

SITE INSPECTION REPORT NOT BELOW THE RANK OF DCF

(For the forest land to be diverted under FCA, 1980)

A Proposal has been received by this office from National Highways Authority of India PIU Meerut for District Bijnor, Tehsil Najibabad Uttar Pradesh for construction of Najibabad-Kotdwar Section of NH-119 from 2-lane to 2-lane with paved shoulder from existing Chainage 120+900 to 138+635 (Design Chainage 120+900 to 137+760) under **Bharatmala Pariyojana** for diversion of **27.33 ha** forest land for non forestry purposes under section 2 of FCA-1980. The project envisages the use of forest land for construction of Najibabad-Kotdwar Section of NH-119 from 2-lane to 2-lane with paved shoulder from existing chainage 120+900 to 138+635 (Design Chainage 120+900 to 137+760). The site inspection of the land involved in the proposal has done by undersignee on dated 30.05.2022.

On inspection of the site, it is found that the land required by the user agency is a ~~RF/Unleased~~/Protected Forest measuring about 27.33 ha but the major part of the road is passing through the reserved forest where there is frequent movement of wild animals especially elephants. Moreover, this area is a functional corridor for elephants and also a part of notified Elephant Reserve.

The requirement of forest land as proposed by the user agency is unavoidable, if the project is to be considered as such but for the conservation of forest and wildlife the project should be modified as Development of Najibabad-Kotdwar section NH-119 from 2-lane to 2-lane with pave shoulder from Chainage 120+900 to 128+900 and only maintenance of existing 2-lane without development of pave shoulder in reserved forest area from Chainage 128+900 to 137+700, thus protecting not only wildlife habitat but also saving more than 4000 trees and many more flora to be cut in this project.

Whether any rare/endangered/unique species of flora and fauna found in the area- (Yes)

The reserved forest from where the proposed road passes is functional corridor for elephants and part of notified Elephant Reserve. The movement of leopards along with other wild animals is common in this area as the area is very good habitat for wild animals specially elephants.

Whether any protected archaeological/heritage site/defense establishment or any other important monument located in the area, if so the details there of with NOC from competent authority- (No)

(A) The user agency has not violated the provisions of Forest (conservation) Act, 1980 and no work has been started without prior sanction- (Yes).

(B) It has been found that the user agency has violated the Forest (conservation) Act, 1980, provisions. Detailed report as per para 1.9 of chapter 1, para C of Handbook of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is attached.- (No)

Specific recommendations for acceptance or otherwise of the proposals- Since there is no alternate route hence, the project is recommended for Development of Najibabad-Kotdwar section NH-119 from 2-lane to 2-lane with pave shoulder from Chainage 120+900 to 137+600 with following conditions :-

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Constructions of rumbling stripes at regular intervals and putting up caution boards related to speed limit and wildlife protection at specific locations to benefit both people and wildlife and also establishment of patrolling camps at specific locations inside forest, construction of underpass for movement of wild animals, providing a vehicle for patrolling etc. as discussed during the meeting headed by C.F. Moradabad on 28.06.2022.

N.B. x- Stage the purpose for which the fore land is proposed to be diverted.

xx- Out of (a) and (b) tick the option which is applicable and cross the option which is not applicable.

As per letter number 2-2/2000 FC dated 16-10-2000 from ministry of Environment & Forest, Govt. of India for the proposal involving less than 40 hectares of forest land, the Site Inspection Report from DCF is required and for proposal involving more than 40 hectares of forest land site inspection report from the Conservator of Forest is required.

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(Dr. Anil Kumar Patel)
Divisional Director,
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