

**Project Name:** Construction of 4/6 Laning of Arrah-Sasaram-Patna Road section of NH-119A from Km 0+000 to Km 40+450 under Bharatmala Pariyojana (Lot-7/Package-2) in the State of Bihar (Package-I)

**Forest Proposal No.:** FP/BR/ROAD/157376/2022

## **CHECK LIST SERIAL NUMBER – 10**

### **JUSTIFICATION** **FOR LOCATING THE PROJECT IN PROTECTED FOREST AREA**

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), Government of India has proposed “Bharatmala Pariyojana” an Umbrella scheme of road development project through National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), National Highway, Industrial Development Corporation Ltd (NHIDCL) and State Public Works Departments (PWD). This project aims to improve connectivity particularly on economic corridors, border areas and to remote areas with an aim of rapid and safe movement of cargo to boost exports.


The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has been entrusted with the work of Preparation of Detailed Project Report for Construction of 4/6 Laning of Arrah-Sasaram-Patna Road section of NH-119A from Km 0+000 (Saura) to Km 40+450 (Sakla) under Bharatmala Pariyojana (Lot-7/Package-2) in the State of Bihar (Package-I).

Project stretch falls in the state of Bihar. Bihar is in eastern India. It is contiguous with Uttar Pradesh to its west, Nepal to the north, the northern part of West Bengal to the east, and with Jharkhand to the south. Bihar covers a total area of 94,163 Km<sup>2</sup>, with an average elevation above sea level of 53 m. It is dominated by a vast stretch of fertile plain which is divided unevenly by the Ganges River. Central parts of Bihar have some small hills, such as the Rajgir hills. Bihar has reserved Forest area of 6,845 Km<sup>2</sup>, which is 7.27% of its geographical area. The State has 26 nos. of National Highways with aggregate length 5301 Kms.

Arrah-Sasaram-Patna Road section of NH-119A (Package-I) starting Ch. 00+000 is Saura and terminates at Ch. 40+450 near Sakla. The length of project road is 40.450 Km. This is a completely new Green Field Alignment, mainly passes through Plain terrain and shall be constructed as 4/6-Lane with Paved shoulder configuration. The Proposed ROW of this section is taken as 45 m in which all the configurations shall be fitted with.

The proposed road would act as the prime artery for the economic flow to this region. It will enhance economic development, provide employment opportunities to locals,



  
**Project Director**  
National Highways Authority of India  
Project Implementation Unit  
PATNA

strengthen tourist development, ensure road safety, provide better transportation facilities and other facilities such as way side amenities etc. Vehicles operating cost will also be reduced due to improved road quality.

Sufficient care has been taken during the design stage to avoid acquisition of forest land located along the project road. No Forest land identified along the proposed alignment, however at some locations (crossings point of roads/canal/drain/river bund etc.), the proposed project falls in notified protected forest land declared for management purposes and diversion of protected forest land is unavoidable and barest minimum i. e. 4.22 Ha.



  
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**Signature of User Agency**