



**GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
ROADS AND BRIDGES DEPARTMENT
GANGTOK.**

No: 03/PCE/KAB/15-16/MSC)39.

Date: 22/02/16

To,

The Nodal Officer-cum-CCF (FCA),
Forest, Env. & Wildlife Management Department,
Government of Sikkim, Gangtok

Subject: Construction of road from Sopakha to Chewabhanjiang via Jorebotay in West Sikkim.

Sir,

The Department of Roads and Bridges Department has proposed to construct road from Sopakha to Chewabanjynag in West Sikkim. The total distance of road is 18.30 km. The fund for the proposed project is provided under Boarder Road Area Development (BARDP). The total fund sanctioned is Rs. 30, 00 Crores.

The details of purpose total land required and involved for proposed road construction are as follows:

(a). Reserved Forest/KBR:	8.63 km or 14.24 Ha.
(b). Wildlife Sanctuary:	5.82 km or 9.58 Ha.
(c). Muck Dumping yard(RF)	<u>2.00 Ha</u>
	Total = 25.82 Ha
(d). Private Land:	5.42 km or 8.94 Ha.

The basic objectives of the proposed construction of road from Sopakha Village to Chewabhanjyang passing through the Barsey Rhododendron Sanctuary are to provide road connectivity to the Indo-Nepal border at Chewabhajyang in West Sikkim. The road would be a life line for mobility of the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) & the Sikkim Armed Police (SAP) for international security. These security personnel's have been posted to secure these areas from intruders from Nepal and other nearby country like Bangladesh through West Bengal. Besides, that the illicit collection and inter-State mobility of valuable animal & medicinal products, being the area is boon for natural resources are checked and control by constant surveillance and patrolling by wildlife and forest officials with active participation of members of the Eco-development Committees and to provide viable source of transportation for essential commodities arms & ammunition required by SSB, SAP and wildlife & forest officials and also to ensure effective management system for conservation of Wildlife, Environment & Ecology.

In this respect, the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL), Ministry of Environment & Forest & Climate Change, (MoEF&CC), *Government of India has conveyed approval and recommendation to the State Government at its Letter No. F.No-6-47/2014-WL. (31st Meeting) dated 03.12.2014 decided in its meeting held on 12-13th August, 2014* for the purposed road construction.

The proposed land involved covering an area of 9.58 Ha in question is passing through Barsey Rhododendron Sanctuary (BRS) in West Sikkim. Necessary clearance and recommendation of State Board for Wildlife (SBWL) and Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife (NBWL), Ministry of Environment & Forests, and Government of India has been sought. Copies enclosed for ready references. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has disposed off the case and issued Judgment & Order on 05.10.2015. Copy enclosed for ready reference.

The Technical Report and the Joint Inspection Report are attached and details been worked out in the **Form "A" Part-I**.

Hence, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India (GoI) is requested to consider the proposal for diversion of forest land covering an area of 25.82 Ha (PAs 9.58+ RF 16.24) from Barsey Rhododendron Sanctuary & Reserve Forest since it is a genuine problem being faced by the SSB, SAP State Forest Department & general public of the State of Sikkim linking the road network to the strategically important area facing International boundaries between Nepal & Sikkim (India) to ensure peace and security in the International border and to check illegal trade of valuable wildlife and herbal products.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

Secretary,

Principal Chief Engineer-cum-Secretary
Roads & Bridges Department
Government of Sikkim
Gangtok, East Sikkim