

Justification for locating the project in Forest Land in connection with the work of "Doubling between Hatia & Bondamunda Railway Line"

The work of "Doubling between Hatia & Bondamunda" has been sanctioned by the Railway Board vide P.B. Item No. 32 of 15-16. DPR of the work costing Rs 1724.20 crore, chargeable to Capital Fund has been sanctioned by Railway Board on 31.03.2016.

Advantages:

The section between Hatia to Bondamunda is extremely important for movement of coaching trains from Ranchi to Central, Western and Southern India and vice-versa; and also for movement of Raw materials as well as Finished Steel to and from Bokaro and Rourkela Steel Plants.

At present, the section is oversaturated (line capacity utilization is more than 150%) and there is no scope to run additional trains. The oversaturation also causes detention of the existing traffic. The doubling of the line will solve these problems.

On the front of Freight movement, the double line is primarily required to cater the transportation requirement arising out of Expansion of **Bokaro Steel Plant** from present level of 4.8 MTPA and 10 MTPA. Besides, the project will also move the additional traffic in connection with the expansion of **Rourkela Steel Plant** from its 3.3 MTPA level.

Justification for locating the project in Forest Land

Hatia - Bondamunda doubling project is a site-specific project. No alternate route can be taken because it is to double the specific & existing single line. Therefore, the alignment of the double line is coming in parallel to the existing track throughout the section. Hence, the new double line track will pass through all the features through which the existing track is passing-including the forest patches. As can be seen from the topographical map for the location (copy enclosed), it is not possible to by-pass the forest patch for laying the new track.

Therefore, it is proposed to divert 76,477 Ha. Forest land for non-forest purpose at the said locations.

Ram Pratap Meena
Ram Pratap Meena
 Dy. Chief Engineer (Con.-I)
 S.E. Railway, Ranchi

Ram Pratap Meena
Ram Pratap Meena
 Deputy Chief Engineer (Con)-I
 South Eastern Railway, Ranchi

Prawesh Agrawal
PRAWESH AGRAWAL
 Divisional Forest Officer
 Simdega Forest Division