

Letter of Recommendation Not below the rank of DCF
(For the forest land to be diverted under FCA)

A proposal has been received by this office from National Highways Authority of India for diversion under FCA-1980 of 65.495 Hectares of Protected Forest land for non-forest purpose. The project envisages the Diversion of Protected Forest Land for Rehabilitation and Up-gradation to 4 lane with paved shoulders configuration from Bhadwas to Kalyanpur section (Km 186 to Km 229.000) Package-II section of National Highway-91 in Etah District. The site inspection of the land in proposal has been done by me on dated : 02-10-2017

On inspection of the site, it is found that the land required by the user agency is Protected Forest (PF) measuring 65.495 Hectare.

The requirement of forest land as proposed by the User Agency on col.2 of part ii is unavoidable and is the barest minimum required for the project.

No rare/endangered/unique species of flora and fauna in the area. There is no protected archeological/heritage site/defense establishment or any other important monument located in the area. More over the user agency has not violated the provision of Forest Conservation Act, 1980 and no work has been started till now and no work will be started without proper sanction. The user Agency has given the undertaking to comply with all the conditions that would be put by the state or/and Central Government during the process of getting sanction. Specific recommendation for acceptance or otherwise of the proposal. The cutting of 4940 trees for the execution of this project may in all probability change the "micro-climate" of the villages surrounding the NH- 91 in particular and Etah district in general which is further accentuated by the fact that the degraded forest land identified for compensatory afforestation was not available in Etah district but have got available in Firozabad District. This project is also connected to the construction of "bypasses" in non forest land which would also involve cutting of trees in non forest revenue land which will further deteriorate the microclimate of the region

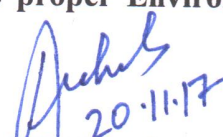
Undersigned is of the view that the tree cutting should be avoided and the transplantation of the trees especially 201 ficus trees should be compulsorily resorted to if we really want to preserve the "microclimate" of the nearby villages in particular and etah district in general. Moreover the bypasses in non forest revenue land should be properly afforested. This sensitivity of the microclimate vis a vis tree cutting is further enhanced by the fact that there is proposed cutting of 2435 trees in another forest clearance proposal no FP/UP/Road/21109/2016 which pertains to the widening of Etah Kasganj Road in Etah district for which the Regional Empowered Committee has given the approval subject to FRA

certificate. In this project also the site for compensatory afforestation is outside Etah District that is in Agra and Hathras District.

Another fact which adds to the concern of the above possible deteriorating microclimate of the region is that Etah district has one range Jalesar which forms a part of Taj Trapezium Zone and TTZ boundary would be not more than 40 kms aerially from the NH 91.

The cost benefit analysis of the project shows a cost benefit ratio of "meager 2.09" which is further dependent on two "uncertain" outcomes –first, the benefit accruing to the economy as given in serial no- 05 of cost benefit analysis and second, the possibility of the success of compensatory afforestation over degraded forest land of 130.99 hectares in firozabad district with 80 percent survival, which in the view of the undersigned is "too optimistic".

Hence the project is recommended in public interest subject to proper Environmental Impact Assessment/scrutiny.


(A.K. Kashyap)

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