

Site Inspection Report of Shri Tarun Johri, CCF Eastern Arunachal Circle, Tezu for diversion of 144 Ha Mipi to Andrala road of NHSL specification by BRO

The site inspection for above Mipi to Andrala 0.00 km to 50.00 km (FP/AR/Road/148555/21) was done on 04.08.2022 along with OC 62 RCC (GREF) and DFO Anini.

It was seen that it is a green field alignment of road from Mipi to Andrala passing partly through USF and partly through Dibang WLS. Mipi is the last road head and is about 37.5 Km from the district Hqtr at Anini connected by a single lane black top road. In fact, the actual name of the place is Mipi-do (Mipi 2) as Mipi is a circle Hqtr about 4 km before reaching Mipi-do. There is Ediya ITBP Camp at this end point of road at Mipi-do.

Out of the total 144 Ha required for diversion, 103.95 Ha falls inside Dibang WLS. The initial stretch of 0 – 13 km of Mipi 2 to Andrala road passes through USF area after which it enters Dibang WLS and runs through it for the remaining 13 – 50 km stretch. The width of the proposed 0 – 50 km Mipi2 to Andrala road is 24 mtr of NHSL specification. A total of 9 MDPs have been proposed out of which 3 MDPs fall in USF area on the initial 0 – 13 km while 6 MDPs falls in Dibang WLS in the balance 37 km from 13 – 50 km stretch. Similarly, 5 Camps/ Detts have been proposed out of which 2 camps fall in USF area while remaining 3 camps have been proposed inside the PA viz Dibang WLS. The break-up of the area as per proposal is as below:

USF	Purpose	No/ Km	Length	Width	Area (Ha)
	Road	0 -13	13 km	24 mtr	31.20
	MDP	3	125 mtr	100 mtr	3.75
	Camp	2	170 mtr	150 mtr	5.10
	Sub-total				40.05
WLS	Road	13 - 50	37 km	24 mtr	88.80
	MDP	6	125 mtr	100 mtr	7.50
	Camp	3	170 mtr	150 mtr	7.65
	Sub-total				103.95
Grand Total					144.00

The DFO has submitted a revised enumeration list of 11343 trees and 4808 poles in the 144 Ha which may not have significant effect on the general ecosystem of the entire 4149 sq km of WLS area except for fragmentation of forest due to proposed road of NHSL specification with 24 mtr width. Since there is no likely hood of regular traffic except army vehicles so chances of road kills of fauna by accidents is bleak. There is no protected archeological/ heritage site or any other important monument located in the proposed forest land to be diverted except defense camps and patrolling paths. An equivalent area of 144 Ha has also been identified by DFO in Biyanli VFR for CA. Since the proposed road passes through hilly mountainous terrain with thick forest growth and the area also experiences heavy rainfall therefore erosion cannot be ruled out due to presence of seasonal nallahs and sandy nature of soil on the alignment. There are also hard rock formations on the alignment which may have to be cleared through blasting thus disturbing the fauna in the WLS.

But the road is strategically very important for safeguarding the territorial integrity of the nation. It has been informed that China has built up huge defense infrastructure just 40 kms ahead of Andrala and the disputed area starts from Andrala itself. Defense troops and para military forces have to undertake patrolling on foot.

10

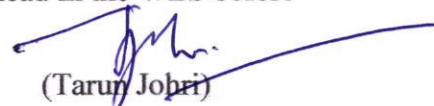
It was seen that earth cutting in the initial 2 km approx. had already been done. On enquiry from BRO, it was informed that Army had done the earth cutting in 2020. A letter dt 18.5.2022 of DLR&SO Dibang Valley addressed to BRO Anini along with the representation of three clan of Mipi Circle was produced in support of the claim (copy enclosed). The said representation indeed mentions that the villagers of three clans of Mipi had given an NOC dt. 28.6.2020 to Indian Army for construction of operational track/ road from Mipi to Andrala Omkar (length 54 km with formation cutting of 12 mtrs). It was also informed that this earth cutting works on the Mipi-Andrala alignment had been undertaken by Army for operational foot track Mipi-Alo because of urgency due to reports of Chinese incursion. Then it has been handed over to BRO in its present form somewhere during Feb, 2022 only. A letter dt. 20.11.2021 of HQ 3 Corps was produced in support of the claim (copy enclosed). The said letter dt. 20.11.2021 indeed mentioned that approx. 903 mtrs of operational track Mipi-Alo had already been constructed by ETF of 3 Corps and the work would continue till BRO resources were employed and the FC proposal of foot track would be withdrawn.

An officer from 117 Mountain Brigade discussed the issue on 10.8.2022 with me in my office chamber and highlighted the reasons for the urgent need of Mipi-Andrala road. He informed that troops were already stationed at Andrala and were being heli-sustained near the LoC. It was informed that post Galvan, the operational foot track/ road was secretly started under wraps to avoid leakage of information in the media and across the LoC to the enemies.

It has been seen from office records that following proposals for construction of Mipi-Andrala 'operational foot track' or 'foot track' or 'road' have been under correspondence by various agencies and all are said to be closely being monitored citing strategic importance. But due to duplicity they have been either dropped or shelved or changed from one terminology to other or user agency changed resulting in confusion.

- (i) 0.00 – 20.0 km **road by BRTF** vide your Nos. FOR.3-190/Cons/2015/ 737-42 dated 24.06.2015 and FOR.3-190/Cons/2015/363-67 dated 22.03.20116.
- (ii) Mipi Andrala Omkar **ICBR Road** of 35.1 km by CPWD vide No. 23/EE-II/ICBRP/CPWD/2019-20/119 dt. 8.11.2019 addressed to DC Anini (**copy enclosed**).
- (iii) Mipi Andra La Omkar **foot track for critical infrastructure** in Arunachal Pradesh by CPWD vide letter 8.11.2019 addressed to APCCF (Cons) Itanagar (**copy enclosed**).
- (iv) **FP/AR/ROAD/20428/2016** for construction of **new Mipi Andrala road** 29.63 Ha by BRTF being user agency.
- (v) **FP/AR/ROAD/42950/2019** for construction **Mipi Andrala Omkara foot track** 0.00 to 35.1 Km by CPWD being user agency. The UA was changed to NHIDCL as informed to you vide No EAC/Cons-143/2021/2418-21 dt. 14.09.2021.
- (vi) **FP/AR/ROAD/144735/2021** for 19 Ha construction **Mipi Andrala Omkar foot track** 0.00 to 35.1 Km by MoRTH being user agency.

Since resource mobilization of man and machinery on the initial 2 km approx stretch of Mipi Andrala road where earth cutting had already been done, has been started by the UA so the UA vide letter dt. 8.8.2022 has been directed to refrain from undertaking any works of earth cutting or widening of the already broken up land or anywhere ahead in the WLS before formal approval under FCA, 1980 (copy enclosed).


(Tarun Johri)
Chief Conservator of Forests
Eastern Arunachal Circle, Tezu