

SITE INSPECTION REPORT NOT BELOW THE RANK OF DCF
(For the forest land to be diverted under FCA)

A proposal has been received by this office from National Highways Authority of India for diversion under FCA-1980 of 65.495 Hectares of Protected Forest land for non-forest purpose. The project envisages the Diversion of Protected Forest Land for Rehabilitation and Up-gradation to 4 lane with paved shoulders configuration from Bhadwas to Kalyanpur section (Km 186 to Km 229.000) Package-II section of National Highway-91 in Etah District. The site inspection of the land in proposal has been done by me on dated: 02-10-2017

On inspection of the site, it is found that the land required by the user agency is Protected Forest measuring 65.495 Hectare.

The requirement of forest land as proposed by the User Agency on col.2 of part ii is unavoidable and is the barest minimum required for the project.

Whether any rare/endangered/unique species of flora and fauna in the area. If so the details there of...NIL

Whether any protected archeological/heritage site/defense establishment or any other important monument is located in the area. If so therefore with NOC from competent authority If required. NIL

- a) The user agency has not violated the provision of Forest Conservation Act, 1980 and no work has been started without proper sanction. Agency has not violated any provision of the Forest Conservation Act.

Specific recommendation for acceptance or otherwise of the proposal.

The cutting of 4940 trees for the execution of this project may in all probability change the "micro-climate" of the villages surrounding the NH- 91 in particular and Etah district in general which is further accentuated by the fact that the degraded forest land identified for compensatory afforestation was not available in Etah district but have got available in Firozabad District. This project is also connected to the construction of "bypasses" in non forest land which would also involve cutting of trees in non forest revenue land which will further deteriorate the microclimate of the region

Undersigned is of the view that the tree cutting should be avoided and the transplantation of the trees especially 201 ficus trees should be compulsorily resorted to if we really want to preserve the "microclimate" of the nearby villages in particular and Etah district in general. Moreover the bypasses in non forest revenue land should be properly afforested.

This sensitivity of the microclimate vis a vis tree cutting is further enhanced by the fact that there is proposed cutting of 2435 trees in another forest clearance proposal no FP/UP/Road/21109/2016 which pertains to the widening of Etah Kasganj Road in Etah district for which the Regional Empowered Committee has given the approval subject to FRA certificate. In this project also the site for compensatory afforestation is outside Etah District that is in Agra and Hathras District.

Another fact which adds to the concern of the above possible deteriorating microclimate of the region is that Etah district has one range Jalesar which forms a part of Taj Trapezium Zone and TTZ boundary would be not more than 40 kms aerially from the NH 91.

The cost benefit analysis of the project shows a cost benefit ratio of "meager 2.09" which is further dependent on two "uncertain" outcomes –first, the benefit accruing to the economy as given in serial no- 05 of cost benefit analysis and second, the possibility of the success of compensatory afforestation over degraded forest land of 130.99 hectares in firozabad district with 80 percent survival ,which in the view of the undersigned is "too optimistic".

Hence the project is recommended in public interest subject to proper Environmental Impact Assessment/scrutiny.


(A.K.Kashyap)

Divisional Director
Social Forestry Division
Etah

N.B. X State the purpose for which the forest 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 & forests. Government of India for proposal involving less than 40 hectare of forest land. The Site inspection report form DFC is required and for proposal involving more than 42 Hectare of forest land site inspection report form the conservation of forest is required.