

INSPECTION REPORT OF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS,
SHIMOGA CIRCLE

The forest area proposed for diversion towards the proposed railway project from Shimoga to Ranebennur comes under the jurisdictions of Shimoga and Sagar forest divisions. I have inspected the site on 14.06.2022. In Shimoga division, the proposed railway line passes through forest areas of Siddalipura Minor forest, deemed forest in Kondajji village, Lakkinakoppa Minor forest and Jog Minor forest. Except Jog Minor forest, all other are either encroached or areas with open forests having Acacia, Eucalyptus, scrub jungle interspersed with naturally grown Terminalia species. Forest in Jog Minor forest can be considered as moderately dense, dry deciduous forest with Terminalia as predominant species along with Teak, Bamboo and planted Acacia. The proposed railway line runs through this forest for 2.19 km long with a proposed forest area of 6.93 ha of which a small portion is encroached.

In case of Sagar division, except Kesaraghatta timber reserve and adjoining Gangavvanasara State forest, all other proposed forest patches are old encroachments. Forest in Gangavvannasara and adjoining Kesaraghatta timber reserve can be considered as moderately dense, dry deciduous forest with *Terminalia tomentosa* and *Terminalia paniculata* as predominant species along with Eucalyptus raised in the captive plantation of Mysore Paper Mills. The proposed railway line runs through this forest for 2.42 km long with a proposed forest area of 6.29 ha.


There are no protected / endangered / unique species of flora and fauna in the proposed area and also there are no archaeological / heritage site / defence establishments or any other important monuments located in the areas proposed for diversion.

Further, although the forest areas proposed for diversion are not a part of any National Park, Sanctuary, Tiger reserve, Elephant corridor or biosphere reserve, movement of wild life like Sloth bear, deers and leopards is found in and around Jog MF and Gangavvanasara SF areas. Among the proposed forest stretches for diversion, forest stretches at Jog Minor forest and Gangavvanasara state forest are relatively continuous forest stretches where some under passes and protective barriers as proposed in the DCF's reports are essential for safe and free movement of wild life in the area.

The forest land identified in Sagar division for raising compensatory afforestation in double the extent of area proposed for diversion is located next to the area proposed for diversion in Gangavvanasara State forest. The proposed CA area consists of considerable number and extent of open patches. Similarly, the CA area identified in Shimoga division is located in Mandagatta Minor forest, in Ripponpet forest range with sufficient open patches.

Further, the proposed railway line runs through flat areas both in forest and adjoining non forest agricultural lands and does not involve either cutting the hills or disturbing any slopes. Since, the forest area proposed for diversion is for the public purpose of connecting large number of densely populated habitations and the area sought by the user agency is unavoidable and barest minimum for the project, approval for the proposal may be accorded.

Date: 14.06.2022


Conservator of Forests,
Shimoga Circle, Shimoga.