



## Office of the Conservator of Forests, Gaya Circle

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### Site Inspection Note

**Sub:** - Inspection of Proposed Project Site for Forest Clearance under Forest Conservation Act, 1980 for the construction of reservoir and Water Treatment Plant with small reservoir for Drinking under Ganga Water Lift Scheme for Water Supply to Gaya and Bodhgaya Towns under Gaya Forest Division in Gaya District in Bihar on 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2020 by Shri. S. Chandrasekar, IFS., Conservator of Forest, Gaya Forest Circle, Gaya, Bihar:

- Ref: -
1. Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (CAMPA) – cum – Nodal Officer (Forest Conservation), Bihar, Patna's Office Letter No. S. S. No. 52/2020 (F.C.) CAMPA – F.C. – 255 dated 09.03.2020
  2. Divisional Forest Officer, Gaya Forest Division, Gaya's Office Letter No. 1430 dated 16.03.2020

This instant project site proposed for diversion of 'forest land' for the Ganga Water Lift Scheme for Drinking Water and for construction of Water Treatment Plant with small reservoir is located in the (i) Vill. Tetarand (ii) Vill. Bikaipur in Mohra Revenue Circle, Neemchak Bathani Sub-Division under Athri Forest Range; and Vill. Pehani and Vill. Abgila in Manpur Revenue Circle, Gaya Sadar Sub-Division in Gaya Forest Range, respectively under Gaya Forest Division in Gaya District in Bihar. The proposed forest land for diversion are notified as Protected Forest.

The Divisional Forest Officer, Gaya Forest Division, Gaya; concerned Executive Engineer, Tilaiya Canal Division, Water Resources Department, Wazirganj, Gaya (applicant) and the concerned Range Officer of Forest, concerned Assistant Engineer and other subordinate staffs were present during the inspection. In the outset, the concerned Executive Engineer could not explain satisfactorily the reason why the Forest Department (Gaya Forest Division) was not involved while selecting this instant proposed forest land, *ab initio* in Vill. Tetar and Vill. Bikaipur.

This instant proposal is related to creation of a reservoir/dam to impound water, which is brought from the river Ganga through pipeline; and construction of water treatment plant for drinking water supply to the parched Gaya and Bodhgaya towns to meet the drinking water demand during the scarcity period.

The forest type of the proposed forest land is Tropical Dry Deciduous Forest/Northern Tropical Dry Deciduous Forest, and the vegetation is predominated by *Dendrocalamus strictus* (Lathi Bans) clumps. *Diospyrus melanoxylon* (Kendu), *Annogeissus latifolia* (Dhau), sparingly *Shorea robusta* (Sal), etc. are the other tree species commonly found in this forest area under reference. This site has about 0.2 vegetation density. The terrain is both hilly and plain. The aspect of the hillock slopes that will submerge are North and South facing. The Northern aspect is bestowed with sparsely vegetation and the Southern aspect is an open forest. During inspection no wild animals were sighted, but the concerned Range Officer of Forest said due to sparse vegetation Nilgai, Jackal, Indian Hare, Porcupine, wild cat, mongoose, etc. are found in this forest area. There is no report of existence of any endangered



species of wild animals in this forest area. This reservoir project will be helpful to improve the water availability in this area for the wildlife present here and the improved moisture regime will support the growth of vegetation in the area. This instant project will not affect the distribution and movement of any wild animal found in the area. Given the hilly terrain, this proposed forest land is vulnerable to medium to high soil erosion due to intrinsic geological features of the substrate during rainy season. Generally the soil depth in is very shallow. The hillock on the Southern part of the proposed site is predominantly a rock outcrop, with very shallow soil depth at the base. This proposed site is located about 21 Kilometers from the nearest Rajgir Wildlife Sanctuary in Bihar Sharif district.

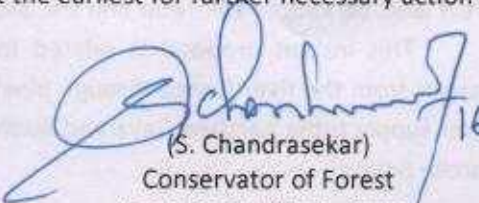
The Executive Engineer, who was present during the inspection said that this site for this instant proposed project was selected considering this site being ideally located and surrounded by hillocks on three sides. This will be a type of valley-dammed reservoir for storing the water, brought from river Ganga, for drinking purpose in the water scarce Gaya and Bodhgaya town, with Storage Height of reservoir 26 Meters. The forest land proposed for construction of Water Treatment Plant at vill. Abgila is an abandoned old stone mining area, which is about 25 meters deep. This area is having poor vegetation with occurrence of species like Cassia fistula (Amaltas), Acacia spp., Dalbergia sissoo (Sisham), Acaia catechu (Khair) and Cassia spp. (Chakundi). No wildlife were sighted during inspection in this area and this proposed project will not affect the distribution and movement of wildlife if any in this area.

This is the barest minimum of forest land required for this instant proposed project (proposed in two segments) and given the nature of this project, the project proponent has no other suitable alternative site in Gaya District. This proposed project will improve the water regime in the nearby forest areas benefitting the growth of vegetation and wild animals in the area.

The area of the forest land proposed for diversion is 88.14 Ha. for the Reservoir and 9.91 Ha. for the Water Treatment Plant, total 98.05 Ha. It has been proposed that the total capacity of the reservoir at Vill. Tetar will be 18.53 MCM and that of the Water Treatment Plant with small reservoir at Vill. Abgila is 1.29 MCM. The storage Height of the reservoir in Vill. Tetar will be 26 Meters. The user agency has not violated the prescribed provisions of Forest Conservation Act in the proposed site.

This instant proposal is submitted by one Shri. Anil Kumar Sinha, Executive Engineer, Tilaiya Canal Division, Water Resources Department, Wazirganj, Gaya, Gaya district, Bihar.

The undersigned directed the DFO concerned to submit the Part-II of this proposal with all necessary and prescribed documents and recommendation at the earliest for further necessary action at this end.

  
(S. Chandrasekar)  
Conservator of Forest  
Gaya Forest Circle, Gaya.

Memo. No. 549 / Gaya

Date: 16/3/2020

Copy for information and necessary action to:

1. Divisional Forest Officer, Gaya Forest Division, Gaya.

  
Conservator of Forest  
Gaya Forest Circle, Gaya.