

D - Justification of locating the project in forest land and details of alternatives examined:-

Justification for locating the project in forest area:

The work of final location survey was entrusted to M/s. RITES, Bhubaneswar. Survey was carried out for the 3 alternative routes. Route No.1 covers less forest area 13.220 Ha and does not involve displacement of people and approved by M/s. RITES. Route No-2 it involves more forest 27.012 Ha., and passes through a number of thickly populated villages and towns such as BALABHADRAPUR. Route No.3 chosen is in steep gradient which will not suitable for Railway purpose and moreover it covers more forest area 36.210 Ha. (Length Km 3.251 of Bankamundi RF, Narghanta RF and Koakolidungri RF) After careful study of the above three routes Route No.1 is selected as it is economical and covers less forest area. After finalization of alignment, the same was discussed at the level of transport secretary, chief secretary in the State Government. The State Government had approved the proposed alignment. The alignment now finalized is the best possible alignment with less forest area required to be disturbed.

This will provide an alternative mode of communication for the general public of Orissa to travel from Khurda to Bolangir. Presently only one mode of communication is available that is road service. But this Railway line will provide an alternative method of communication by connecting some of the remote areas which are even not connection by road. Old citizens and patients in particular would like to prefer traveling by rail to road.

This Line will play a vital role in improvement of transport infrastructure paving the way to industrial development of this economically backward area. Cargo facilities will be augmented and will relieve the pressure on road traffic. This will also help to develop social ties between six districts viz. Puri, Khurda, Nayagarh, Boudh, Sonapur & Bolangir. It will also enhance the socio-economic conditions of these districts. During the course of construction of the project, it will render employment opportunities to the people of the relevant districts through which the alignment will pass.

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