

Government of Maharashtra

No.FLD-2224/C.R.254/F-10

Revenue and Forest Department,
Mantralaya, Mumbai - 400 032.

Dated:- 16.12.2024

To,
Deputy Director General of Forests (Central),
Regional Office, MoEF&CC,
Government of India,
Civil Lines, Nagpur.

Subject: Forest Land – Solapur & Dharashiv

Diversion of 4.5092 ha. forest land for proposed Greenfield Railway line between Solapur-Tuljapur-Dharashiv (Total length of 84.439 Km) passing through Solapur and Dharashiv District in the State of Maharashtra (FP/MH/RAIL/155198/2022)

The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Maharashtra State, Nagpur, has submitted proposal for diversion of 4.5092 ha. forest land for proposed Greenfield Railway line between Solapur-Tuljapur- Dharashiv (Total length of 84.439 Km) passing through Solapur and Dharashiv District in the State of Maharashtra.

The details of forest land proposed for diversion are as under:-

Sr. No	Item work purpose	District	Name of Village	Taluka	Surv ey/ Gut No.	Length x Width	Area (in ha.)	Legal Status	
1	Proposal proposed Greenfield Railway line between Solapur-Tuljapur-Dharashiv (Total length of 84.439 Km) passing through Solapur and Dharashiv District in the State of Maharashtra	Solapur	Kasabe Solapur	North Solapur	496	265.15 x 18.77	0.4977	Reserved Forest	
					496	272.32 x 15.80	0.4303		
2			Mardi		165	405.30 x 40.00	1.6212	Reserved Forest	
					216	37 x 52.53	0.1945		
					217	186 x 33.59	0.6248		
(A) Total Area in Solapur Forest Division						3.3685			
3		Dharashiv	Tuljapur Rular	Tuljapur	44	137.22 x 68	0.9331	Reserved Forest	
4	Sangavi Mardi		211		69.20 x 30	0.2076			
(B) Total Area in Dharashiv Forest Division							1.1407		
Grand Total (A)+ (B)							4.5092		

2. The User Agency has submitted the following justification of the project:-

In absence of direct rail connection between Solapur-Tuljapur-Dharashiv, at present the travel mode through railway from Solapur to Dharashiv is via Kurduwadi which is 153 Km long. Accordingly, a new broad gauge railway line proposed from Solapur-Tuljapur-Dharashiv will shorten this distance by 69 km. This new proposed line would be passing through the district of Solapur & Dharashiv, administrative districts in the Marathwada region of the State of Maharashtra in India. Central Railway (CR), Solapur Division (Construction) is the implementing agency for this project. The newly proposed greenfield Railway alignment starts at Ch.0+000 at Solapur town, North Solapur Taluka in Solapur District to Ch. 82+600 at Shingoli Village, Dharashiv Taluka in Dharashiv District of Maharashtra State of length 82.6 km passes through Khed, Mardi, Tamalwadi, Malumbra, Raikhed, Tuljapur, Wadgaon, Sanjha and other important towns in North Solapur, Tuljapur and Dharashiv Talukas.

The project alignment has been selected out of many alternatives studied by the experts based on various decision parameters. Each parameters and their indicators were evaluated based on different weights assigned to each alternative option. The comprehensive comparison analysis of all the alternatives pertaining to the section was done as per each parameter and their indicators for preparation of decision matrix. The alignment that scored the highest has been selected as the final one. Wherever possible non forest land has been used as a result of which the forest land requirement is minimum and barely essential. In line of above reasons, it can be concluded that the portion of the proposed alignment passing through 3.3685 ha. and 1.1407 ha. of forest land in Solapur and Dharashiv cannot be located on any non-forest land; therefore, involves diversion of this forest land under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for non forestry purpose. Since the proposed forest land cannot be located elsewhere, the project location is site specific and as such the proposed diversion requirement of 4.5092 ha. is minimum and fully justified.

3. The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Solapur Forest Division, Solapur and Divisional Forest Officer, Dharashiv Forest Division, Dharashiv Unit have certified that:-

- 3.1) There is no other suitable alternative non forest land available other than the proposed forest land that can be used for the purpose and the demand for diversion is barest minimum.
- 3.2) The area belongs to Eco-value class-III, having density is below 0.4 (Open Forest)

- 3.3) The project involves felling of 13851 trees of various species. The Girth wise break up is as under.

Solapur Forest Division (Tree Girth in cm)											
00-30 cm	31-60 cm	61-90 cm	91-120 cm	121-150 cm	Above 150 cm	Total					
13573	56	49	4	5	0	13687					
Dharashiv Forest Division (Tree Girth in cm)											
00-15 cm	16-30 cm	31-45 cm	46-60 cm	61-75 cm	76-90 cm	91-105 cm	106-120 cm	121-135 cm	136 - 150cm	Above 150 cm	Total
35	42	26	36	18	3	3	1	0	0	0	164

- 3.4) Proposed project is not likely to affect any monument site of cultural, historical, religious, archeological or recreational importance and/or Defense.
- 3.5) (i) The proposed area is not included in area of any Wildlife Sanctuary/National Park/Nature Reserve. It is located at aerial distance of 227 m from Core boundary and falling within Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) of the Great Indian Bustard Wildlife Sanctuary.
- (ii) The proposed area is not included in area of any Wildlife Sanctuary/Protected Area/National Park/Nature Reserve in Dharashiv Forest Division (Part-II, P/103)
- 3.6) There is no violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
- 3.7) (i) The proposed project is falling within Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) and at a radial distance of 227 m from core boundary of the Great Indian Bustard Wildlife Sanctuary.
- (ii) Proposed project is within 10 Km distance of Yedshi Ramling Ghat Wildlife Sanctuary (6.158 Km aerial distance) and 5.479 Km aerial distance from Gangewadi Wildlife Sanctuary.
- 3.8) The non-forest area covered under the project is not under the provision of Maharashtra Private Forest (Acquisition) Act 1975 by virtue of application of Section 35 of Indian Forest Act 1927 and are not recognized as deemed reserved forest as well as not included in the area identified as "forest" as per dictionary meaning of forest as intimated to the expert committee appointed under interim judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 12/12/1996.
- 3.9) The Divisional Forest Officer, Dharashiv has inspected the Village Jevali Uttar, Old Gaothan Area 4.5092 ha. Tal. Lohara, Dist. Dharashiv, Old Gaothan area of to be transferred to the Forest Department as alternate land for compensatory afforestation

in lieu of forest land required for the Project proposal for diversion of 4.5092 ha. Area (1.1407 ha. in Dharashiv Forest Division & 3.685 ha. in Solapur Forest Division) for proposed Greenfield Railway line between Solapur-Tuljapur-Dharashiv (Total length of 84.439 Km) passing through Solapur and Dharashiv district in the State of Maharashtra. It is contiguous suitable for afforestation and management purpose also and it is free from encroachment and encumbrances.

4. The User Agency has submitted undertakings:-

- 4.1 to defray the cost of Net Present Value.
- 4.2 to defray the cost of Compensatory Afforestation.
- 4.3 to submit compliance under FRA-2006.

5. The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Solapur Forest Division, Solapur has recommended the proposal for approval under Section-2 of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

Specific recommendation of the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Solapur Forest Division, Solapur:-

'The proposed alignment passing through gut no.478, 480, 481, 482, 483, 223, 225, 220, 219, 218, 215, 214, 165, 217, 218 and 212 of Village Mardi Tal. North Solapur is in Eco Sensitive Zone around the Great Indian Bustard Sanctuary finally declared vide Central Government Gazette No. S.O.654 (E), dated 11/02/2020. Hence this project required NBWL and SBWL clearance. The project is recommended under the conditions of is as follows:-

- 1. Plantation area at Kasabe Solapur is within city limit and near to Railway track, needs protection from encroachment. Hence construction of compound wall at Kasabe Solapur Reserve Forest Survey No.496 around the forest area is required.*
- 2. Wildlife Mitigation measures are required to protect wildlife and its habitat near GIB Sanctuary of proposed railway track.*
- 3. Other conditions as stipulated by NBWL/SBWL.*

6. The Divisional Forest Officer, Dharashiv has recommended the proposal for approval under Section-2 of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

Specific recommendation of the Divisional Forest Officer, Dharashiv:-

'The proposed project is for construction of new Railway line between Solapur to Dharashiv Railway line between Solapur to Dharashiv of 84.439 Km length passing

through Solapur & Dharashiv districts. The proposed alignment is most suitable option as per Alternative alignment analysis. The demand of forest area is unavoidable and barest minimum. The project is of infrastructure development and public utility purpose. This project will provide speedy & safe transportation for commuters, industrial & agro development and improved connectivity leading to more economical benefits to the State. Hence the proposal for diversion is recommended for acceptance and necessary approval in favour of the User Agency

7. The Chief Conservator of Forest (T), Pune has agreed with the recommendation of the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Solapur Forest Division, Solapur & Divisional Forest Officer, Dharashiv and recommended the proposal.

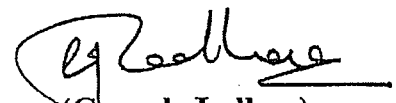
Specific recommendation of the Chief Conservator of Forest (T), Pune:-

‘The project is recommended for acceptance’

8. Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Nodal Officer, Maharashtra State, Nagpur, has recommended the proposal subject to the conditions, given in his recommendations, under Section-2 (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. His recommendations are enclosed in the proposal.
9. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Maharashtra State, Nagpur has recommended the proposal subject to the conditions, given in his specific recommendations, under Section-2 (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. His specific recommendations are enclosed in the proposal.
10. In the circumstances explained in aforesaid paragraphs and enclosures, the State Government recommends that the said forest land may be allowed to be diverted under Section-2 (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 subject to conditions proposed by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF) and Addl. PCCF & Nodal Officer, Nagpur as well as following additional conditions:-

“User Agency shall obtain Wildlife Clearance, prior to commencement of work.”

The matter may kindly be placed before the Government of India for its approval under Section-2 (ii) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.


(Ganesh Jadhao)

Under Secretary to the
Government of Maharashtra
Under Secretary
Revenue and Forests Department
Hutatma Rajguru Chowk
Madam Cama Road, Mantralaya
Mumbai 400 032

Encl: A) Set of case papers

B) The following documents are enclosed:-

1. Prescribed form as per Rules.
2. Area Statement
3. Undertaking for defraying the cost of Net Present Value & Compensatory Afforestation.
4. Brief note of the project
5. Site Inspection Report.
6. Certificate in Part V.

Copy:

1. Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, New Delhi.
2. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Maharashtra State, Nagpur.
3. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & C.E.O, Maha-CAMPA, Nagpur.
4. APCCF and Nodal Officer, Nagpur with reference to his letter No.Desk-17/Nodal/S1/PID-155198/Pune/2056/24-25, Dt.13.12.2024
5. The Chief Conservator of Forests (T), Pune.
6. The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Solapur.
7. The Divisional Forest Officer, Dharashiv
8. Deputy Chief Engineer (Const,) Central Railway, Solapur
9. Select File (F-10)

Forest Land- Solapur & Dharashiv

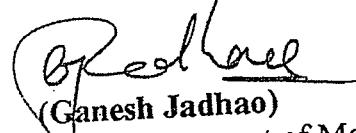
Diversion of 4.5092 ha. forest land for proposed Greenfield Railway line between Solapur-Tuljapur-Dharashiv (Total length of 84.439 Km) passing through Solapur and Dharashiv District in the State of Maharashtra (FP/MH/RAIL/155198/2022)

PART -V

(To be filled up by the Secretary in charge of Forest Department or by any other authorized officer of the State Government not below the rank of an Under Secretary)

**1. Recommendation of the
State Government**

The proposal is recommended
vide Government letter
No.FLD-2224/C.R.254/F-10
Dated:-16.12.2024


(Ganesh Jadhao)

Under Secretary to the Government of Maharashtra

Under Secretary
Revenue and Forests Department
Hutatma Rajguru Chowk
Madam Cama Road, Mantralaya
Mumbai 400 032

Place: Mumbai.

Date:- 16.12.2024