



SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Office of the Dy.Chief Engineer,
Construction-I,
HUBLI.

No.H/CN/III/W.148/01/

Date: 15.04.2016

N O T E

SuB; Authorization for submission of application for diversion of forest land for Hubli - Ankola new BG Railway line.

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The project was sanctioned with anticipated cost of Rs.483.15 crores in 1997-98 vide PB item No.1. Originally the requirement of forest land was assessed as 965 Hectares. Subsequently taking forest advisory committee recommendations in to consideration, requirement of forest land has been reviewed and reduced to 727 Hect and application was submitted with the approval of competent authority during July 2006. Meanwhile Parisara Samrakshana Kendra Sirsi and wilderness club, Bangalore have filed an application before CEC opposing the diversion of land on 18.08.2006. Allowing above application, CEC has advised Minister of Railway to stop all the works and accordingly all the works have been stopped by Railway. Considering the advice of ADG (MOEF) Government of Karnataka has appointed IISc, Bangalore to conduct bio diversity survey and also to propose mitigation measures to minimize extent of damage to environment and ecology. IISc Bangalore under the guidance of Dr.T.V.Ramachandra, co-coordinator center for Ecological sciences submitted report duly indicating mitigative measures costing to extent of Rs.148.58 crores.

CEC submitted its report to Hon'ble Supreme Court of India during August 2015 with recommendation for directing MOEF not to consider the proposal for diversion of forest land. Subsequently the case was referred to National Green Tribunal (NGT) in December 2015. NGT in its orders passed during Feb 2016 disposed the application stating that appropriate proposal for diversion of land can be submitted to the State Government and state Government with the prior approval of MoEF would issue an appropriate order under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

In this connection meeting was convened under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Government of Karnataka on 17.02.2016 and was decided to submit fresh application after critically reviewing the extent of forest land.

In view of the above it is being proposed to submit fresh application for diversion of forest land. Being the executive in charge of the project, the undersigned is contemplating to submit the proposal. As per prevailing guide lines one authority higher than the signing authority is competent to authorize the Engineer-in-charge of the project.

In view of the above it is requested to authorize the undersigned for submission of application.

Dy.CE/CN/I/UBL

CE/CN/UBL

(A) approved for submission of Application for
filed diversion of forest land
New
Hubli

Dr. C. S. Uthappa