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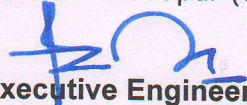
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**Justification Letter for Forest Land Diversion**

The Government of India has newly declared the State Highway from "Aurangabad to Jalgaon" into National Highway (NH- 753F). The present road has been divided into three sections i.e. Aurangabad - Sillod (Section- 1), Sillod - Fardapur (Section- 2), Fardapur - Jalgaon (Section- 3), among them Section- 1 and 2 are passing through forest area coming under Aurangabad forest division. Present road is an important link between Aurangabad and Jalgaon the two district headquarters of Aurangabad and Jalgaon districts of the state of Maharashtra. It further connects the state of Madhya Pradesh which is an important road link between the two states. Aurangabad is a tourist center point of the Maharashtra State and also a tourist place. On this road one World Heritage site i.e. World Famous Ajanta caves is located which is always an attraction for National as well as International tourist. The present road passes through ghat sections in the forest area where always accidents happen and at present the width of the road is less. There are lots of curve improvements on the road passing through forest area to avoid accidents. Presently, road also passes through agriculture area and lots of agriculture products transport through the project road. Some small and large agro product factories are located on this road. Further this road joins the several districts of the State of Maharashtra. As per standard of National Highway the Rehabilitation and Upgradation of the road is required in the forest area for curve improvements and widening. Since long time the present project road was passing through this forest area which comes under protected/ reserved /unclass forest type and now for widening and curve improvement of the road forest land is required.

Therefore, the diversion of the forest land is only choice for widening of the newly declared National Highway: Aurangabad - Sillod (Section- 1), Sillod - Fardapur (Section- 2) (NH- 753F).

  
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