SITE INSPECTION REPORT NOT BELOW THE RANK OF DCF (For the forest land to be diverted under FCA)

A proposal has been received by this office from Ghaziabad Development Authority for diversion of **0.144 Hac.** of Protected Forest land for non-forestry purpose under Forest Conversation Act-1980. The project envisages the use of forestland for Widening and strengthening of road from New NH-9 (Old NH-24) to proposed solid waste management plant at Uppar Ganga Canal Ghaziabad mile 106.775 (170.84 Km) to 107.00 (171.2 Km) in village Masoori, Tehsil Ghaziabad, District Ghaziabad. The site inspection of the land involved in the proposal has done by me on dated 16.08.2019, during inspection of the site it is found that land required by the user agency is a Protected Forest measuring 0.144 Hac.

The requirement of forestland as proposed by the user agency in col. 2 part-1 is unavoidable and is barest minimum required for the project.

Whether any rare/ endangered/ unique species of flora and fauna found in the area. If, so the details there of: :- NIL

Whether any protected archeological/ heritage site/ defense establishment or any other important monuments is located in the area, if, so the details there of with NOC for competent authority, if required :- NIL

- a. The user agency has not violated the provisions of Forest Conversation Act-1980 and no work has been started. :- YES
- b. It has been found that the user agency has violated the forest (Conversation), Act 1980 provisions. A detail report as per para 1.9 of chapter-I, Para-C of Handbook of forest (Conversation) Act 1980 is attached :- Not Applicable
- c. Specific recommendation for acceptance or otherwise of the proposal :-

I have inspected the above mentioned site alongwith representative from Ghaziabad Development Authority (GDA), Mr. Manvendra Singh, Executive engineer GDA. The site has protected forest of area **0.144** ha which is required for widening and strengthening of road from New NH-9 (Old NH-24) to proposed Solid Waste Management Plant at Upper Ganga Canal, Ghaziabad mile 106.775 to 107.0 which is falling in District Ghaziabad. The protected forest is along the full length of the road under consideration for this project. Requirement of land in this project is minimum as per the project proposal submitted by the user agency.

There are 5 different plant species in the form of trees, poles and saplings present in protected forest area on one (left) side of the road under consideration in the project (List Enclosed). These plant species are mostly endemic and of medicinal importance along with their impact on environment. Since the road was laid, constructed and maintained by Irrigation Department, U.P., it was basically for inspection of works undertaken by the department. The forest cover in the protected forest area on left side of the road has average canopy density of approximately 60-70% and consists of biodiversity with different life forms. The area has its own microclimate which keeps the different parameters of environment health within limits.

At present, the protected forest cover along the road is a kind of green belt which adds to the green cover of district Ghaziabad wherein only 100 ha is the recorded protected forest area. The protected forest area under consideration in the project will get shrunken in area and forest cover due to widening and strengthening of the said road. There is already immense biotic pressure on the said protected forest as on one side of the protected forest, there is road under consideration in this project while on the other side, there are agricultural fields. The local population also depends on this forest for their daily needs.

Thus, in the light of the above observations, I recommend that the protected forest area which will be lost in the process of this project needs to be re established with greater conservation efforts through following measures:

- 1. A permanent chain linked fencing of adequate height should be constructed and maintained alongside the road to prevent any wild animal from coming to the widened and strengthened road, so that accidental deaths can be avoided.
- 2. Inspection hut in form of porta cabin with all basic amenities and solar light system should be provided to forest division, Ghaziabad at the site for protection and conservation of forests as there will be increase in heavy vehicular movement on the said road after the completion of the project.
- 3. Since there is scope of only urban forestry in urban areas of district Ghaziabad wherein isolated green patches or green belts are present, the user agency should provide appreciable land area for development and maintenance of urban green landscape in the form of arboretum) to the Social Forestry division, Ghaziabad. The cost for the development and maintenance of this landscape will be worn by the user agency.

Place: - Ghaziabad Dated: - 16.08.2019

Divisional Forest Officer अभागीय निर्देशक भयाजिक वानिकी प्रभाष गानियासार ।