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Justification Letter for Forest Land Diversion

Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), New Delhi, Govt. of India has in principle declared Seoni - Barghat - Balaghat as National Highway which was State Highway earlier for rehabilitation and Up-gradation to two lane with paved shoulders / Four lane configuration. Present road starts from Seoni and ends at Balaghat. Both the locations are district headquarters of Seoni and Balaghat districts of Madhya Pradesh. It is an important link to travel the most southern part of the state and further it joins Maharashtra state. This road has linkage to tourist spots, wildlife sanctuary, National Park like Bandhavgarh and others. In rainy season people use this route for travelling and enjoy the small jungle spots / resorts for picnic. This road also use to transport mines ores, forest products and other agricultural products to rest of the state. In forest area the road passes through several dangerous ghats in hills and always accidents happened on the ghat sections of the road. Mostly ghat sections come under forest area and there is need for improvement of those curves and at some places realignments has been proposed to avoid accident prone zones. Presently the road width is less and traffic load is heavy which causes traffic jam in ghat sections on regular basis. At present the road has been in principle declared as NH and to follow the standards there is requirement of Rehabilitation and Up-gradation of the road. Since long time the present road was passing through this forest area and for widening, curve improvements and realignments of the road forest land is required.

Therefore, the diversion of the forest land is only choice for widening of the in principle declared National Highway: Seoni - Barghat - Balaghat.


(Shriram Mishra)

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