


**Justification for locating the project in forest area:**

The work of final location survey was entrusted to M/s. RITES, Bhubaneswar. Survey was carried out for the 3 alternative routes. Route No.1 covers less forest area (4.200 km. length of ARJUNPUR RF, BAHIRKHAMAN RF, AND CHHAN CHHANDUNGRI RF) and does not involve displacement of people and approved by M/s. RITES. Route No-2 it involves more forest area (5.112 km length of ARJUNPUR RF, BAHIRKHAMAN RF AND CHHAN CHHANDUNGRI RF), and passes through a number of thickly populated villages and towns etc. Route No.3 chosen is in steep gradient which will not suitable for Railway purpose and moreover it covers more forest area(4.848 km length of NARGHANTA RF AND KANKANDUNGRI RF) After careful study of the above three routes Route No.1 is selected as it is economical and covers less forest area. After finalization of alignment, the same was discussed at the level of transport secretary, chief secretary in the State Government. The State Government had approved the proposed alignment. The alignment now finalized is the best possible alignment with less forest area required to be disturbed.

This will provide an alternative mode of communication for the general public of Orissa to travel from Khurda to Bolangir. Presently only one mode of communication is available that is road service. But this Railway line will provide an alternative method of communication by connecting some of the remote areas which are even not connection by road. Old citizens and patients in particular would like to prefer traveling by rail to road.

This Line will play a vital role in improvement of transport infrastructure paving the way to industrial development of this economically backward area. Cargo facilities will be augmented and will relieve the pressure on road traffic. This will also help to develop social ties between six districts viz. Puri, Khurda, Nayagarh, Boudh, Sonapur & Bolangir. It will also enhance the socio-economic conditions of these districts. During the course of construction of the project, it will render employment opportunities to the people of the relevant districts through which the alignment will pass.


  
23/10/12  
Dy. Chief Engineer (Con)  
East Coast Railway, Bolangir.  
उप मुख्य अभियन्ता (निर्माण)  
पूर्व तट रेलवे, बलांगिरि  
Dy. Chief Engineer (Con)  
E.Co.Rly., Bolangir

**Short narrative of the proposal and project/ scheme for which the forest land is required. :-**

The Indian Railways have taken up a project of construction of a new B. G. line having an approximate length of 289 km. connecting Khurda Road station on Howrah-Chennai main line to Bolangir situated on Titlagarh-Sambalpur-Jharsuguda branch line.

The line falls entirely in Orissa state and will traverse through six districts of Orissa viz., Puri, Khurda, Nayagarh, Boudh, Sonapur and Bolangir. It will connect the coastal Orissa with Western Orissa leading to emotional and cultural integration of both the parts. Moreover it will reduce the distance to new Delhi, Mumbai and Western India by 140 Km. from Bhubaneswar and Puri, the state capital and cultural capital of Orissa respectively.

The Industrial and economic growth of the area under which this line falls has not progressed due to poor transport facilities. A large number of schedule tribe inhabit this area who nearly live beyond the pale of civilization and probably may not have seen a train yet. There being no major industries, the area is industrially backward. However, there are a number of medium and small scale as well as cottage industries which could prosper with the commissioning of the line. Granite, Graphite, Quartz, Limestone etc. are available in large quantities in the region and efforts are on to exploit the mineral resources in a big way. The line on being commissioned could give further impetus for growth and modernization. An ordinance factory is established at Badmal in Bolangir district and a sugar mill is available at Nayagarh.

  
23/10/13  
Dy. Chief Engineer (Con)  
East Coast railway, Bolangir  
उप मुख्य अभियन्ता (निर्माण)  
पूर्व तट रेलवे, बलांगिरि  
Dy. Chief Engineer (Con)  
E.Co.Rly., Bolangir