## **SITE INSPECTION REPORT**

Sr.	Prescribed vide	e P	CCF (HoEF) No. Desk-17-4/1445, dated 05/11/2015
No.	Items		Observations & Remarks
1.	Name of the Project and location (Range, Round, Beat)	:	Diversion of 3.3685 ha. of Forest land under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for construction of greenfield Railway line between Solapur-Tuljapur-Osmanabad (Total Length of 84.439 Km) passing through Solapur and Osmanabad districts in the State of Maharashtra.  Location:1.Kasbe Solapur Gut No-496  2.Mardi Gut No-165, 216, 217  Range Round Beat Solapur Solapur and
2.	Name of the User Agency	:	Shri. Pradeep B. Bansode, Deputy Chief Engineer (C), Central Railway, Solapur District, Solapur.
3.	Date of site inspection	:	06/07/2023
4.	Extent (ha) and legal status of forest land proposed for diversion	:	Reserved Forest         -         3.3685 Ha.           Total         -         3.3685 Ha.
5.	a) Details of forest land proposed for diversion and activity-wise break-up of forest land	:	As per Area Statement attached on page no.
	b) Density and Eco-value class	:	Density – <0.4. Eco-value Class – III
6.	Whether the requirement of forest land as proposed by the User Agency in col.2 of Part-I is unavoidable and barest minimum for the project. If no, recommended area item-wise with details of alternative examined.	:	Yes, The requirement of forest land as proposed by the User Agency in col.2 of Part-I is unavoidable and barest minimum for the project.
7.	Whether the proposal involves any construction of building (including residential) or not? If yes, details thereof	:	No. But there will be laying of railway line in the proposed area.
8.	a) Whether forest area proposed for diversion is important from wildlife point of view or not	:	Yes. Site at village Mardi is near from Great Indian Bustard Sanctuary with possible wildlife habitat.
	b) Details of any rare or endangered or unique species of flora and fauna found in proposed forest land. If so, the details thereof	:	No rare or endangered or unique species of flora and fauna found in proposed forest land during site inspection
	c) Aerial distance from the nearest boundary of any Protected Area (km)	:	Aerial distance from the boundary of Great Indian Bustard Wildlife Sanctuary is 227 m and the project passes through it Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ).
	d) Remarks about sensitivity of the forest area likely to be affected due to project	:	Yes. Site at village Mardi is near from Great Indian Bustard Sanctuary with possible wildlife habitat.
	e) Whether wildlife mitigation plan is required? If yes, reasons thereof	:	Since direct area form GIB sanctuary is not required but diverted area in close to sanctuary, specific recommendation from wildlife wing are required.
9.	Details of Vegetation		10.00
8 9	a) Total number of trees to be felled	:	13687 nos.

	b) Number of trees to be felled of girth below 60 cm.		13629 nos.
	c) Number of trees to be felled of girth above 60 cm.	:	58 nos.
	d) Effect of removal of trees on the general ecosystem in the area	:	Nil. As the effect of removal of trees will be compensated by the compensatory afforestation to be carried out within the same forest division.
10.	Background note on the proposal (short summary)		In absence of direct rail connection between Solapur-Tuljapur-Osmanabad, at present the travel mode through railway from Solapur to Osmanabad is via Kurduwadi which is 153 km long. The newly proposed greenfield Railway alignment starts at Ch.0+000 at Solapur town, North Solapur Taluka in Solapur District to Ch. 84+439 at Shingoli village, Osmanabad Taluka in Osmanabad District of Maharashtra State of length 84.439 km. It passes through Khed, Mardi, Tamalwadi, Malumbra, Raikhed, Tuljapur, Wadgaon, Sanjha and other important towns in North Solapur, Tuljapur and Osmanabad Talukas. This Railway line would significantly reduce travel time, increase in socioeconomic development, speedier transportation of agricultural produce and will also make it convenient for people from not only the region but from all over India to visit Tuljapur on pilgrimage.  Project alignment requires forest area of 3.3685 Ha in Solapur forest division. For execution of the proposed railway line, the required forest land is unavoidable and barest minimum.
11.	Whether the proposal involves any violation of Forest (Conservation) Act 1980? If yes, a detailed report on violation including action taken against the concerned officials to be attached.	1	: No.
12.	Whether the proposal involved rehabilitation plan has been approved by the State Government?		: The proposal doesn't involve any rehabilitation, hence no rehabilitation plan required.
13.	1 12 11	e f	: Not Applicable.
14	. Utility of the project		: The project is of infrastructure development and public utility purpose. This project will provide speedy & safe transportation for commuters, industrial & agro development and improved connectivity leading to more economical benefits to the State.
15	any socio-cultural/religious values Whether any scared grove or ver old growth trees/ forests exist in the areas proposed for diversion?	s? Ty ne	: No No
16	Any other important information related to the project (Separate nor may be attached, if required)		: The User Agency proposed alignment passing through gut 478, 480, 481, 482, 483, 223, 225, 220, 219, 218, 215, 214, 165, 217, 218 and 212 of village Mardi Tal North Solapur is in Eco Sensitive Zone around the Great Indian Bustard Sanctuary finally declared vide Central Government gazette no S. O. 654 (E), dt. 11/02/2020. Hence this project

			required NBWL and SBWL clearance. This office
10			communicated to User agency and Deputy Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), Pune vide this office letter dt. 16/12/2022, 11/05/2023, 06/07/2023, 14/07/2023, 18/07/2023 and 21/07/2023 but reply for the same is available.
17.	enclosed.	:	Enclosed on page no.
18.			The proposed alignment passing through gut no 478, 480, 481, 482, 483, 223, 225, 220, 219, 218, 215, 214, 165, 217, 218 and 212 of village Mardi Tal North Solapur is in Eco Sensitive Zone around the Great Indian Bustard Sanctuary finally declared vide Central Government gazette no S. O. 654 (E), dt. 11/02/2020. Hence this project required NBWL and SBWL clearance. This office communicated to User agency and Deputy Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), Pune vide this office letter dt. 16/12/2022, 11/05/2023, 06/07/2023, 14/07/2023, 18/07/2023 and 21/07/2023. but clear reply for the same is awaited from user agency and DCF (WL), Pune.  Diverted area near village Mardi is 227 m from GIB sanctuary and possible wildlife habitat but as per FCA 1980 guidelines dt. 28/03/2019 chapter 11.5 "Railway projects passing through the notified ESZ or located within 10 km radius of Pas (Protected areas) or Tiger Reserves (TR) area not required to obtain Wildlife Clearance from the NBWL as these projects do not need Environment Clearance. However, railway projects passing through the areas linking one TR with another PA or TR diversion cannot be allowed for ecologically unsustainable use, except in public interest with the approval of NBWL on the advice of NTCA as provided under section 38 (O) (1) (g) of WLPA 1972".  It is requested to get final node from DCF (WL), Pune regarding wildlife clearance with considering above all facts and recommending/ taking preventive measures to protect wildlife and its habitat near to GIB sanctuary for further necessary action.  At the same time plantation area at Kasabe Solapur is within city limit and near to Railway track, needs protection from encroachment. Hence construction of compound wall at Kasabe Solapur Reserve Forest Sy. No 496 around the forest area is required.

Date:06/07/2023 Place: Solapur (Dhairyashil Patil)
Deputy Conservator of Forest,
Solapur Forest Division, Solapur