

## PART-IV

(To be filled in by the Nodal Officer or Principal Chief Conservator of Forests or Head of Forest department)

17. Detailed opinion and specific recommendation of the State Forest Department for acceptance of otherwise of the proposal with remarks.

(While giving opinion, the adverse comments made by concerned Conservator of Forests or Deputy Conservator of Forests should be categorically reviewed and critically commented upon).

**Proposal No:- FP/AS/Road/44439/2020**

The Forest diversion proposal No. **FP/AS/Road/44439/2020** submitted by National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited for diversion of 27.054 hectares of forest land for up-gradation of National Highway from Pancharatna to Dupdhara falls under Goalpara division.

As per the site Inspection report of the Chief Conservator of Forests, Central Assam Circle (CAC) there are **15477 nos. of standing trees (mainly Sal)** has been surveyed for felling. There is no any tiger Reserve/National Park/Wildlife Sanctuary/Biosphere Reserve falling within the jurisdiction of Goalpara forest division. But **the proposed area is a part of landscape of wildlife habitat and wild Elephants very frequently crossed the National Highway-37 in various points.** The CCF, CAC has suggested that these Elephant corridors are to be kept under flyover, so that there is no loss of Wildlife as well as traffic management can be done without hindrance. He is also suggested that National Highway-37 as a part of maintenance and management of the road, provide necessary assistance like providing CCTV camera, recovery and restored vehicles etc for protection and control of the Elephants.

**Therefore it is also suggested that 3 percent of total project cost be deposited by User Agency (UA) for Human Elephant Conflict mitigation and wildlife management considering it being a part of Wildlife Habitat notably wild Elephant**

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), Assam advised to maintain these Elephant corridors by way of constructing under passes, viaducts (Scientifilly designed as per norms) etc. at already identified locations given by DFO Goalpara as the alignment of the N.H.-37 falls under a plain area from Pancharatna to Dhupdhara .

The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (T), I/c Central Assam Circle stated that the CCF (T), CAC, DFO, Goalpara and NHIDCL officers visited the proposed diversion site to explore any possibility of realignment in an effort to reduce the area of diversion of forest land and further minimize the number of tree felling. However, it was



found that any deviation from the existing alignment will result in felling of more number of trees.

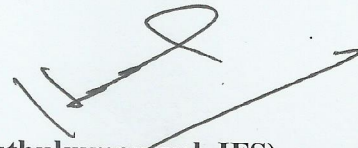
Therefore, he has recommended to keep the existing alignment intact and the widening proposal can be further processed and substantiated the same with following facts :

1. Existing Right of Way (EROW), i.e the width of NH Land is approximately 20m in the stretch between Pancharatna to Dhupdhara (in 6 Civil Work Packages: Pkg-VI to XXI) in Goalpara District. For constructing a 4-lane facility, the land width requirement is 45m. Accordingly, by following the existing alignment, marginal acquisition of land is required as substantial width of land is already available.
2. In the Forest area (Reserved/Proposed), the Proposed Right of Way (PROW) has been restricted to 30m from general PROW requirement of 45m, to further minimize the diversion of forest land to average 10m only. In case realignment is considered, the requirement of revenue/forest land will increase.
3. Nine elephant corridors, as indicated and required by the Forest Department have been catered in the Project.
4. By 4-laning of existing 2-lane alignment, 6Nos. of Black Spots, which are causing fatal accidents on existing 2-lane NH-17, will be improved and obviated, thereby saving precious lives of human beings.

In view of the above mentioned facts and considering the importance in respect of improvement of communication / transportation in the region the proposal is hereby recommended subject to following of above narrated conditions by UA .

Date:- 17/2/2022

Place:--Guwahati



**(Dr. C Muthukumaravel, IFS)**  
Chief Conservator of Forests &  
Nodal Officer (FC Act), Assam  
O/o the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and  
Head of Forest Force, Assam

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