

JUSTIFICATION FOR LOCATING THE PROJECT IN FOREST AREA

The project of construction of 3rd & 4th line between Budhapank to Salegaon has been sanctioned in the year 2015-16. Budhapank is a junction station near Talcher in the Sambalpur-Angul-Cuttack section of Khurda Division located at a distance of 98.133 Km. Cuttack via Nergundi. Salegaon station is located at a distance of 13.25 Km. from Cuttack.

The existing railway line is catering to the originating traffic from the Mahanadi Coal Field to Paradip and Vishakhapatnam ports and siding traffic originating from / going to the several Power Plants and other coal based industries located in the Cuttack -Talcher- Jharsuguda area which are connecting to its existing railway station. The section between Budhapank and Salegaon is having doubling and handling more than 50 coal loaded wagons everyday from Mahanadi Coal Field in addition to traffic originating from/to the siding and as such is operating more than 100% section capacity. To ease the traffic congestion and to augment the section capacity to cater to the enhanced Coal production by Mahanadi Coal Field, 3rd & 4th line construction Project was sanctioned.

The alternative alignment survey is not possible because its being a 3rd & 4th line project which has to definitely follow the 1st & 2nd line corridor to have synchronization with the existing infrastructure and signalling system. The power plants/other industrial infrastructure are connected to the existing network by different siding which has to be served by augmenting the exiting capacity by constructing the 3rd & 4th line for which it has to run parallel to the existing network and has to be integrated to the existing network system. As railway line is to be laid in a certain ruling gradient, these bare minimum forest land involvements are unavoidable. Also, the proposed 3rd and 4th line is essentially required to cater to the increased coal production of Mahanadi Coal Field and facilitating coal evacuation and cater to the needs of a number of Thermal Power Plants in India. This line is also carrying imported cooking coal from Paradip port to the sponge iron and iron plants located Angul-Sambalpur-Jharsuguda Belt. These two lines will also cater to the projected iron ore traffic from the Bimalagarh-Kiriburu-Malangotoli iron ore mines belt in North Odisha to Paradip Port. Also, it will serve for faster movement of passenger traffic in this route. The gross cost of the project will be Rs.1172.92 Cr. and Projected ROR will be 21.31%.

In view of the above, construction of two more lines between Budhapank and Salegaon in this mineral rich and industrialized region is essentially required to meet the demand of ever increasing traffic required for fast paced industrial development of the area as well as the nation.

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