bangalore Dated:06.12.2018 & 08.10.2020.
12. Government Order No: FEE 38/FDP 2019, Bangalore Dated:06.01.2023.
13. Assistant Executive Engineer, Horticulture Division, Mysore Municipal Corporation, Mysore Letter No: MCC/HD/AEE/372/2024-25, Dated: 20.03.2025.
14. Deputy Conservator Of forest(T),Mysore division, Office OM No: A3/ Tree/ RW/ CR-04/2023-24, Dated:25.03.2025 & 27.03.2025
15. Deputy Conservator Of forest(T),Mysore division, Office Letter No: A3/ Tree/ RW/ CR-04/2023-24, Dated:05.08.2025

\*\*\*\*\*

With reference to the above Subject, The following facts are submitted for your kind perusal.

1. Mysore District Urban Development cell, granted the Administrative and Technical approval of the Action Plan Worth of Rs. 2000=00 Lakhs for the year 2023-24 to carryout developmental Work in the Narasimharaja Assembly Constituency of Mysore Municipal Corporation.
2. The said action plan had provision for the widening and development of the Hyderali Road from Kalikamba Temple to Superintendent of Police Office Circle and Major drainage works from Hanumanth Nagar Main Road to Urdu School at an estimated cost of Rs.500=00 Lakhs.
3. The Assistant executive Engineer, Horticulture Division, of Mysore Municipal Corporation (User Organization) submitted a request to Range Forest Officer, Mysore Range to remove a 40 trees in the 360 meters long portion on both sides (Because of 30 mtrs existing Road Widening) of Hyder Ali Road in Mysore Municipal limits from Kalikamba Temple to S.P. Office Circle, letter dated 15-06-2024
4. After receiving the letter dated 15.06.2024 from the Mysore Municipal Corporation, the Range Forest Officer, Mysore Range, instructed to the Deputy Range Forest Officer-Cum-Surveyor of Mysore North Section to submit a report in this regard.
5. Deputy Range Forest Officer, Mysore North Section visited the site on 20-07-2024 conducted a survey and has prepared tree marking list of a total number of 40 trees standing on both sides of the road and submitted the report to the Range Forest Officer, Mysore Range, on 22-07-2024. As per the list,

- there were 40 trees on the both sides of the road Thus, out of the total 40 trees, 38 are Peltophorum, 1 is Rain Tree and 1 is Gobbali.
6. Later Range Forest Officer, Mysore Range, Mysore has submitted a report to the Assistant Conservator of Forests, Mysore Sub-Division, Mysore on 08-01-2025.
  7. There after, the Asst. Conservator of Forests, Mysore Sub-Division, Mysore in vide letter dated 15-01-2025 submitted the report along with the assessment/ Evaluation of the trees to Deputy Conservator of Forests, Mysore Division, Mysore as per the Government Order No:FEE/168/FDP/2017, dated 06-12-2018,
  8. Meanwhile, on the request Of Deputy Conservator of Forest,Mysore Division, the Development Officer, Zone-7, Mysore Municipal Corporation has submitted a sketch of the proposed road widening project to Deputy Conservator of Forests, Mysore Division, Mysore office vide letter dated 22-01-2025. As per the sketch, the road widening project will be limited to a total length of 360 meters from CH-0 mtrs (Kalikamba Temple) to CH-360Mtrs (S.P. Office Circle).
  9. Subsequently, a demand letter for Compensatory Afforestation charges to be paid was issued on 12-02-2025, by the Deputy Consevator of Forest,Mysore Division to the Mysore Municipal Corporation (User Organization) and directed to pay a total amount of Rs.7,76,223/- to the Government as per the Government Order dated 06-12-2018, 08-10-2020 & 06-01-2023.
  10. Accordingly, the Assistant Executive Engineer, Horticulture Division, Mysore Municipal Corporation, vide letter No MCC/HD/AEE/372/2024-25, dated 20-03-2025 has submitted four demand drafts and one cheque for a total amount of R.7,76,223/- to the Deputy Conservator of Forest (T),Mysore Division Office.
  11. The user organization (applicant) paid the demanded Compensatory Afforestation charges to the Government, permission was granted to cut the said 40 trees along the roadside vide this office OM dated No A3/Tree/RW/CR-04/2023-24,on 25.03.2025.
  12. In this case, since the number of trees permitted for felling are less than 50, there is no need to invite objections from the public under Section 8(3)(vii) of the Karnataka Trees Preservation Act. 1976
  13. The said trees were cut down by the Mysore Municipal Corporation (User Organization) on 13-04-2025 and shifted to the dumping yard near the Sewage Farm of the Mysore Municipal Corporation on 14-04-2025.

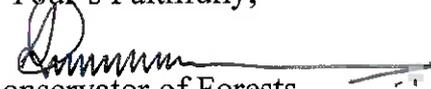
The Deputy Conservator of Forest,Mysore Division has made site inspection of the said roadside trees and has granted permission to remove the 40 trees under section 8(3) of the Karnataka Trees Preservation Act 1976 , that obstruct the road widening based on the above factors.

Permission has been granted to clear trees under section 8(3) of the Karnataka Trees Preservation Act 1976 after considering the Public Interest involved in road widening project.

There is no violation in granting permission to the Mysore Municipal Corporation from Deputy Conservator of Forest (T), Mysore Division Office to cut down 40 trees (38 *Peltophorum pterocarpum*, 1 *Samanea saman* (Rain tree) and 1 *Vachellia nilotica* (Gobbli) (list of trees enclosed) standing on both sides of the road for the expansion of Hyder Ali Road within the limits of Mysore city to a length of 360 meters.

It's submitted that no violation has happened in the process and due procedure of law involved in awarding the permission under KTP Act 1976 and rules were followed Deputy Conservator of Forest (T), Mysore Division diligently. The above report is submitted along with necessary documents for your kind consideration.

Your's Faithfully,

  
Conservator of Forests,  
Mysuru Circle, Mysuru.



Telephone: 0821-2483853

E-mail-[dcfndm@gmail.com](mailto:dcfndm@gmail.com)

## Deputy Conservator of Forests, Mysuru Division, Mysuru.

No: A3/Tree/RW/CR-4/2023-24

Dt: 05.08.2025

To,

✓ Conservator of Forests,  
Mysore circle Mysore

Sir,

Sub:- Original Application No.107 of 2025(SZ) (Earlier OA No.186 of 2025) News item in the Hindu Dated 13.04.2025 titled, 40 trees felled in Mysuru for road widening sparking outrage among activities-reg

ದಯ್ಯ ಸಂದರ್ಶನಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ  
ಮೈಸೂರು ವೃತ್ತ, ಮೈಸೂರು  
- 5 AUG 2025  
ಇತಿ: A4  
ಆ.ಸಂ.

1. Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (FRM) Bangalore Letter No: APCCF(FRM)/B5/OA/CR-137/2016-17, Dated: 21.07.2025.
2. Your Letter NO: A4 complaint –GL269/2025-26 Date:17.07.2025
3. Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (FRM) Bangalore Letter No: APCCF(FRM)/A9/TC/GL-/2025-26, dated: 09.05.2025. (Received on 16.05.2025)
4. District Urban Development cell, Mysore District, Mysore Letter No: ಮುನಿಸಿ(4)/MCC/SFC/SA/APO/CR-8/2024-25, Dated:22.06.2024.
5. Assistant executive Engineer, Horticulture Division, Mysore Letter No: MCC/HD/AEE/50/2024-25, Dated: 15.06.2024.
6. Deputy Range Forest Officer-Cum-Surveyor of Mysore North Section, Mysore Letter Dated: 22.07.2024.
7. Range Forest Officer, Mysore Range, Mysore D.O Letter No: MR/TA/CR-11/64/2024-25/96, Dated: 08.01.2025.
8. Assistant Conservator of Forests, Mysore Sub-Division, Mysore Letter No: ACF/MSD/TVF/CR-49/2024-25/88, Dated: 15.01.2025.
9. Development Officer, Zone-7 Lashkar Mohalla, Mysore Metropolitan Corporation, Mysore Letter No: MCC/ZO/7/JE/2024-25, Dated: 22.01.2025.
10. This office demand Notice No: A3/Tree/MR/UP/CR-5/2024-25, Dated:12.02.2025.
11. Government Order No:FEE 168/FDP 2017, Bangalore Dated:06.12.2018 & 08.10.2020.
12. Government Order No: FEE 38/FDP 2019, Bangalore Dated:06.01.2023.
13. Assistant Executive Engineer, Horticulture Division, Mysore Metropolitan Corporation, Mysore Letter No: MCC/HD/AEE/372/2024-25, Dated: 20.03.2025.

14. This office OM No: A3/Tree/RW/CR-04/2023-24, Dated: 25.03.2025  
& 27.03.2025

\*\*\*\*\*

With reference to the above Subject, The following facts have been submitted for your kind perusal.

1. District Urban Development cell, Mysore District, Mysore has given Administrative and Technical approval to an action Plan Worth of Rs. 2000 Lakhs for the year 2023-24 to Carryout development Work in the Narasimharaja Assembly Constituency of mysore metropolitan Corporation.
2. The said action plan was made provision for the widening and development of the said Hyderali Road from Kalikamba Temple to SP Office Circle and Major drainage works from Hanumanth Nagar Main Road to Urdu School at an estimated cost of Rs.500 Lakhs.
3. The Assistant executive Engineer, Horticulture Division, Mysore Metropolitan Corporation (User Organization) has submitted a request to remove a total of 40 trees in the 360 meter long portion on both side ( 30 mtrs existing Road Widening) to that of Hyder Ali Road in Mysore Metropolitan limits from Kalikamba Temple to S.P. Office Circle by letter dated 15-06-2024 addressed to the Range Forest Officer, Mysore Range, Mysore.
4. Based on letter dated 15.06.2024 from the Mysore Metropolitan Corporation, the Range Forest Officer, Mysore Range, Mysore has instructed to the Deputy Range Forest Officer-Cum-Surveyor of Mysore North Section to submit a report in this regard.
5. Deputy Range Forest Officer-Cum-Surveyor of Mysore North Section Inspected the site on 20-07-2024 conducted a survey and prepared a Tree Marking list of total 40 trees standing on both sides of the said road and submitted the report to the Range Forest Officer, Mysore Range, Mysore on 22-07-2024. As per the said list, there were 40 trees on above roadside. Thus, out of the total 40 trees, 38 are Peltophorum, 1 is Rain Tree (Samanea saman) and 1 is Gobbali.(Vachellia Nilotica)
6. Range Forest Officer, Mysore Range, Mysore submitted a report to the Assistant Conservator of Forests, Mysore Sub-Division, Mysore on 08-01-2025.
7. Asst. Conservator of Forests, Mysore Sub-Division, Mysore in vide letter dated 15-01-2025 submitted the report along with the assessment/ Evaluation of the trees to this office and as per the Government Order No:FEE/168/FDP/2017, dated 06-12-2018, he has requested to execute the demand letter to the user organization.

8. Meanwhile, on the request from this office, the Development Officer, Zone-7, Mysore Metropolitan Corporation has submitted a sketch of the proposed road widening project to this office vide letter dated 22-01-2025. As per the said sketch, this road widening project will be limited to a total length of 360 meters from CH-0 mtrs (Kalikamba Temple) to CH-360Mtrs (S.P. Office Circle).
9. Subsequently, demand letter was issued on 12-02-2025, from this office addressed to the Mysore Metropolitan Corporation (User Organization) and directed to pay a total amount of Rs.7,76,223/- to the Government as per the Government Order dated 06-12-2018, 08-10-2020 & 06-01-2023.
10. Accordingly, the Assistant Executive Engineer, Horticulture Division, Mysore Metropolitan Corporation, vide letter dated 20-03-2025 has submitted four demand drafts and one cheque for a total amount of R.7,76,223/- to this office.
11. After the user organization has paid the prescribed amount to the government, granted permission to cut the said 40 roadside government trees vide this office OM dated on 25.03.2025.
12. In this case, since the number of trees permitted for felling is less than 50, there is no need to invite objections from the public under Section 8(3)(vii) of the Karnataka Trees Preservation Act. 1976
13. The said trees were cut down by the Mysore Metropolitan Corporation (User Organization) on 13-04-2025 and shifted to the dumping yard near the Sewage Farm of the Mysore Metropolitan Corporation on 14-04-2025.

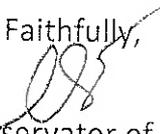
The then Deputy Conservator of Forests has also visited a site inspection of the said roadside trees and has been granted permission to remove the said 40 trees under section 8(3) of the Karnataka Trees Preservation Act 1976 for the removal of trees that obstruct the road widening based on the above factors.

Permission has been granted to clear trees under section 8(3) of the Karnataka Trees Preservation Act including in the Public Interest of road widening.

In this way, it has been submitted to your Honor that there is no violation in granting permission to the Mysore Metropolitan Corporation from this office to cut down 40 government trees (38 *Peltophorum pterocarpum*, 1 *Samanea saman* (Rain tree) and 1 *Vachellia nilotica* (Gobbli) standing on both sides of the said road for the expansion of Hyder Ali Road within the limits of Mysore city to a length of 360

Meters and a width of 30 meters from Kalikamba Temple to SP Office Circle under section 8(3) of the Karnataka Trees Preservation Act. 1976

Your's Faithfully,

  
Deputy Conservator of Forests,  
Mysuru Division, Mysuru.