

#### **(iv) Justification for locating the project in forest area**

As per the Meghalaya State Forest Report, 2009 released by the Forest Survey of India, more than 77% of the land area of Meghalaya falls in the category of forest. As per the Hon'ble Supreme Court order dated 12.12.1996, most of the area on the basis of vegetation density comes under the category of deemed forest land. Under this situation the industries to be setup in the State outside the industrial parks will have to be necessarily located in the deemed forest area.

The Central Government in the year 1997 declared the North-Eastern Industrial Investment Promotion Policy which was further reviewed in 2007. Its main thrust is to encourage industries in rural areas and more so the mineral based industries. Since the applicant has already acquired the necessary environment clearance under EIA Notification, 2006 to set up an integrated cement Plant of 2615 TPD capacity at village Musianglamare (Old) in East Jaintia Hill district. Since, the Goldstone Cement Limited is in process in installation of Plant with all necessary statutory approval and the land already been utilized by purchasing from the private individual. After construction of the road in 2011, Joint committee in 2012-13 considered 4.578 ha of land as deemed forest land which was proposed to be used as approach road to the Plant from NH-44. At present we are using the PWD Umlong road to enter our Plant. Pending approval of diversion of approach road for non-forest activity the 4.578 ha area has not been utilized by the Company. In view of this since all the activities are completed for smooth implementation of cement plant an area of 4.578 ha for approach road area and green belt development may be granted for non forest activity.