

LAND ACQUISITION
AT 60, KARAYAMPUTHUR REVENUE VILLAGE OF
BAHOUR TALUK FOR “WIDENING OF THE
EXISTING BRIDGE ACROSS BANGARU CHANNEL
AT KARAYAMPUTHUR IN BAHOUR COMMUNE,
PUDUCHERRY.

GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY
SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT

2025

PREPARED AND SUBMITTED BY

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MRS. S. DEVAGUY, - Member

Social Worker, O/o, The Deputy Director, Immunization, Karaikal.

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the Social Impact Assessment entitled **LAND ACQUISITION AT 60, KARAYAMPUTHUR REVENUE VILLAGE OF BAHOUR TALUK FOR THE PUBLIC PURPOSE OF “WIDENING OF THE EXISTING BRIDGE ACROSS BANGARU CHANNEL AT KARAYAMPUTHUR IN BAHOUR COMMUNE, PUDUCHERRY, Submitted** by Social Impact Assessment Team is an original work done to the best of our knowledge. The subject matter detailed in this Report has been done with confidentiality.

Place: Puducherry

Date: 19/03/2025

Dr. SUNDER ARUMUGAM- Team Leader

Asst. Prof. of Social Work

**Dr. Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi Govt. Institute for Post Graduate Studies and Research,
Karaikal – 609605**

MRS. S. DEVAGUY, - Member

Social Worker, O/o, The Deputy Director, Immunization, Karaikal

DECLARATION

We the members of Social Impact Survey declare, as per Section 9 (7) of Puducherry Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Rules 2016, that in no way, we are related to the affected parties/ residents / land owners of the land to be acquired under **AT 60, KARAYAMPUTHUR REVENUE VILLAGE OF BAHOUR TALUK FOR THE PUBLIC PURPOSE OF “WIDENING OF THE EXISTING BRIDGE ACROSS BANGARU CHANNEL AT KARAYAMPUTHUR IN BAHOUR COMMUNE, PUDUCHERRY,**

Place: Puducherry

Date:19/03/2025

Dr. SUNDER ARUMUGAM- SIA Team Leader

Asst. Prof. of Social Work

**Dr. Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi Govt. Institute for Post Graduate Studies and Research,
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LIST OF CONTENTS

SL NO	CONTENTS	PAGE NO
1.	GENESIS & BACKGROUND OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT	1
2.	SIA HIERARCHY	3
3.	OBJECTIVES OF SIA	4
4.	SIA PLAN	4
5.	PART A- DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF THE AFFECTED PARTY	6
6.	PART B- KEY IMPACT AREAS	9
7.	PART C – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	16
8.	LAND SKETCH AND ITS DETAILS	18
9.	LAND PROPOSED TO BE ACQUIRED IS THE BARE MINIMUM NEEDED FOR THE PROJECT	20
10.	METHODOLOGY ADOPTED	22
11.	NO. OF AFFECTED FAMILIES AND FAMILIES TO BE DISPLACED	27
12.	RECOMMENDATIONS	28
13.	FORM IV- SOCIAL IMPACT MANAGEMENT PLAN	30
14.	REPORT ON PUBLIC HEARING	32
	APPENDIX	

GENESIS AND BACKGROUND OF THE PROPOSED LAND ACQUISITION

The extension of the bridge across Bangaru Channel dates back to 04.09. 2015 wherein it was informed that Administrative Approval of the Lieutenant Governor has been obtained for various work and one among them is the Widening of existing bridge across Bangaru Channel at Karayamuthur village in Bahour Commune, Puduchery. Finally, the necessary sanction was obtained vide G.O. Rt. No. 19/CS(PW)/2015-16, dt.04.09.2015.

Due to the extension of the bridge, the approach road on the western side of the bridge was also formed to protect the retaining wall to a length of 4.60 m in the adjoining private land at R.S No.109/6 to an extent of 646 sq. ft in order to match the alignment of newly constructed bridge. The land belongs to Mr. Muthukrishnan of Karayamputhur village.

It is recorded that the same was informed to the land owner and also assured that whatever compensation due to him shall be paid after approval of the Government.

In the meantime, the proposal for the acquisition of the said land was also sent to the Deputy Collector (Revenue) South cum Land Acquisition by the Executive Engineer, Buildings & Roads (South) Division vide Lr. No. 823/PW/BRS/DB/F. No. 540/2016-17 dt. 03.01.2017. But unfortunately, it was returned with a direction to resubmit the proposal after the publication of new law.

As an important requirement, the Land/ Site Selection Committee was constituted vide G.O. No. 11 dated 27.06.2017 was also completed. The Site Selection Committee had inspected the site at R.S. No. 109/6 on 23.04.2019. The committee decided that the land must be surveyed and measured again and also stated that the exact area of land to be acquired is 646 sq. ft. as per the Revenue Measurement.

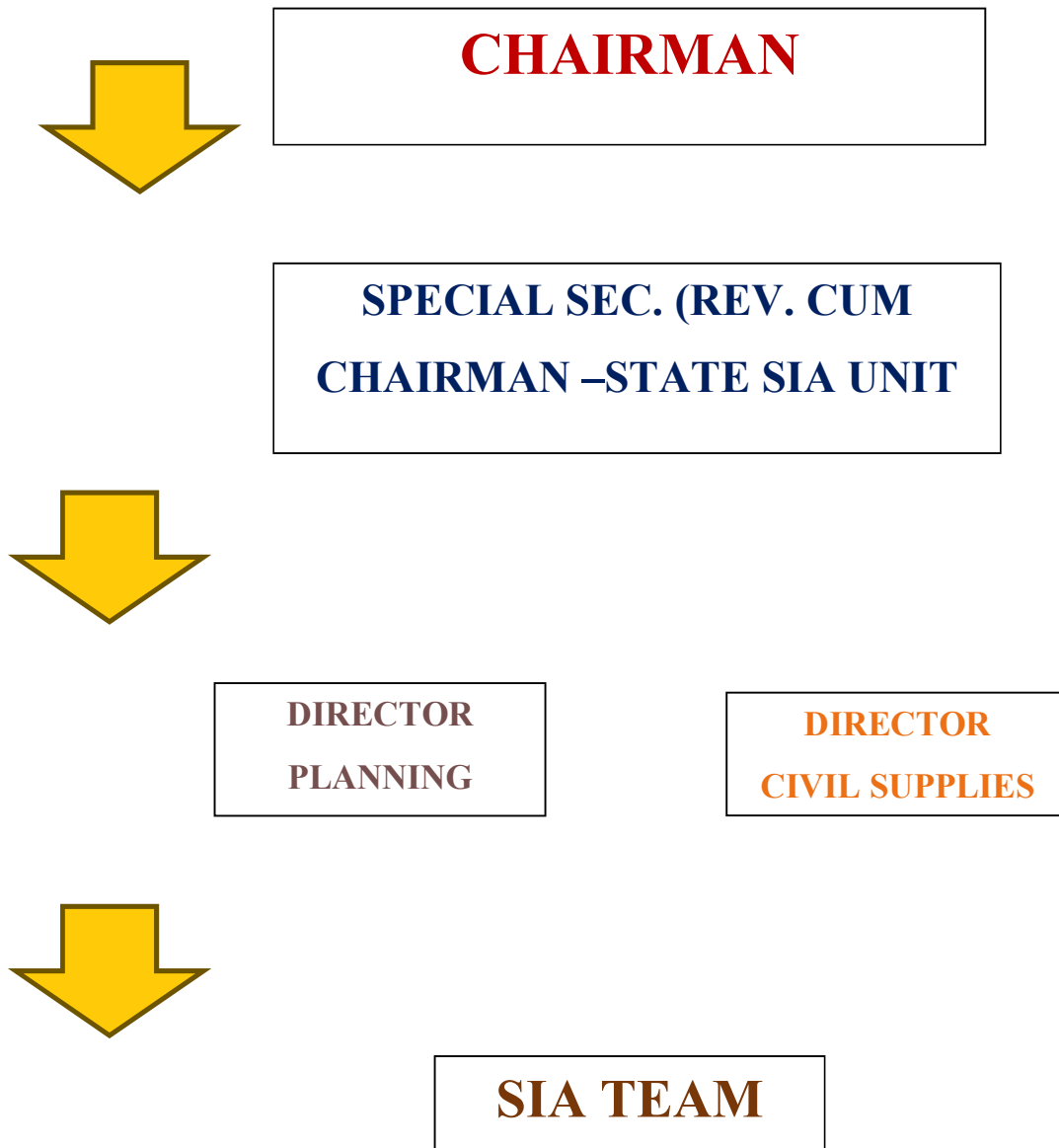
The following are the members of the Site Selection Committee.

SL NO	COMMITTEE MEMBERS	DESIGNATION
1	The Secretary to Government (Works). Chief Secretariat, Puducherry	Chairman
2	The Sub Collector (Revenue) South, Villianur, Puducherry	Member
3	The Director, Department of Health & Family Welfare Services, Puducherry	Member
4	The Senior Town Planner, Town & Country Planning, Puducherry	Member
5	Executive Engineer, Buildings & Roads (South) Division, PWD, Puducherry.	Member
6	The Commissioner, Bahour Commune Panchayat, Puducherry	Member
7	The Chief Engineer, PWD, Puducherry	Member

Since there was a delay in paying the compensation, (as per the report available), the land owner had filed a case in the court of Additional Munsif at Puducherry. The judgement was pronounced in his favour with a mention that the petitioner be paid the compensation as per the procedure established by law. It is also recorded that the officials were under the process of forming a committee to fix the rate for the land. Subsequently, the land owner filed another case in the Hon'ble High Court of Judicature of Madras. Vide W.P. No. 3702 of 2018. It would have been better if this had been dealt with in a speedy manner. So, the High Court of Madras judgement was also in favour of the land owner, naturally. It directed that the land be acquired as per the provision of Right to Fair Compensation & Transparency Act 2013. It was specifically stated that the compensation be paid before 08.09.2018.

The proposal for the same was processed but it was returned by the Secretary Works with the instruction to attend a few remarks mentioned in it. An important remark was regarding the preparation and submission of Estimate seeking Expenditure Sanction towards settlement of compensation award amount by the Surveyor, Office of Tahsildar, Bahour, Revenue Department and the same was also done. After following the other due processes, at last, Ex-post Facto Approval of the Hon'ble Lt. Governor was obtained vide G.O. Ms No. 24 dated 20.08.2024.

HIERARCHY OF SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT UNIT



OBJECTIVES OF SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The SIA team shall act as an instrument that helps to assess and determine the implications of land acquisition on the affected community and people. SIA shall also help to minimise the risks involved in displacement, rehabilitation, compensation and resettlement. The overall objective of SIA is to make the process of land acquisition, participatory, transparent, humane and informed.

The SIA team in the in the present land acquisition confirms and justifies the following –

- ❖ The land to be acquired serves public purpose.
- ❖ To work in coordination with the various departments/officials in identifying the exact location of the land proposed to be acquired.
- ❖ The extent of land to be acquired for public purpose is the absolute bare minimum.
- ❖ To ascertain whether the land acquisition at the alternative place has been considered and not found feasible.
- ❖ Whether overall potential benefits outweigh the social impacts and assessment records.
- ❖ Whether inventory of movable and immovable properties likely to be impacted.
- ❖ To identify the number of affected families and number of families likely to be displace.

The Team shall also confirm with the other terms and conditions as stipulated under Rules 8 & 9 of the RFCTLARR Rules 2016.

Apart from the specific objectives mentioned, the SIA team shall proceed with a few other specific objectives to ensure that the Social Impact Assessment is carried out in a transparent manner. The SIA team also had the following few objectives to proceed further with their assigned task.

- ❖ To ascertain whether the land acquired is an agricultural land, or land under irrigation and the cropping pattern.
- ❖ To make Home Visits / Field Visits and understand the socio-economic background, cultural profile of the affected families/parties/communities (directly and indirectly).
- ❖ To study the socio-economic impact of the proposed land acquisition.
- ❖ To prepare the impact assessment report and its submission to the concerned authority within the timeframe provided. (six months)
- ❖ To conduct Public Hearing adhering to the procedures laid down.
- ❖ To prepare a Social Impact Management Plan (SIMP) to ameliorate measures in terms of related litigation and resettlement and compensation to the land owner

SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PLAN / SCHEDULE

The Social Impact Assessment (SIA) Team shall commence the study within thirty days from the issue of notification. The SIA report and Social Impact Assessment Pan to be completed by the SIA Team within six months from the date of commencement of study and to be published in the Official website and on the notice board of the concerned offices/ authorities.

The SIA Team shall submit its report in Form III and SIMP in Form – IV as per Rule 7(4) of the Puducherry Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Rules, 2016, within a period of six months from the date of commencement.

PART A

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF THE AFFECTED PARTY

Land Details-R.S. No. 109/6 of Karayamputhur Revenue Village, Puducherry.

00.00.60 HAC

SOCIO – ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL PROFILE (AFFECTED AREA AND RESETTLEMENT SITE)

The proposed acquisition of land is to an extent of 00.00.60 H A Ca which has been used for the construction of retaining wall owing to the extension of the existing old bridge across Banagaru Channel at Karayamputhur village, Puducherry. The land belongs to a private person named Mr. Muthukrishnan. The land used for extension of the bridge was empty with some trees only. There was not a single physical asset before it was used. So, there is no effect on the area apart from the land being acquired from the owner. The question of resettlement also does not arise.

The residents shall continue to live where they lived even after the extension of the bridge. On, the whole, no new settlement will take place, the existing cultural and economic status of the residents shall continue to exist.

Name of the Head of the Family – Mr. Muthukrishnan. S/o. K.N. Janakiraman Reddiar

Land Details-R.S. No. 109/6 of Karayamputhur Revenue Village, Puducherry.

00.00.60 HAC

SPECIFIC PROFILE	DETAILS				
AGE					
SEX	Male <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Female		
CASTE					
RELIGION	Hindu <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Muslim	Christian		
LITERACY	Primary	Secondary	Hr. Secondary	Collegiate	NO OPINION WAS PROVIDED
HEALTH	Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Satisfactory	Poor		
NUTRITIONAL STATUS	Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Satisfactory	Poor		
POVERTY	Low Income	Middle Income <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	High Income		

Type of Family - **Nuclear** ☒

Joint Family

Family Constellation –

Sl No	Relation to Head	Age	Sex	Education				Health		
	Head of the family			Primary	Secondary	Hr. Secondary	Collegiate √	Good √	Satisfactory	Poor
1	Wife	No Opinion Was Provided								
2	Daughter									
3	Son									
4	Son									
5	Son									
Grandchildren -										

Note – The reply received thro watz app is also shown below.

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SEX	Male	Female
CASTE		
RELIGION	Hindu	Muslim Christian
LITERACY	Primary	Secondary Hr. Secondary Collegiate
HEALTH	Good	Satisfactory Poor
NUTRITIONAL STATUS	Good	Satisfactory Poor
POVERTY	Low Income	Middle Income High Income
Type of Family -	Nuclear	Joint Family

Family Constellation -

Sl	No Relation to Age Sex Head	Education	Health
		Primary Secondary Hr. Secondary Collegiate Good Satisfactory Poor	
1	Wife		
2	Daughter		
3	Son		
4	Son		
5	Son		
Grandchildren -			

Case History:

PART B - KEY IMPACT AREAS

It is to be noted that the possession of the proposed land acquisition at 60, for the widening of existing bridge across Bangaru Channel at Karaymaputhur in Bahour Commune, Puducherry was taken on 28th Jan 2016 and the available record also shows that the work began on the same date and the construction of bridge work was completed on 28th May 2019.

Therefore, the Key Impact Areas it would create becomes out of relevant, after almost six years. The impact would already have been felt/experienced by the public and residents of the area, since post construction of the bridge. But, anyhow, the SIA Team had been there on the ground and met the residents and public to get the firsthand information about the impact they had experienced/ experiencing.

The SIA Team has also made an attempt to highlight some of the impact that still exist and efforts to be made / action to be initiated by the stake holders to reduce the negative impact, if any.

SL NO	KEY IMPACT AREAS	FEEDBACK BY SIA
1.a	Impact on Land, Livelihood and Income	<p>The land (prior to acquisition) had a few coconuts tree, Plantain trees and other country wood trees (not accounted as per para 3 of page no 20 of doc No. 6659/SCRS/LA/B5/2023-24).</p> <p>The impact on Land- The trees on the land had been fallen/cut for the construction purpose.</p> <p>Impact on Livelihood- The land did not provide or offer a major source of income/ livelihood for the land owner.</p> <p><i>Land is and will always be considered as close to heart especially if it's in the birthplace. It's painful, if the land has to be parted/ given away, but it's compensated with the happiness that its being used for a common/ public purpose. Above all, it all depends on how the land has been taken away from the owner. A proper negotiation/ talk with the land owner to take him into confidence to convince him that the land is required for a public purpose. Based on such discussion, a written consent letter to give the land would have been better. This would have satisfied the land owner and the Requiring Body.</i></p>
b.	Intra household employment patterns	There are good number of residential houses and shops on near the bridge. There had been no impact on individual

		houses nor the employment patterns. Rather, it is said that the widening of bridge has made movement of vehicles and public more freely.
c.	Income levels	NOT APPLICABLE (the income level of the land owner is not connected with the proposed land acquisition)
d.	Food Security	NOT APPLICABLE (the land did not act as a source of cultivation of food items)
e.	Standard of living	The standard of the people living nearby the construction (bridge) is not affected owing to this project. The land owner's standard of living has not been affected in anyway.
f.	Access and control over productive measure	Since, the land acquired was not under cultivation, the loss of productive measure does not arise. But there were a few trees which had to be fallen/ removed owing to the construction and hence thereafter, the land owner has lost access/ control over those productive items (coconuts).
g.	Economic dependency or vulnerability	The land owner is not economically vulnerable or dependent on the piece of land for any source of income. The land also did not act as any source of income for any public. Hence, economic vulnerability/ dependency Does Not Arise.
h.	Disruption of local Economy	There has been no disturbance in the local economy due to the taking over of this land. During the bridge construction phase, the public and the residents nearby faced some traffic issues, but on a larger scale there has been no disturbance of any economic activity of any sort. It is being told that after the extension of the bridge, there has been a free flow of vehicles including commercial vehicles thereby supplementing economic activity.
i.	Impoverishment risk	There will be No risk of impoverishment for the land owner due to the present land acquisition.
j.	Women's access to livelihood alternatives	NOT APPLICABLE
2. a.	Impacts on physical resources	The land to be acquired did have some trees which had been removed. But there had been no impact after the extension of the bridge. Other than a few trees, there was no other physical resources in the land.

b.	Pressures on land and common property natural resources for livelihoods	The stretch of land which had been used for the extension of the bridge, and the retaining wall has been constructed. Apart from this there is no pressure on the land. Since the land did not provide/ act as any source of livelihood, there is no pressure on anybody's resources for livelihood.
3.a.	Capacity of existing health and education facilities	There has been no impact of any kind on health and education facilities due to the construction of the bridge. There is no health/ educational facilities in the vicinity of the bridge.
b.	Capacity of housing facilities	The acquired land did not have any housing facility; therefore, such impact is ruled out.
c.	Pressure on supply of local services	The old bridge did served people in moving from this end to the other end. Even during the extension work was in progress, there was no pressure on supply of local services. But after the completion of the extension work, the bridge has eased the supply of local services.
d.	Adequacy of electrical and water supply, roads, sanitation, and waste management	There was no impact on supply of electricity, water, usage of road, and sanitation. As far as waste management is concerned, it is told that the wastes and debris were completely removed after the work was over by the Requiring Body.
e.	Impact on private assets such as bore wells, temporary sheds etc.	There had been no impact on any private assets, bore wells or temporary sheds. There were no such assets on the land prior to the extension of the bridge.
4.	Health Impact	During interaction with the people in the area, no health issue was reported owing to this particular extension work undertaken. There was lot of flow of dust during the construction phase.
a.	Health impact due to immigration	NOT APPLICABLE
b.	Health impact due to project activities with special emphasis on: i) Women's health ii) Impact on elderly	Since the project had been completed around six years back, it's irrelevant to highlight the health impact due to the project. But, during interaction with the public and residents nearby areas by the SIA Team members, no such issue was also brought to the notice of SIA Team.

5.	Impact on culture and social cohesion	There was already a bridge connecting both the ends. The land was acquired to extend the bridge. Hence, the movement of vehicles and public has become easier and traffic congestion is also overcome to a larger extent. Therefore, there had been no impact of cultural or social cohesion in any way.
a.	Transformation of local political structures.	There is no transformation of any political structure in the locality owing to the land acquisition.
b.	Demographic change	There has been no demographic change owing to the land acquisition.
c.	Shift in economy – ecology balance	NOT APPLICABLE
d.	Impacts on the norms, beliefs, values and cultural life	There had been no impact on norms/standards, beliefs, values and cultural life of the people, owing to the land acquisition.
e.	Stress of dislocation	There are no families or houses in the land proposed to be acquired, so the stress of dislocation is completely absent in this case/ project.
f.	Impact of separation of family	NOT APPLICABLE
6.	Impacts at different stages of the project cycle the type, timing, duration and intensity of social impact will depend on and relate closely to the stages of the project cycle. Below is the list of indicative lists of impacts.	<p>The land had been acquired and used for extension of the existing bridge. The bridge was completed in May 2019. It's almost six years, post land actually acquired and completion of construction of the bridge. It becomes irrelevant to highlight the different stages of the project cycle, timing, duration and intensity of the project.</p> <p>The impact that can be foreseen for an upcoming project is possible but for a completed project again is unconnected.</p> <p>Therefore, the clause is Not Applicable.</p>
a.	Pre- construction phase	
	i. Interruption in the delivery of services	NOT APPLICABLE
	ii. Drop in productive investment	NOT APPLICABLE

	ii. Land Speculation	Since, the existing bridge had been extended, making the traffic to be more feasible and easier, the land in the adjoining areas had seen an appreciating in terms of value.
	iv. Stress of uncertainty	NOT APPLICABLE
b.	Construction phase	
	i. Displacement and relocation	DOES NOT ARISE
	ii. Influx of migrant construction workforce	NOT APPLICABLE
	iii. Health impacts on those who continue to live close to the construction site.	NOT APPLICABLE.
c.	Operation phase	NOT APPLICABLE
	i. Reduction in employment opportunities to the construction phase	NOT APPLICABLE
	ii. Economic benefits of the project	The extension of the bridge had made movement of vehicles easier and therefore public are using this frequently and bigger vehicles can also cross the present bridge making it easier for the business to flourish across the bridge. The movement of commercial vehicles are testimony for the economic benefit of the project.
	iii. Benefits on new infrastructure	<p>The population had increased over the years and the existing bridge was found to be insufficient to meet the growing traffic. Moreover, the traffic movement around the villages of Karayamputhur, Sornavur, Panayadikuppam, Maducarai and part of Tamil Nadu, the bridge acted as the only link for all the villages. So, to meet the requirement of increased traffic, the extension of the bridge had been done.</p> <p>The economic benefit of the bridge can clearly be understood from the huge number of public using the bridge for various purposes in which business/ economic activities are also included.</p>
	iv. New pattern of social organization	The extension of the bridge has made movement of vehicles much easier but no impact had been experienced with regard to new pattern of social organization.

d.	De-commissioning phase	NOT APPLICABLE
	i. Loss of economic phase	NOT APPLICABLE
	ii. Environmental degradation and its impact on livelihoods	During the construction phase, there might had been some pollution issue owing to the use of construction materials and heavy commercial vehicular movement. But it did not impact the livelihood of any, in any manner.
e.	Direct and indirect impacts	
	i. Direct Impacts will include all impacts that are likely to be experienced by the affected families (i.e., direct land and livelihood losers).	The land owner shall not face any livelihood problems owing to the land acquisition.
	ii. Indirect impacts will include all impacts that may be experienced by those not directly affected by the acquisition of land, but those living in the project area	NOT APPLICABLE It was informed that during the construction phase the residents nearby the bridge had faced the issue of dust and pollution. Secondly, they also had to face problem in crossing the bridge/ having access to the other side of the bridge.
f.	Differential impacts	
	i. Impact on women, children, the elderly and the differently able	NOT APPLICABLE.
	ii. Impacts identified through tools such as gender impact assessment checklists and vulnerability and resilience	NOT APPLICABLE

g.	Cumulative Impacts	
	i. Measurable and potential impacts of other projects in the area with the identified impacts for the project in question.	NOT APPLICABLE
	ii. Impact on those not directly in the project area but based locally or even regionally.	NOT APPLICABLE

PART C- EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

THE LAND TO BE ACQUIRED SERVES FOR THE PUBLIC PURPOSE

The Requiring Body i.e. The Public Works Department of Puducherry, in its report had clearly stated that the land acquired is solely for Public Purpose. The land had been used for widening an old bridge. The then (old bridge) across Bangaru Channel at Karayamputhur in Bahour Commune, Puducherry had a width of 4.60 mts only. Due to increase in population and movement of vehicles across the bridge made in difficult to manage the traffic congestion. The bridge served the villages of Karayamputhur, Sornavour, Panayadikuppam, Maducarai and a few parts of Tamil Nadu. The narrow width of the bridge was not sufficient to meet the demands of vehicular movement.

So, in order to ease the traffic congestion across the bridge, the proposal of widening the bridge on the northern side of the existing bridge was put forth.

Hence, the land to be acquired serves Public Purpose.

THE EXTENT OF PROPOSED LAND TO BE ACQUIRED

The details of land proposed for acquisition are detailed below: -

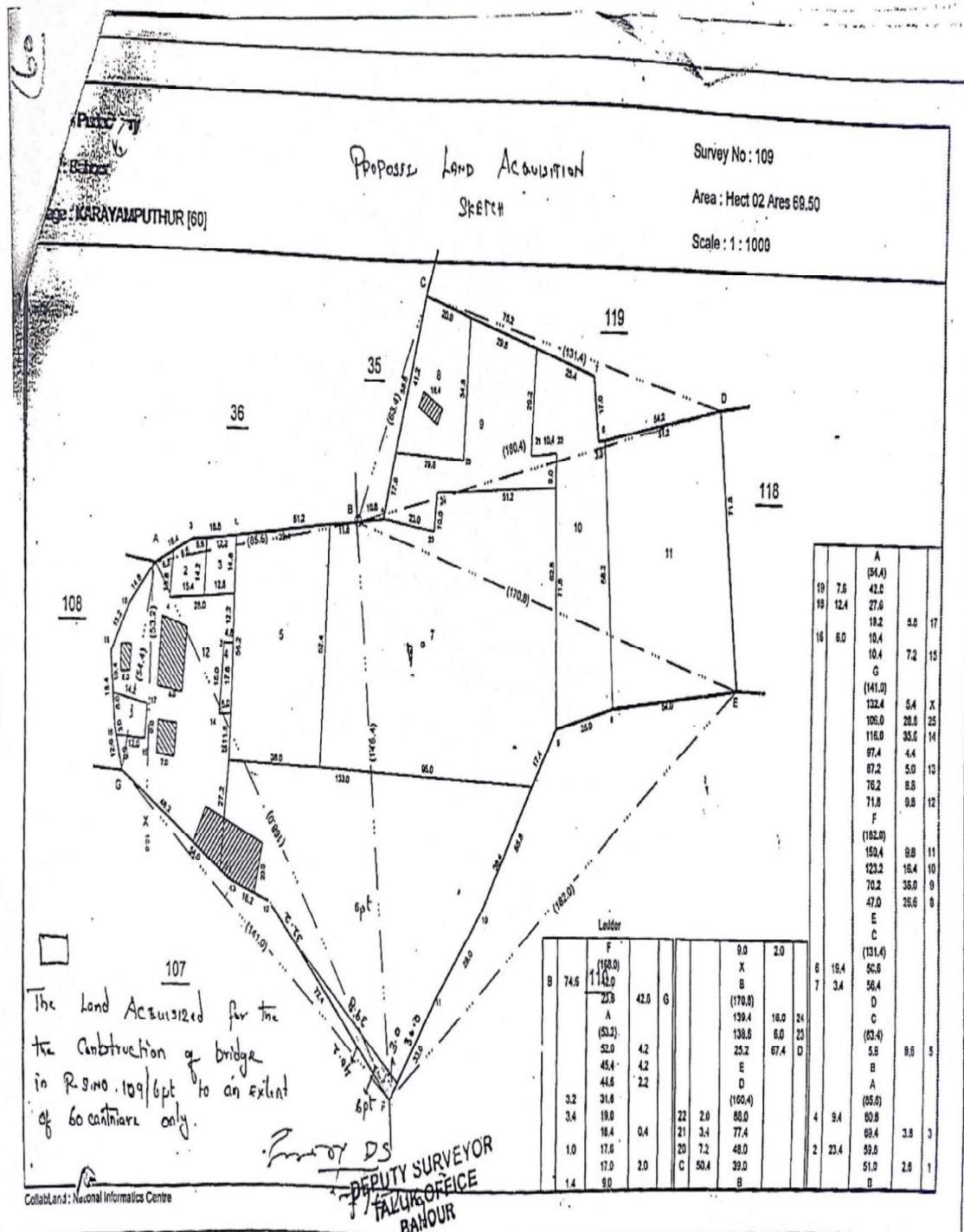
SL NO	R.S. No	CLASSIFICATION OF LAND	EXTENT H A Ca	NATURE OF OWNERSHIP
1	109/6	Dry (as per the Report submitted by the Tahsildar of Taluk Office, Bahour dated 5 th July 2024) (as per the letter dated 11 th July 2024, by the Sub Collector (Revenue) North, the land to be acquired is DRY LAND)	00-00-60 (as per the Notification dated 28 th Jan 2025. Dept. of Revenue and Disaster Management)	Private Ownership by Mr. Muthukrishnan. S/o. Mr. K.N Janakiraman of Karayamputhur.
TOTAL EXTENT OF LAND			00-00-60	--

NOTE: The SIA Team had gone through all the documents in details and have come across a few discrepancies regarding the extent of land to be acquired. But since the notification has been given for an extent of 00-00-60 Ca, it has to be considered as the final. But still, the SIA is duty bound to highlight the discrepancies in the documents.

1. It is mentioned that the Requiring body has acquired 00.00.67 Ha at Karayamputhur Revenue Village, Bahour Taluk, Puducherry for widening the existing bridge across Bangaru Channel at Karayamputhur. **(F. No. 113/DCRS/LA/2016-17).**
2. In a letter addressed to the Deputy Collector (Rev) South, cum Land Acquisition Officer, by the Executive Engineer -Buildings & Roads, South, PWD, Puducherry, 2nd para, it is stated that some portion about 717 sq. ft. of private land on the norther side of bridge is essentially required for formation of approach road and free flow of trafficand further stressed by saying that the portion of private piece of land as indicated in the sketch enclosed is compulsorily required. **(No. 823/PW/BRS/DB/D4/F.540/2016-17 dated 03.01.2017)**
3. In another letter by the Executive Engineer- Buildings & Roads, South, PWD, Puducherry, 2nd para, it is mentioned that a survey was conducted by the Field Surveyor, BRS Division at Karayamputhur Village in R.S. No. 109/6 and submitted a report in which it was again clearly stated that the retaining wall was constructed by occupying 717 sq. ft. in the private land. **(No. 66/PW/BRS/DB/D4/F.LA(K)2019-20 dated 24/04/2019)**
4. In a letter to the Executive Engineer, Buildings & Roads, South, PWD, Puducherry, by the Sub Collector- (Rev) South, it is stated that a survey sketch of the private land at R.S. No. 109/6 measuring to an extent of 0.00.66 Ha or 717 sq. ft. of Karayamputhur Revenue Village, Bahour Taluk, Puducherry **(No. 113/DCRS/LA/2016-17 dated 06.06.2019)**
5. In another letter, to the Executive Engineer, Buildings & Roads, South, PWD, Puducherry, by the Sub Collector- (Rev) South, while issue of rate reasonableness certificate for the said land it is has mentioned an extent of 646 sq. ft at R.S. No. 109/6 at Karayamputhur Village. **(dated 16/07/2020)**
6. In a letter addressed to the Sub Collector (Revenue) South, by the Executive Engineer, Buildings & Roads, South, PWD, Puducherry, accepted that an extent of 646 sq.ft of land was used/ acquired. **(No. 883/PW/BRS/DB/D4/F.No. LA(K) 2021-22)**
7. Finally, in a letter **No. 721/SCRS/LA/B5/2025**, reg. publication of Notification it has a mention of 646 sq. ft of land in R.S. No.109/6 of Karayamputhur village.

There has been a mention of different extent (measurement) of land to be acquired at various stages. This could raise apprehension for the concerned. During the telephonic conversation with the land owner, on 12th Feb at 8.14 am for about 31 minutes (watzapp call) he had also raised this issue and has a doubt regarding the extent of land used for extension of the bridge. It was told that the notification stands final, but the land owner was not fully convinced.

**SKETCH OF THE LAND AND ITS DETAILS ARE SHOWN IN THE IMAGES
BELOW.**



THE LAND PROPOSED FOR ACQUISITION IS THE BARE MINIMUM NEEDED FOR THE PROJECT.

As per the detailed proposal submitted by the Requiring Body, in its Annexure-III - point No. 5 it is being mentioned that the extent of land acquired is the minimum area of land required for the project. In point No. 10 it has also been stated that the total area under acquisition is not in excess of the limit prescribed and fixed by the Government of Puducherry for acquisition of Irrigated multi-cropped and agricultural land in a district.



The Retaining Wall (Concrete)

DETAILS OF MOVABLE AND IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

Since the land to be acquired had already been used for the extension of the bridge way back in May 2019, the SIA Team cannot comment on the details of movable or immovable properties that were present on the land at that time. But after having gone through the details of the project, in a letter dated 5th July 2024, while highlighting the ground particulars, it is clearly stated that the other portion of the land belonging to the same land owner is under cultivation. It has coconut trees, plantain trees and other country wood trees.

Somehow, the picture below would give an idea of about how the land was prior to its usage.



THE PRESENT ADJOINING LAND AT 109/6

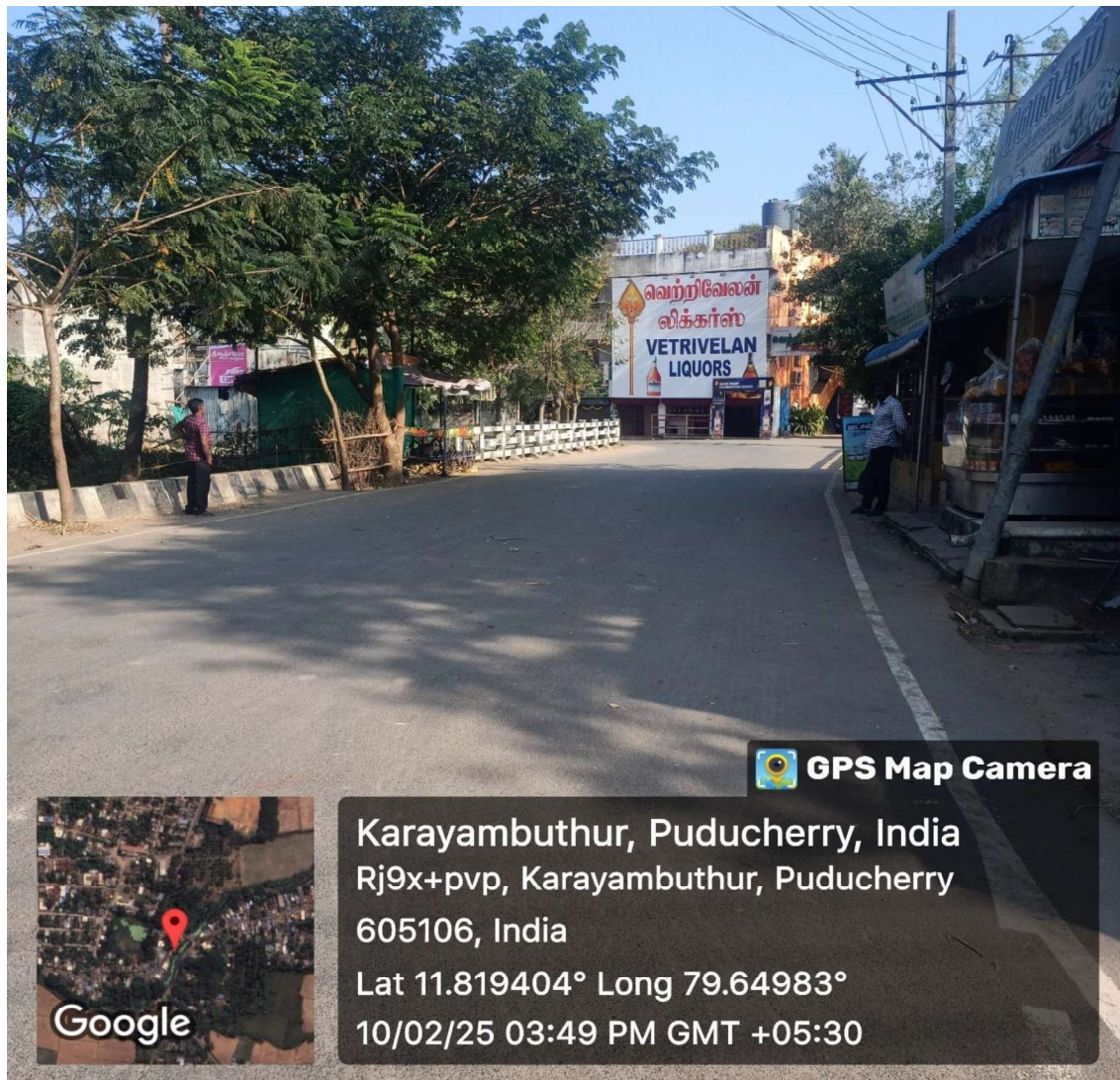
METHODOLOGY ADOPTED

Meeting the Sub Collector (Revenue) South Villianur

The Sub Collector (Revenue) South, Villianur had asked the SIA Team to attend a meeting on 10th Feb 2025 at 3.00 pm. It was informed that the SIA would try to complete the assessment and submit the report within the timeframe given.

SITE VISIT

After the meeting the SIA Team had visited the site to have the first-hand information about the project. The site visit was accompanied by Mr. M. Nagamuthu, Assistant at Sub Collector's Office, Villianur.



VIEW OF THE BRIDGE



BANGARU CHANNEL FLOWING DOWN THE BRIDGE

MEETING THE PUBLIC/ RESIDENTS NEAR THE BRIDGE



SIA TEAM MEMBERS MEETING THE SHOP OWNER NEAR THE BRIDGE



SIA TEAM MEMBERS MEETING THE SMALL HOTEL OWNER



SIA TEAM MEMBERS MEETING THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Outcome of Meeting the Public

The SIA Team members met Mr. Selvam, 49 years a customer in the small shop, the shop owner Mr. Iyappan 51 years, Mr. Sivalingam, 58 years who is the owner of the small hotel and Mr. Sakthivel aged 55 years a resident of Karayamputhur to seek their opinion.

During the interaction, it was told/ revealed that prior to the extension of the bridge, it was very difficult for the vehicles to cross the bridge and there was traffic congestion at regular intervals. But after the extension, even heavy vehicles are able to cross the bridge easily. They are happy with the extension of the bridge.

The SIA Team along with Mr. M. Nagamuthu and met the VAO in his office understand the exact location of the land to be acquired. The VAO showed the sketch to help us understand the piece of land which had been used for extension of the bridge.



SIA Team Leader, Mr. M. Nagamuthu, Assistant and Mr. Sankar, VAO

HOME VISIT

The SIA Team then visited the house of the land owner. The house address was made available by the VAO. During Home Visit, the SIA Team found that the house was locked. The SIA Team tried to enquire about the owner but none of the neighbour could provide any substantial details. Then the VAO introduced the SIA Team to a person who went on to say that he knew a gentleman who can provide the details of the land owner. So, the SIA Team leader had shared his mobile number and wanted him to share the number with the land owner. Hoping that the land owner would contact, the SIA Team left the site.

TELEPHONIC CONVERSATION

The SIA Team leader received a text message through watz app from the land owner on 12th Feb at 7.54 am. In his message, he expressed his availability for a talk. The SIA Team leader dialled and spoke to him at length. He did express his anguish with regard to the way his land has been used. He narrated the sequence of activities in detail. The SIA Team leader had also shared the Government Order/ Notification for the formation of SIA Team, to take him into confidence. He did cooperate to the maximum level with the SIA Team.

The SIA Team is supposed to collect the demographic profile of the land owner and his family. Since, he is out of India, the SIA Team has sent him a soft copy of the proforma and requested him to fill it and send back. The details were shared by the land owner thro watz app.

The essence of telephonic conversation is as follows:

- ❖ He is not satisfied with the way the land has been taken and used.
- ❖ He wanted compensation for the land as per the Market Rate.
- ❖ He wanted the Solatium money too.
- ❖ Finally, he wanted to be paid the interest for the money due to him since the land had been taken and used.

Since, the SIA Team had no authority regarding the issues raised by him or his demand but assured him that the SIA Team shall try to carry the message to the concerned authorities for an early and procedural compensation, as per the rule under RFCTLARR Act.

The SIA Team would like to bring to the notice that the land owner had also informed that he would not hesitate to approach the Hon'ble Supreme Court, if his grievances are not attended.

FEEDBACK BY SIA TEAM – with a humble request to the concerned authorities

There shall be no doubt that a piece of land shall be dearest to every individual. It is known to all that the Right to Property is currently protected under Article 300A of the Constitution of India. This article was added by the 44th Amendment of the Constitution in 1978. It protects the Right to Property as a Constitutional Right, but not a Fundamental Right. And wanted to challenge the taking away of land and approached the High Court under Article 226. **It would have been better if the land owner had been taken into confidence to avoid these legal tangle.**

NUMBER OF AFFECTED FAMILIES & FAMILIES TO BE DISPLACED

The land to be acquired belong to an individual and the land did not have any habitat. Since, no family resided in the land, not a single family is displaced due to the acquisition of the land. But, since the land owner had to part with his piece of land, even though he will be compensated, he has been mentally affected and had suffered pain. And to seek redressal to his grievance, he had approached the Hon'ble High Court of Madras. Otherwise, there are no families affected by this acquisition.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is very clear that any delay in starting the project will certainly be a burden to the exchequer owing to hike in cost of materials over a period of time. And moreover, the project being meant for the public benefit and welfare, the land could have been taken and used for the said purpose. On the other side, every land owner is very much attached to his land. Both sides have their valid justifications. In order to do good, something had happened which could have been avoided. The SIA Team would like to suggest that for such land acquisition, wherein the land is required urgently which would take time to process till the tussle free possession of the land is obtained -

A Social Worker or a separate official can be engaged with the responsibility of talking to the land owner and act as a bridge between the Requiring Body/ Government and the Land Owner to talk to him and convince him, for similar land acquisition. If this is done the ego would not have been hurt. In case of land acquisition, if the land belongs to a private party/ individual,

this can be done rather than using the land first and then facing the legal battle and then compensating him. It is also clear that the land had been used for the sole cause of public welfare and not for anything else. The Social Worker, could as a Negotiator for a smooth taking over of the land without hurting anyone's feelings or ego.

For every land acquisition, compensation is paid as per the existing rule. But more than that, the Government can also think/ explore the possibility of giving an Appreciation Letter to honour the person who has given his land for public cause. It will certainly be a great possession for him and his future generations. In such a way, the good deeds of the generations can be passed on from one generation to another.

As far as the present land acquisition is concerned, it is well understood that the land owner is not at all satisfied with the manner in which his land has been taken and put to use i.e. for the extension of the old bridge across Bangaru Channel.

Recommendation- The SIA Team would like to place on record that a responsible officer can have a telephonic talk with the land owner to take him into confidence and console his anger against a few officials. This should not be misunderstood in any manner. A talk over the phone may make him ventilate his feelings/ anger as he did when the SIA Team had established contact over the phone. But later on, he was very flexible and supportive with the SIA Team.

Secondly, the land owner is not convinced with the extent of his land which had been used for the said purpose.

Recommendation- The SIA Team has also come across 2/3 various dimension of land with regard to the present acquisition from the various documents of communication between the PWD & Sub Collectors office highlighted in the Executive Summary. No Doubt, that the final measurement is the extent of land stated in the Notification of dated 28th January 2025 which is

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But the land owner is yet not convinced with the extent of land under acquisition. So, as a final attempt, if possible, a final measurement of the land can be done to convince or satisfy the land owner. And if this is done, a notice in advance may be given to him to be present or some of his representative to be present during the measurement. This will certainly remove the misconceptions, if any.

Thirdly, he is not clear as to how the compensation amount of Rupees 4,06,980/- has been arrived (as per the PWD Letter No. 4527 dated 12.02.2024.

Recommendation- The SIA team is not clear whether the compensation amount finally derived has been brought to the notice of the land owner or not. If an attempt is done to bring to his kind notice, it would prove to be beneficial.

The SIA team was also informed by the land owner, if he is not satisfied with all the issues mentioned above, he may be forced to knock the door of Hon'ble Supreme Court. The SIA team is duty bound to bring to the kind notice of the concerned officer/ authority of his intentions too.

The SIA Team Leader had a number of telephonic conversations with the land owner and he has also shared many documents. To be transparent, the SIA team would like to submit all the details of telephonic conversation (date and time only), the documents shared by the land owner. (The complete details are provided in the Annexure at the end of the report).

FORM IV

SOCIAL IMPACT MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Social Impact Management Plan for the present acquisition would have been appropriate, if the project is yet to kick start/ begin. But, here fortunately or unfortunately the said project had been completed in 2019 thereby making the Impact Management Plan immaterial. But the project has been completed and the public is presently using the project and will continue to use for the years to come. So, going by this logic, the SIA Team would like to place the following SIMP.

1. Approach and Mitigation

Due to the approach adopted by the Requiring Body, the project had been completed even before the land is formally acquired and compensation is paid to the land owner. The approach adopted by the SIA Team in studying the project is that the team had an official meeting with the Sub Collector (Revenue) South cum Land Acquisition Officer. The SIA team had made site visit to see where and how the extension of the said bridge had been completed. The Home of the land owner was also visited but unfortunately, he is said to be out of India. The site visit helped the SIA Team to understand the justification/ mitigation for the project. The project is meant for the public and to make the traffic congestion easier and also to facilitate easy vehicular movement across the extended bridge across Bangaru Channel.

Since the compensation amount is already available, the concerned authorities need to work out the final compensation amount due to the land owner, as per the sections 26-30 of the RFCTLARR Act, without any further delay. There had been an enormous delay in paying the compensation owing to unavoidable circumstances.

2. Measures to avoid Mitigation and Compensation Impact

Since the justification of the project has clearly been stated by the Requiring Body and the project been completed in 2019 measures to avoid mitigation is ruled out. The need for the project has been vindicated by the usage of the bridge and free flow of vehicle across the bridge. The Compensation Impact is still pending even after six long years of completion of the project. Now, it's up to the concerned authorities to work out a compensation amount, solatium, interest if any, as per the rule and the same be disbursed to the land owner without any further delay.

3. Measures that are included in the terms of Rehabilitation and Resettlement and Compensation as outlined in the Act.

Since the land used for the construction of the bridge did not have any habitat/ houses, the measures to be included in the terms of Rehabilitation and Resettlement does not arise. The compensation part alone is due. The compensation is due for about six years. The concerned authorities can explore the possibility of paying interest from the period

compensation is due to the land owner. This can be if the rule does permit. Moreover, the direction of the Hon'ble High Court of Madras can also take into consideration.

4. Measures that the Requiring Body has undertaken to introduce the Project Proposed.

The Requiring Body which is PWD, Puducherry, has studied the need for the said project and thought it would be better to complete the project within the time frame to avoid cost escalation, which is welcome. But the land owner could not be taken into confidence and therefore, the project had experienced all legal battles up to the Hon'ble High Court of Madras.

5. Additional Measures that the Requiring Body has assured in response to the findings of Social Impact Assessment Process and Public Hearing.

Since the Requiring Body had already completed the project for which land is acquired, assurance of the Requiring body in response to Social Impact Assessment process is NOT APPLICABLE.

6. The Social Impact Management Plan must include a description of institutional structures and key persons responsible for each mitigation measures and timeline and costs for each activity.

The said project i.e the extension of the old bridge across Bangaru Channel at Karayamputhur had already been completed six years ago the requirement of a description of institutional structures and key persons responsible for each mitigation measure and time and cost for each activity become irrelevant at this stage when the SIA Team is preparing this report. But still, the SIA Team would like to emphasise that the Requiring Body must have had their own schedule for proper maintenance of the bridge and the same may be adhered to, without any reversion. Now, since the compensation part is due to be paid to the land owner, the Requiring Body is ethically bound to see that it is done without any delay.

REPORT ON PUBLIC HEARING

Pre Public Hearing Arrangements

It is mandatory to conduct the Public Hearing to give an opportunity to the land owner, stake holders and the general public to express their views/opinion about the proposed land acquisition. So, the SIA Team had drafted the Public Hearing Notice in Tamil language and the same was delivered to the District Collector, Puducherry, Sub Collector (Revenue) North, Villianur, Puducherry, The Executive Engineer, Buildings & Roads, (South) Division, PWD, Puducherry. The notice was delivered with a request to display the same on the office Notice Board for Public Information.

The SIA Team had also sent the Public Hearing Notice to the land owner, Mr. Muthukrishnan through watz app on 26th February 2025 at 11.36 am. Since the land owner is residing in USA, the SIA Team had no other option to establish contact other than mobile/ watz app. The Public Hearing was scheduled on 13th March 2025 from 9.30 am – 1.00 pm.

The draft of the Public Hearing Notice is shown below-

26/02/2025

**புதுச்சேரி அரசு
வருவாய் மற்றும் பேரிடர் மேலாண்மை துறை
பொது விசாரணை**

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2.திருமதி . செள.தேவகி - உறுப்பினர்

To:

The District Collector
Puducherry



Dr.சுந்தர் ஆறுமுகம்

சமூக தாக்க மதிப்பீட்டு -குழுத்தலைவர்

26/02/2025

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2.திருமதி . செள.தேவகி - உறுப்பினர்

To:
The Sub-Collector (Revenue)
Villianur.



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To:

Mr. J. Muthukrishnan
8, Thozhambattianman Kovil Street,
Karayamputhur

Dr.சுந்தர் ஆறுமுகம்

சமூக தாக்க மதிப்பீட்டு -குழுத்தலைவர்

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வருவாய் மற்றும் பேரிடர் மேலாண்மை துறை
பொது விசாரணை**

புதுச்சேரி மாவட்டம் - கரையாம்புத்தூர் வருவாய் கிராமத்தில் உள்ள பங்காரு வாய்க்காலுக்கு குறுக்கே இருக்கும் பாலத்தை விரிவுபடுத்தும் பணிக்காக கரையாம்புத்தூர் வருவாய் கிராமத்தின் மறு அளவை எண் (R.S.NO:) 109/ 6pt இல் 00-00-60 HAC பரப்பளவு கொண்ட நிலத்தை நியாயமான இழப்பீட்டு உரிமை மற்றும் வெளிப்படையான நிலம் கையகப்படுத்துதல், மறுவாழ்வு மற்றும் மீள்குடியேற்ற சட்டம் 2013ன் படி நிலம் கையகப்படுத்த அரசு திட்டமிடப்பட்டுள்ளதை தெரிவித்துக்கொள்கிறோம். இச்சட்டத்தின்படி பொதுமக்கள் தங்கள் கருத்துகளை சமூக தாக்க மதிப்பீட்டுக்குழுவின் உறுப்பினர்களாகிய கீழ்காணும் நபர்களிடம் கீழே குறிப்பிட்டுள்ள அலுவலகத்தில் 13.03.2025 காலை 9.30 மணி முதல் மதியம் 1.00 வரை நேரில் சென்று தெரிவிக்குமாறு கேட்டுக்கொள்ளப்படுகிறார்கள். தவறும் பட்சத்தில் இக்குழுவின் முடிவே இறுதியானது.

இடம்: கிராம நிர்வாக அலுவலர் அலுவலகம் , கரையாம்புத்தூர், புதுச்சேரி.

சமூக தாக்க மதிப்பீட்டுக்குழு உறுப்பினர்கள்

1.Dr. சுந்தர் ஆறுமுகம்- தலைவர்

2.திருமதி . செள.தேவகி - உறுப்பினர்

To:

The Executive Engineer
P.W.D.
Puducherry

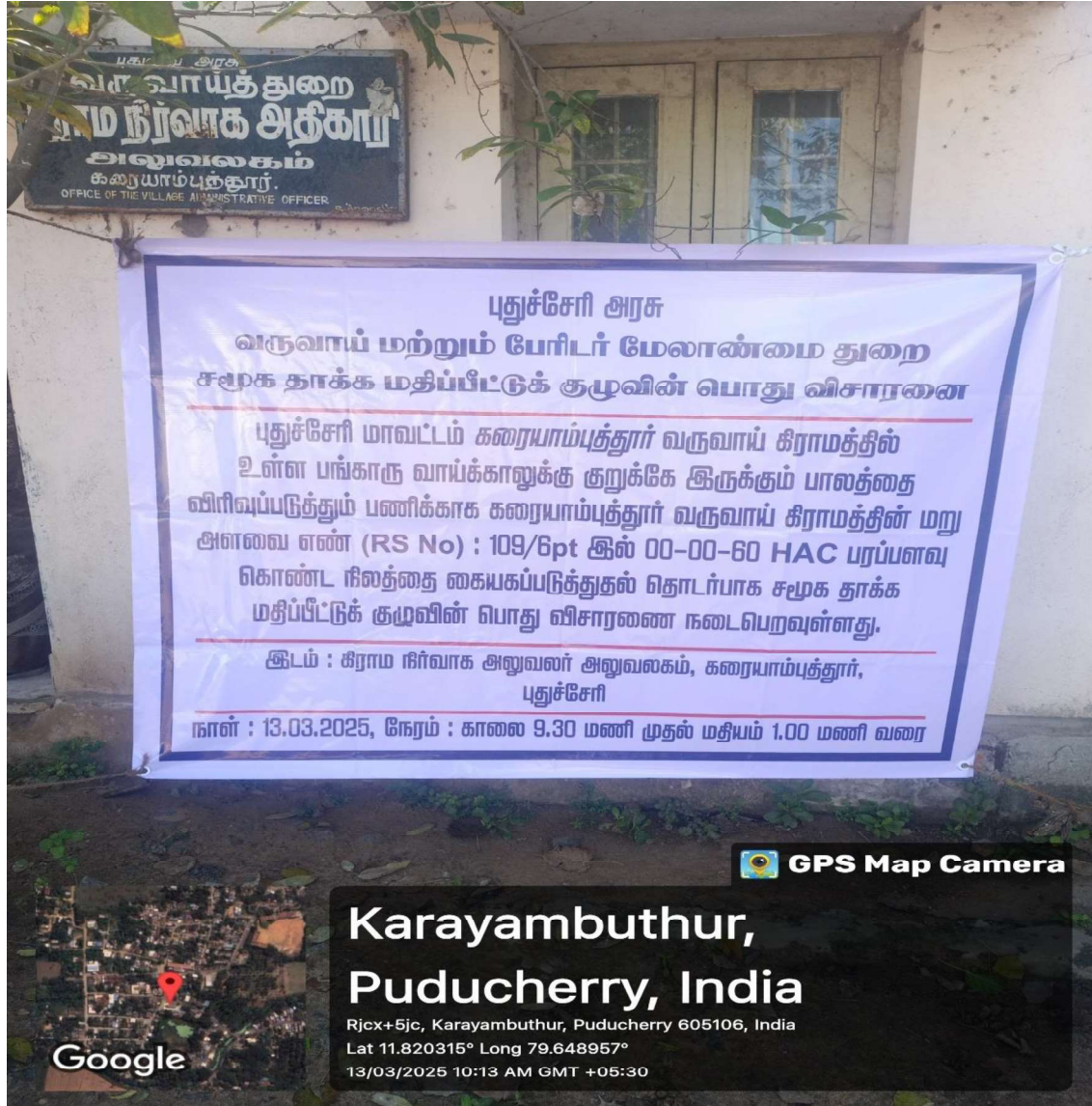


Dr.சுந்தர் ஆறுமுகம்

சமூக தாக்க மதிப்பீட்டு -குழுத்தலைவர்

DAY OF PUBLIC HEARING – 13/03/2025

The SIA Team reached the venue at 8.45 am and made a few arrangements at the office of Village Administrative Officer, Karayamputhur village. The display of Banner for the public was also done as shown below.



DISPLAY OF PUBLIC HEARING BANNER AT
THE OFFICE OF VAO, KARAYAMPUTHUR.

The following are the members who participated in the Public Hearing as representatives of the land owner.

SL NO	NAME OF THE PERSON	AGE	RELATION TO HEAD
1	Mr. V.N Vijaybaskar	68	Brother in Law
2	Mrs. V.Sulochana	65	Sister
3	Mrs. P.Vidhyavathy	58	Sister
4	Mrs. R. Ramapriya	63	Sister

The land owner Mr. Muthukrishnan had already informed the SIA Team that he shall send his sister as his representative for the Public Hearing.

The SIA Team wanted them to express their view which can be recorded in the Public Hearing. All the representatives had expressed their view on behalf of the land owner. The following are the outcome of the sharing.

They expressed their dis-satisfaction over the manner in which the land was taken or used. It was told that the land owner was not even informed about it. He came to know only when the work had begun for the extension of the bridge. He is totally angry and painful. It was clearly pointed out that he is particularly angry with some officers for not even trying to communicating to him about the land being taken for bridge extension work. In nutshell, the attitude of the officers had hurt his sentiments and feelings.

Secondly, it was also highlighted that the compensation amount as mentioned in the letter sent to the land owner did not show as to how the amount was derived. The rate of compensation, if it involves any solatium, interest/ penalty or anything of that sort.

Thirdly, it was told that they have a doubt regarding the extent of land used for extension of the bridge.

They also said that if the grievances are not resolved, he would seek justice by approaching the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

The SIA Team patiently listened to their views and it was more about consoling them and empathising with them. It was understood that it is not the compensation amount/ money being the issue, the contentious issue is the **manner in which the land had been put into use.**

The SIA Team would like to take the liberty in suggesting the following measure, to avoid facing the case in the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

A separate committee can be formed comprising of Government Officials and especially one has to be from the Revenue Department and the other from the Requiring Body i.e. the PWD. They can establish a fresh talk with the land owner through telephone, Google meet / Zoom for listening to his views and settling the issue to avoid facing the legal battle in the Hon'ble Supreme Court. It is always believed that a discussion or talk for few hours will certainly help in an amicable solution to any problem. **It is also very clear that facing the legal battel is not**

a big deal for the Government/ Administration. The essence is that, if it can be avoided, it's always better.

As a team of SIA they have met the general public, representatives of land owner and the only issue that was highlighted is the way in which the land was taken and used for the extension of the bridge. The land owner, his representatives and even the general public have all agreed that the purpose for which the land has been taken is for a good cause. The purpose has been met but somewhere in the methodology, there seem to be some lacking.

The SIA Team also had a telephonic talk with the land owner. He again stressed on what he said earlier. On the basis of which the SIA Team had laid down a few suggestions/ recommendations.

On the whole, the Public Hearing was smooth with lot of sharing by the participants.

The following are some of the images of Public Hearing.

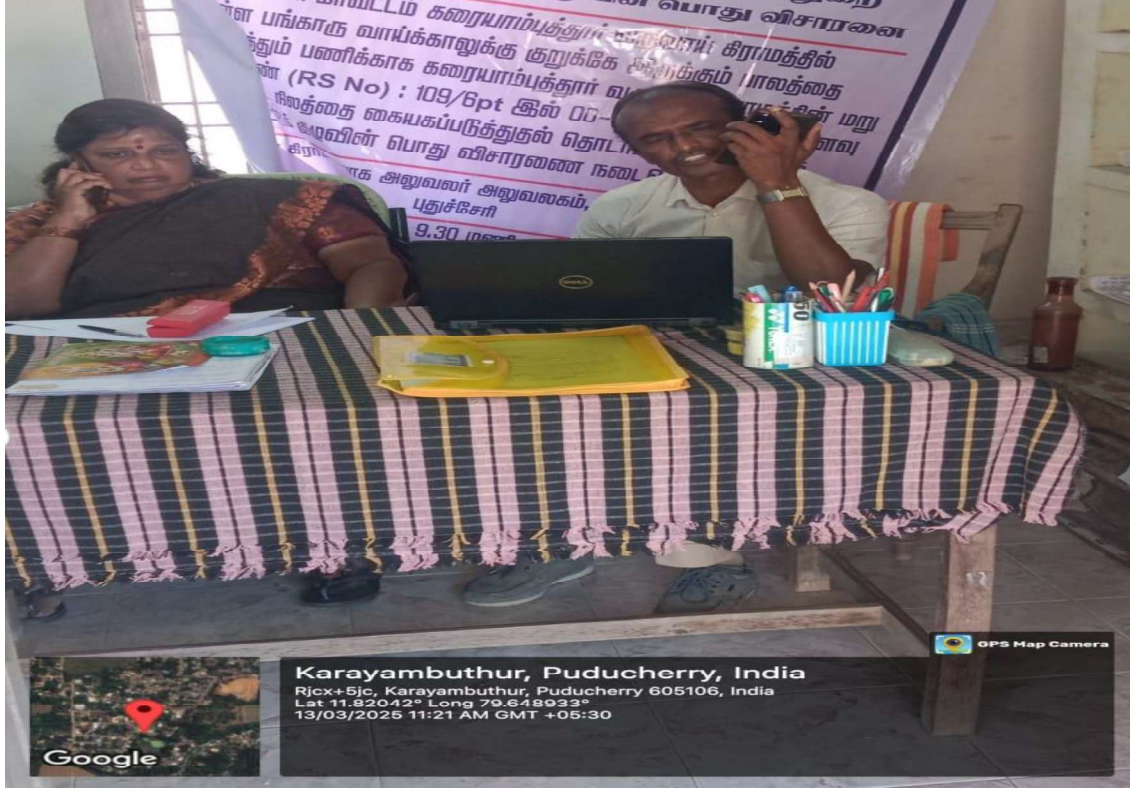


**REPRESENTATIVES OF THE LAND OWNER ATTENDING
THE PUBLIC HEARING**



THE SIA TEAM ON TELEPHONIC CONVERSATION WITH THE LAND OWNER ON THE DAY OF PUBLIC HEARING

Not



Note – The SIA Team would like to acknowledge the help received from Mr. Russo Rickson, who has rendered his support in preparing the Tamil version of this report. It is assured that the Tamil version has been prepared with complete confidentiality.

----- END OF THE REPORT -----

ANNEXURE