

F.8031(F)
No. A / PWD/WDXV (NH)/ASW/20-21/196
Government of Goa
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Works Division XV (NH),
Public Works Department,
Ponda-Goa.
Dated: - 12/10/2020.

To,
The Dy. Conservator of Forests,
Wildlife & Eco-Tourism (North) Division,
4th Floor, Junta House,
Panaji -Goa.

Sub: - Diversion of 32.085 ha. of forest land for four laning of existing
Goa/karnataka Border Anmod Mollem Section) on NH-4A from
km. 84.133 to km. 97.00 in the state of Goa in favour of the
Executive Engineer, Wd-XV(Nh), Public Works department, Ponda
Goa-reg.

Ref: - 1. Your Letter No.1-1662/WL & ET(N)2020-20201/511 Dt.5.6.2020
2. F. No. 4-GOC1238/2020-BAN/68 Dt. 12.05.20

Sir,

In connection with above subject matter and letters cited at reference
above, the parawise clarification to the points raised by the Regional office of
MOEF & CC (Bangalore) are as under:

- As part of the proposed road is passing through the Bhagwan Mahavir Wildlife Sanctuary NBWL clearance may be furnished.

The NBWL accorded the clearance in the NBWL meeting held on
07.04.2020, please refer to the attached minutes of the NBWL meeting
enclosed as Appendix-I.

- The User agency has submitted another proposal for diversion of
31.53Ha of forest land for four lanning of existing Goa / Karnataka
Boarder Panaji Goa Section of NH - 4 A from Km 97.000 to Km
153.075 in the state of Goa on BOT (Toll) basis under NHDP III
(Anmod to Panaji Section) in favour of the Executive Engineer WD
XV (NH) Public Works Department, Ponda justification for
submitting separate proposal for the same road may be furnished.

Two separate proposals for forest area involving wildlife sanctuary and forest area without the wildlife area are submitted. This is to enable the construction of widening of the existing road outside the wildlife sanctuary even if the clearance from NBWL takes more time. Even in present context the widening of the NH-4A is considered in the stretches where ever it is required.

- In respect of widening of NH - 4A in the state of Karnataka NHAI has informed that they will not be widening the road portion falling in the Kali Tiger Reserve and the Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary. Therefore will it not be possible for the User agency to restrict to the existing width of the road in the protected area it is a critical Wildlife Habitat located in Westren Ghat area and being adjacent to a Tiger Reserve.

Widening of the road to four lane configuration is essential in the state of Goa:

- As the state of Goa is one of the world tourist destinations, the number of travellers visiting Goa is much higher than the State of Karnataka.
- As the existing road is 2 lane configuration with two way traffic, the movement of the vehicles is slow. Thus leading to higher vehicular emissions and noise pollution in the forest region, which will have adverse impact on the wildlife.
- As the road is only two lane configuration, it is not able to meet the present day traffic needs as well as it is a hindrance to future traffic movement.
- The projected traffic of more than 10000 PCU warrants four laning of existing two lane as per prevailing guidelines.
- As there are no animal underpasses/Overpasses on the existing road, there is high possibility for animal accidents while crossing the road due to increased number of traffic.
- NH - 4A is the major highway connecting road between Panaji the state capital of Goa with the two major cities of the country namely the Hyderabad and the Bengaluru.

In light of the above reasons the widening of the NH - 4A to four lane

configuration in the State of Goa is unavoidable.

- **Mitigation measure as approved by the Chief Wildlife Warden.**

The user agency undertakes to comply with all mitigation measures approved by the Chief wildlife warden.

- **With regard to the widening of 4A in the State of Karnataka the Honble High Court of Karnataka has observed that the length of the widening of NH - 4A which is being taken up may be more than 100km stretch over Karnataka and Goa and has raised the issue of requirement of Environmental Clearance for the project, clarification in this regard may be provided by the User Agency.**

- The entire length of the NH - 4A is 153 Km connecting NH-17 near Panjim with the NH - 4 near Belgaum. However, the length of NH-4A in the state of Goa is 69 Km. and that too only 53Km is to be upgarded since 16 Km. of stretch is already upgarded and put to use
- In the present context the widening of the NH - 4A is considered in the stretches where ever it is required.
- The ROW is less than 40m considering the eco-sensitivity of the region.
- Whatever widening is being proposed is the bearest minimum required for easy passage of traffic in the region.
- Compare to Karnataka, stretch in Goa state, passing through the Bhagwan Mahavir Wild Life Sanctuary and Mollem National Park is having very poor road geometrics.
- The land slide prone Anmod Ghat section and poor geometrics are susceptible to accidents and has been identified as a black spot considering accidents data of past years.

- **Why non forest land is not being proposed as the project is being implemented by the State authority.**

- This is a Government of India Project Under the Ministry of Road Transportation and Highways.
- The role of the State government in this project is only implementation in nature.
- As per the provisions of the Forest Conservation Act - 1980,

central government organizations are exempted from providing non- forest land to compensate the forest land diverted for non forestry purpose. But the cost of the Compensatory Afforestation has to be borne by the User Agency.

Please refer to the attached letter from MoRTH approving the alignment of the project.

- **Duration of the project may be informed**

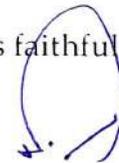
Two years.

- **PCCF has proposed 3% additional amount of the project cost from the User Agency. Comments of the State Government and Uer Agency as the guidelines issued under the Forest Conservation Act 1980 restrict levying on such additional amount. The state may also elaborate on the activities propped with the amount.**

May please be provided by the PCCF and the State government.

It is therefore requested to accord necessary approval under FCA 1980 to take up the said subject work in the Forest area.

Yours faithfully,



EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

Copy to :-

1. The Chief Engineer, (NH, R & B), Althino, Panaji- Goa for information please.
2. The Superintending Engineer IX (NH), PWD, Altinho Panaji Goa for information please.
3. The Dy. Conservator of Forests, Monitoring & Evaluation , Panaji Goa for information please.
4. The Dy. Conservative of Forests, North Goa Division, Ponda Goa for information please.
5. The Assistant Engineer SDI, WDXV (NH), PWD, Ponda - Goa for information please.
6. M/s Aarvee Associates, Architects, Engineers & Consultants, Ravula Residency, Srinagar colony Main Rd., Hyderabad-500 082