

**GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA
FORESTS & ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**

No. FOR.40/2012/72

Dated: Shillong, the 15th September, 2015.

From : Smti. A. Nihla, MCS,
Deputy Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya,
Forests & Environment Department

To  The Chief Conservator of Forests (C),
Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change,
Government of India,
North Eastern Regional Office,
Law- U-Sib, Near MTC Workshop,
Lumbatngen, Shillong – 793021.

Sub : Diversion of **4.869** hectares of Forest Land for widening/improvement of the Two Laning with paved shoulder from Jowai, Meghalaya to Ratacherra, Assam.-Meghalaya Border.

Sir,

I am directed to send herewith a proposal received from the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HOFF, Meghalaya, for diversion of **4.869** ha. of forest land for widening/improvement of the Two Laning with paved shoulder from Jowai, Meghalaya to Ratacherra, Assam-Meghalaya Border Section of NH-44 from Km. 69.200 to Km 173.200 in the State of Meghalaya by the Project Director, National Highway Authority of India, seeking approval for diversion of the said forest land under Section – 2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

1. Brief Description:

1. Two Laning with paved shoulder from Jowai, Meghalaya to Ratacherra, Assam-Meghalaya Border Section of NH-44 from Km 69.200 to Km 173.200 in the State of Meghalaya.
2. Total area of land required = **4.869 ha.**
3. Total cost of the project = **₹657.99 Crores.**

2. Details of forest land proposed for diversion:

The total land involved in the project is **4.869 ha.** The forest land proposed for diversion is the unclassed forest under the control of the Jaintia Hills Autonomous District Council, Jowai.

3. Maps enclosed:

A) The user agency has furnished the following maps duly countersigned by the Divisional Forest Officer:

- (i) Index Map – **Annexure-XXIX.**
- (ii) GPS Map – **Annexure- XXXII.**

(iii) Topo sheet No.(s) of the Survey of India of the proposed diversion area (scale 1:50,000) Topo sheet No.78N° /16. **Annexure XXVIII.**

B) Georeference Map prepared by the office of the Divisional Forest Officer, Jaintia Hills Territorial Division, Jowai showing the proposed site for Compensatory Afforestation, CA on double the area of degraded forest land at Jongria Beat under Saipung Reserve Forest as the User Agency is a Public Sector Undertaking of the Central Government.

Degraded forests - **Annexure-XVIII.**

Total forest area involved - **4.869 ha.**

Specify whether forest land of other States is being affected; Vividly describe justification for locating project in forest areas/alternatives examined;

The Project is within the State and no area of another State is affected. The location of the Project in a forest land is justified as other alternatives are not feasible.

4. Assessment of forest stock:

The forest area is situated in the Jaintia Hills (Territorial) Division of the State. The proposed Project shall affect 1025 trees. The details of species-wise and diameter class wise enumeration of trees have been enclosed as Annexure-XVI. The ruling crown density is 70% consisting of very dense mixed tropical evergreen/semi-evergreen Forest.

5. Flora and Fauna and archaeological importance:

The area proposed to be diverted is part of the unclassified Forest under the control of the Jaintia Hills Autonomous District Council, Jowai and does not form part of the Narpuh Wildlife Sanctuary. No floral or faunal survey has been conducted to determine availability of endangered flora or fauna. Moreover, the area does not bear any importance from the archaeological/heritage/defence establishment point of view.

6. Compensatory Afforestation:

The area of forest land to be diverted for the above project is **4.869 ha.** Degraded forest land, double the forest area to be diverted has been identified under Jongria Forest Beat in Saipung Reserved Forest, East Jaintia Hills District, Meghalaya and selected for the purpose of Compensatory Afforestation. The details are as follows:-

Forest land identified for Compensatory Afforestation:

East Jaintia Hills District	Jaintia Hills (T) Division	Saipung Range	Saipung Block	9.738 Ha	
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The User Agency has furnished an undertaking to deposit the amount for the compensatory afforestation scheme after Stage-I clearance is granted - **Annexure-XI.**

7. Displacement of human population:

No human population will be displaced as a result of implementation of the project.

8. Environment clearance:

Environmental clearance has been obtained by the User Agency.

Environmental Clearance letter-File No.10-35/2012-IA-III, dated 21st March, 2013.

Annexure-XIV.

9. Cost-benefit analysis:

The cost benefit analysis is not applicable since the forest land proposed to be diverted is less than 5 ha in the case of hilly areas.

10. Violation of Forest Conservation Act/Indian Forest Act:

No violation has been committed under the Forest (Conservation) Act or the Indian Forest Act.

11. Recommendation of the State Government:

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF has recommended the proposal. No Assessment Officer has given any adverse comments on the proposal and it has been suitably commented upon by senior officers.

Details of benefits likely to accrue:

1. Reducing traffic congestion on the highway.
2. Improving riding quality/speed.

I therefore, request you to kindly convey the approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Govt. of India under Section 2(ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of the forest land in question in favour of the G.M - Cum - Project Director, N.H.A.I., P.I.U., Lower Lachumiere, Near Supdt. Engineer (Roads) 3rd Floor,PWD, Shillong.

Yours faithfully,


Deputy Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya
Forests & Environment Department

Memo No. FOR.40/2012/ 72-A

Dated Shillong, the 15th September, 2015.

Copy forwarded to:-

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Meghalaya, Shillong.
2. The Conservator of Forests (Territorial), Khasi & Jaintia Hills, Meghalaya, Shillong.
3. The Divisional Forest Officer (Territorial), Jaintia Hills, Jowai.
4. The G.M. Cum Project Director, N.H.A.I., P.I.U., Lower Lachumiere, Near Supdt. Engineer (Roads) 3rd Floor,PWD, Shillong.

By order etc.,

Deputy Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya
Forests & Environment Department