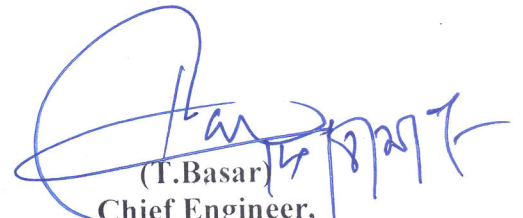


## STATEMENT OF THE CASE

### **PROPOSAL FOR SEEKING FOREST CLEARANCE FOR IMPROVEMENT/UP GRADATION OF NATIONAL HIGHWAY (NH: 315A) TO DOUBLE LANE NH STANDARD FROM HUKANJURI TO KHONSA (CHAINAGE: 0.00 KM – 35.00 KM) (FOREST AREA: CHAINAGE 0.00 KM TO 11.973 KM)**

1. The proposed 2-lane National Highway from HUKANJURI to KHONSA is a part of National Highway 315A declared by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) New Delhi, Govt. of India Vide Notification No.S.O.816(E) Dtd.22/03/2013.
2. The Highway will connect the District Headquarters of Tirap i.e Khonsa and further connect Longding and Changlang through NH 215 covering distance of 139Km. The eastern part of Arunachal Pradesh comprises the four districts of Lohit, Changlang and Tirap and Longding. Khonsa is connected to Tinsukia in Assam through a network of roads in Arunachal Pradesh and Assam, which are single laned roads under State Plan of the State Government. On its up gradation to double standard NH configuration, this road will provide inter-district connectivity within the state, thus obviating the need to travel to the State Capital through "bandh" afflicted Assam.
3. The existing road from Tinsukia in Assam to Khonsa in Arunachal Pradesh is of single lane configuration and is in a dilapidated condition. On declaration of this road as a National Highway (i.e NH 315A), it is proposed to be upgraded to NH Double Lane Standards. In Arunachal Pradesh, the road originates at Hukanjuri, which is the checkpoint on the Arunachal – Assam inter-state border and terminates on NH 215 at Khonsa.
4. The current proposal for seeking Forest Clearance is for the part of the Hukanjuri - Khonsa Road falling in Tirap District under Deomali Forest Division for a length of 11.973 Km. The balance length of this road segment i.e  $35.00 - 11.973 = 23.027$  Km is non-forest land with agricultural, horticultural lands and rural and urban habitations. The Highway shall be designed as a 2-lane National Highway, with a carriageway width of 7.00 metres and a formation width of 12.00 metres. As per latest instruction of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Government of India, New Delhi, who is the funding agency of the National Highway programme in the State, the Right of Way (ROW) for this 2-lane road shall be 24.00 metres in open areas and 20.00 metres in built-up areas. The existing road was constructed as a Single -laned Road prior to 1980, the year when the Forest Conservation Act was enacted. There is an existing ROW of 9metres on this road. **The additional acquisition of Forest Land for double laning purpose shall therefore be 24-15 i.e 9metres** for widening of the existing road length of 11.973 Km.
5. The road passes through partly forest land and hence the proposal has been necessitated. A land corridor of 15m width is proposed to be acquired along the existing road and similarly, a corridor of 24 metres is proposed to be acquired in the new widening portion of the Project Road.

6. The project has a strategic importance and is related to development of road infrastructure in the State of Arunachal Pradesh. This road is used by the security forces to enforce law and order in Tirap district. It will also immensely boost the socioeconomic status of the people of the State with new vistas of employment generation.
7. The proposal has been prepared as per revised Forest (Conservation) Rule 2003 under Forest (Conservation) Act 1980 for obtaining Forest Clearance from the government of India.
8. In view of the importance of the Project, it is requested to accord Forest Clearance to the length of 11.973 Km at an early date.

  
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