

FIELD INSPECTION NOTE OF THE DISTRICT FOREST OFFICER, NIZAMABAD ON 18.02.2022 IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROPOSED DIVERSION OF 7.486 Ha. of FOREST LAND IN MANIK BHANDAR AND MAMIDIPALLY-III RESERVE FOREST OF ARMOOR RANGE AND DIVISION FOR FORMATION OF FOUR LANING FROM KM 4/8 TO 24/6 i.e., NIZAMABAD TO ARMOOR OF NIZAMABAD TO JAGADALPUR SECTION OF NH63 (OLD NH 16) IN THE STATE OF TELANGANA.

After the instructions of PCCF (HoFF) regarding the changed order for District Forest Officer to process FCA proposals, I have inspected the site along with the Forest Divisional Officer, Armoor, Forest Range Officer, Armoor and concerned user agency. The Reserve Forest Land proposed to be diverted for the old National Highway 16 for formation of four laning road from Km 4/8 to 24/6 i.e., Nizamabad to Armoor with respect to Jagadapur section of NH63 (Old NH 16) area is falling inside the Reserve Forest Blocks namely Mamidipally-III, Manikbandar falling in Amrad beat and Mamidipally-I falling in Guthpa beat of Mamidipally section of Armoor Range of Armoor division of Nizamabad District.

During the site inspection, it was clearly noticed that the violation has taken place with respect to the works proposed for National Highway 63 which is clearly reported in the inspection note and further clarified vide DFONZB Rc.No.30000/2017/D5, dated 23.02.2022. Further, the Executive Engineer, R&B (NH Division) informed that during 2010-11 similar proposal for the Geometrical improvement of the curves on Nizamabad to Jagadapur NH 16 passing through Manikbandar RF was submitted and was accorded Stage-I & Stage-II approval from the Government of India vide GOI, MoEF, Bangalore, Lr.No.4-APB713/2010-BAN/7736, Dated:05.08.2010 and Government of India vide GOI, MoEF, Bangalore, Lr.No.4-APB713/2010-BAN/8554, Dated:01.02.2011 respectively. And the present proposal for formation of four laning road from Km 4/8 to 24/6 i.e., Nizamabad to Armoor of Nizamabad to Jagadapur section of NH 63 (Old NH 16) is also similar in the Geometrical improvement of curves passing through Manikbandar and Mamidipally-III RFs.

The proposed site is a linear patch passing through the Reserve Forest. The concerned Executive Engineer, Roads and Buildings Armoor Division have already demarcated the proposed area on the ground, which was shown to me during the inspection.

The Forest Range Officer, Armoor has enumerated the standing growth in the proposed work pertaining to Reserve Forests of Chinnapur and Mamidipally I and II Forest Blocks submitted by user agency after field demarcations. In the proposed site, the total standing growth is 956 Nos. comprising of 194 Trees and 762 Poles of miscellaneous species with an estimated timber volume of 45.0123 cum which will be extracted as per DET manual. There are certain species which are not fit for timber and hence will be sold as fuel wood after extraction.

The Forest type is Tropical dry deciduous with 0.2 – 0.4 density. The major species are Battaganapa (*Mythragyna parviflora*), Chennangi (*Lagerstomea parviflora*), Thirman, Tuniki (*Diosporus melanoxyton*), Ippa, *Ficus bengalensis* (Marri), Moduga (*Butea monosperma*), Rela (*Cassia fistula*), Vepa (*Azadiracta indica*), Nallamaddi (*Termenalia tomentosa*), Palakodisha (*Whritia tinctoria*), Teak (*Tectona grandis*), Tellevitla (*Chloroxylon switenia*) further I have test checked some of the trees and found to be correct.

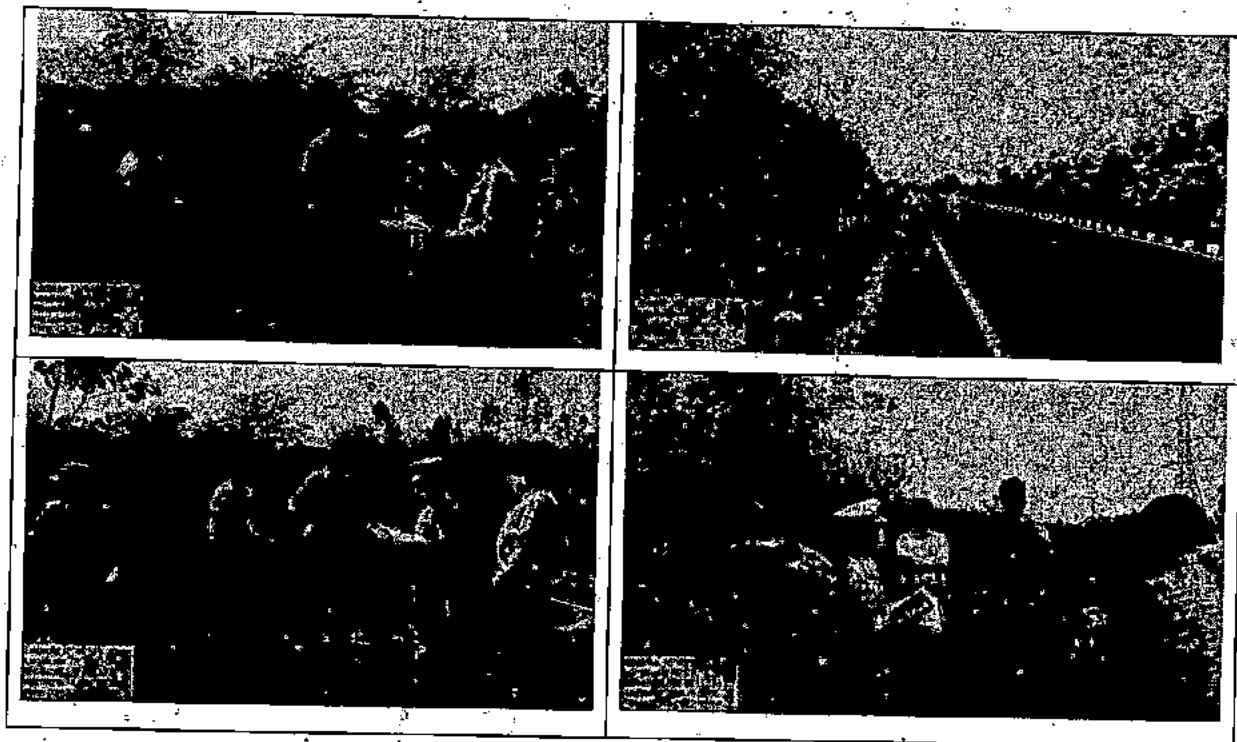
The part of the proposed area is moderately undulating and having miscellaneous growth with red soil and in some areas sandy loam soil. The area proposed to be diverted and its surroundings are of Degraded Dry Deciduous Forest Type.

The entire length and the width of the proposed land for diversion which is proposed to be included in the Easing of the Curve on the National Highway No. 63 is passing through Mamidipally-III, Manikbandar and Mamidipally-I Forest blocks. The area proposed to be diverted is 7.19508 Ha.

The wildlife present in the surrounding reserve forest areas are Leopard, Sloth Bear, Fore horned antelope, Neelgai, Pea fowl, Wild boar, Porcupine, Bar Headed Geese, Flamingoes for only short period, combed ducks, pin tail ducks, fish eagle, rat snakes, Russels viper, etc.

I have searched for alternatives, but there are no other alternative alignment available except the present proposal, as this is the shortest route which is possible with least damage of flora or forest soil. This is the barest minimum area that is required for widening of existing road for four laning from Km 4/8 to Km 24/6 of Nizamabad to Jagadapur Section of NH-63 (Old NH-16) for a length of 3090 meters falling in the reserve forest block.

Photographs of the proposed site for widening of existing road Four laning from Km 4/8 to Km 24/6 of Nizamabad to Jagadapur Section of NH-63 (Old NH-16) during inspection by the Forest Officials.



Observations in the field visit:

1. Further, I have searched for the other alternatives in three Ranges, but there is no alternative land available.
2. The proposed area doesn't form part of National Park, Wildlife sanctuary, Biosphere reserve, Tiger reserve, Elephant corridor, etc.
3. No rare/ endangered/ unique species of flora and fauna found in the area.
4. No protected archaeological/ heritage site/ defence establishment of any other important monument is located in the area.
5. There is violation with respect to the works carried out in the proposed area against the Forest (Conservation) Act 1980 and the penal cost of 75.4285 Lakhs is calculated and demand is raised in the proposal.

Further, the User Agency has submitted undertakings to implement the following conditions:

1. The Net Present Value (NPV) of Rs. 68.913 lakhs shall be paid by the User Agency.
2. The extraction charges of the timber/fuel as estimated in these areas shall be borne by the User Agency.
3. To bear the cost towards compensatory Afforestation - Rs. 298.681 Lakhs.
4. The penal cost as per the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 further clarified rates - $(9.5778 \times 5.546) + @12\% \text{ simple interest} \times 20\% \text{ for Govt. projects} = 75.4285 \text{ Lakhs for } 3.5 \text{ years simple interest.}$

The District Collector, Nizamabad has given the certificate in Form-I as per instructions vide GOI, MoEF Ref.11-9/98-Fc (PT) dt:05.07.2013 for linear projects, duly certifying that the process of identification of Rights under Forest Rights Act has been completed in the District and there are no claims pending in the above said Reserve Forest areas.

Further, Compensatory Afforestation in 15.00 Ha degraded Reserve Forest area is proposed to be taken up in Compt. No.2 of Hasakothur RF of Kammarpally Range. The

proposed Road Curve is in no way causing damage to either flora or fauna of the areas nearby as it is proposed to be passing through open areas on the boundary of the Reserve Forest and abutting the existing road of National Highway No.63. Hence the permission for the Easing of the Curve on the National Highway No.63 between Km. 4/8 to 24/6 in Amrad Beat, Mamidipally Section, Armoor Range of Armoor division of Nizamabad District is recommended with the following conditions.

1. The Legal status of the Reserve Forest land proposed to be diverted does not change.
2. No felling of trees and no cutting of branches is allowed, other than proposed list of felling trees. Further, translocation of 39 trees which are promising ones are proposed at the cost of user agency.
3. User Agency has to erect permanent boards of at least 18 numbers from the entry point to exit points of the RF in the above locations about the status of the land, along with 10 boards depicting awareness on forest and wildlife conservation.
4. The user agency will bear the cost of extraction, Compensatory Afforestation, Penal CA, construction of pillars (small and big) to demarcate the area etc that are proposed in the plan.
5. Any other conditions as per Forest Conservation Act, 1980 and further guidelines, rules or clarifications issued by MoEF&CC that are additionally imposed by District Forest Officer cum Deputy Conservator of Forests, Nizamabad from time to time shall be followed by the User Agency.


District Forest Officer
(Deputy Conservator of Forests)
Nizamabad