

Government of Maharashtra

By Speed Post

No.FLD-2023/C.R.18/F-10
Revenue and Forest Department,
Madame Cama Road,
Hutatma Rajguru Chowk,
Mantralaya, Mumbai – 400 032.
Date: 20.01.2023

To,
Regional Officer (Central),
Integrated Regional Office,
Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change,
Government of India, Civil Lines,
Nagpur-440 001.

Subject: Forest Land- Satara

Diversion of 0.020 ha. forest land under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for doubling construction of existing Broad Gauge Line from Nira-Lonand Section of Pune-Miraj BG Railway in the State of Maharashtra.

The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Nodal Officer, Maharashtra State, Nagpur has submitted proposal for diversion of 0.020 ha. forest land under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for doubling construction of existing Broad Gauge Line from Nira-Lonand Section of Pune-Miraj BG Railway in the State of Maharashtra.. The details of forest land proposed for diversion are as under: -

Village	Forest Compt. No.	Survey No.	Gut No.	Length x Width (m)	Forest Area (in ha.)	Legal Status
Padegaon, Tal. Khandala, Dist. Satara	801	138	176	12.5 x 8.0	0.010	Reserved Forest
		139	180	12.5 x 8.0	0.010	
Total Forest Area (in ha.)					0.020	

2. There has been extensive pressure an increasing passenger and freight services on existing Punt Miraj Broad Gauge Railway Line. The line was initially laid around 1925. To cope up with continually increasing volume of traffic, the Railway Board had a proposal for doubling of existing Pune-Miraj Broad Gauge Railway Line. The Railway Board has sanctioned the proposal te double the existing Broad-Gauge line from Pune to Miraj. In the instant proposal, Nira- Lonand Section on the Pune-Miraj Broad-Gauge Line is proposed for doubling. The Nira- Lonand Section of proposed doubling project traverse through a forest patch in Padegaon village of Khandala Tehsil of Satara District. Considering the type of topography, availability of land and techno- economic feasibility of the project, the new BG Line is inevitably required to be laid parallel so existing BG Line. The proposal is essentially a site-specific and to be taken up within the existing Row There is no other alternative available

with the Central Railway to locate the project elsewhere. Hence, the project is located in Forest Land. The Forest Land proposed for diversion is unavoidable and barest minimum. The proposed project is categorized as Public Utility Service and Infrastructure Project. Non-forest land required for this project is 3.0515 ha.

3. The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Satara has certified that:-

- No suitable alternate non-forest land is available and demand for the forest land is minimum
- Project Authority has been done work in forest Gut No. 180 at Village Padegaon as well as in Non-Forest Land Violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and/or its guideline has been committed. Project authority has submitted violation report which is enclosed in the proposal.
- The area belongs to, Eco class-III and having density of forest is below 0.4.
- There is no cutting & felling of trees involved in the implementation of the Project.
- The project is not included in the area of any National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary or Nature Reserve.
- The area involved in the project is beyond 5.00 km from the boundary of protected area i.e. National Park/ Wildlife Sanctuary Proposed project is not likely to affect any monumental site of cultural, historical, religious, archaeological or recreational importance.
- Proposed Compensatory Afforestation over 1.00 ha degraded Forest land Gut No.1879 Compt. No. 790 of Village Palashi Tal. Khandala Dist. Satara is suitable for afforestation and it is free from encroachment and encumbrances.
- The project is proposed to be undertaken parallel to existing broad-gauge line.
- The project is site specific. Hence, there is no alternative alignment for the project.
- 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.
- The project is categorized as Central Government's Public Utility Infrastructure Project.
- No tree felling is required for the project.

4. **The User Agency has submitted an undertaking that:-**

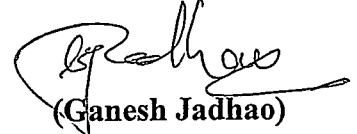
4.1 to defray the cost of compensatory afforestation

4.2 to defray the cost of Net Present Value of the forest land proposed under diversion

5. 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 Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

6. In the circumstances explained in the aforesaid paragraphs and enclosures, the State Government recommends that the said forest land may be allowed to be diverted subject to conditions proposed by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Maharashtra State, Nagpur.

The matter may kindly be placed before the Government of India for its approval under Section-2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, be obtained and communicated to this Government.



(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. Certificate regarding minimum demand for forest land for the project
3. Commitment from the Applicant for defraying the cost of compensatory Afforestation & Net Present Value of the Forest land
4. Brief note of the project from the project authority
5. Site Inspection Report
6. Certificate in Part V.

Copy to:

1. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & C.E.O. (Maha-CAMPA), Nagpur.
2. Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Nodal Officer, Maharashtra State Nagpur with reference to his letter No.Desk-17/Nodal/Kolhapur/I.D.14131(31) /2706/2022-23, Dt. 17.01.2023
3. Chief Conservator of Forests (T), Kolhapur.
4. Deputy Conservator of Forests, Satara.
5. Dy. Chief Engineer, (Construction) Central Railway, Pune
- ✓ 6. Select File.

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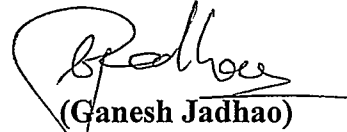
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PART - V

(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-2023/C.R.18/F-10
Dated: 20.01.2023



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: 20.01.2023