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JUSTIFICATION FOR LOCATING PROJECT IN FOREST AREA

The existing road Palasdev- Malwadi- Bhawdi- Varkute to Karewadi to Kalthan No. 1 MDR 171 connects Palasdev at NH 65 with villages Malwadi, Bhawdi, Varkute, Karewadi & Kalthan located at backwaters of Ujani Reservoir. The workers in Sugar Factory at Bijawadi are residing mostly in these villages. The road also connects Industrial Estate at Loni.

The entire MDR 171 road is metaled, except 470.9 m. long stretch from Chainage Km. 5/829 to Km. 6/300, which is passing through a patch of Forest Land. The vehicles are using this existing kaccha thoroughfare through Forest Land to reach adjoining villages. The road is also used by the farmers of surrounding villages for transporting their Agricultural Produce. A need has always been felt for improvement (Black topping) of the forest part of the road to ensure safety of vehicles transporting the passengers / goods and of the workers/ farmers/ bye passers.

The extant road has been included in the Road Development Plan 2001-2021 of the Maharashtra State. The Government of Maharashtra has accorded Administrative Approval for the project of improvement of the extant road. The project is also technically sanctioned by the Chief Engineer, PWD, Pune.

Since, the proposed work is to be carried out in the patch of Forest Land, the project attracts provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The project requires Forest Clearance i. e. prior approval under Section 2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 from the Central Government. The

part of Forest Land admeasuring 0.37672 Ha. is required to be diverted to enable connect the entire stretch of the existing road MDR 171 and put it to its optimal use.

The project involves improvement (Black topping) to only the kaccha part of the existing road which is passing through the Forest land. Hence, no alternative can be substituted for the existing alignment. The project is, therefore, the site specific. The Forest Land proposed for diversion is, thus, unavoidable. The barest minimum Forest Land, to the extent of 0.37672 Ha., is required/ proposed for the project.

Date: 14/10/2021

Place: Indapur

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