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**Justification Letter for Forest Land Diversion**

The Ministry has declared Highway starting from its junction with NH-53 near Sendhwa connecting Khetia in the state of Madhya Pradesh, Shahada, Prakasha, Nandurbar, Visarwadi, Sakri, Satana, Deola, Chandvad, Manmad, Yeola, Kopargaon and terminating at its junction with NH-160 near Shirdi in the state of Maharashtra as **National Highway No.752G**, vide gazette notification no.13(E) dated-03.01.2017. Present project road i.e. Satana to Mangrul (**From Design Km. 64+000 to Km. 104+140**) is passing through forest area (Bhabadbari Ghat & Kheldari Village) which is coming under East Nashik forest division. The project road act as link to connect Maharashtra from Madhya Pradesh. The project road starts from Satana City and ends at the T-Junction with NH3 at Mangrul in the state of Maharashtra. The design length of the project road is 37.140 Km. The project road is also link to famous temple of Jainism Mangitungi and Sai temple in Shirdi, therefore important link in Northern Maharashtra. This project road is an important link between Maharashtra and Gujarat state as well. Also, it connects Nashik District in Maharashtra state and some cities of Gujarat state. The project length passes through area is also well known for its agricultural products like grapes, sugarcane and other products. These products transported through this route from different cities or towns of Maharashtra as well as Gujarat. At present, the road width is insufficient and full of curves which cause problems of road jam and makes it accident prone. In the forest area some part of the project road passes from ghat section and there are lots of small and large blind curves which creates hurdle in smooth traffic and is not suitable according to the standard of National Highway. As per standard of National Highway the rehabilitation and Up gradation of the road is required in the forest area for curve improvements (realignments) and widening. For Curve improvement and widening in the forest area, DPR consultant has considered minimum forest land. There is no suitable alternative non forest land is available for the proposed project. Hence, the diversion of the forest land is only option for widening of the newly declared National Highway No.752G (section from Satana Mangrul).

  
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