

**B. JUSTIFICATION FOR LOCATING THE PROJECT IN FOREST LAND AND NON AVOIDANCE OF FOREST LAND FOR THE PRESENT PROPOSAL**

The present proposal is for diversion of 1.732 ha forest land required for widening of road from Village Salhepalli to Kotrimal, Auraimuda to Teram and at Village Kanchanpur. Justification for locating the project in forest land is given below:

1. Existing PMGSY road passes through villages Salhepalli, Raikera, Kotrimal, Auraimuda, Dhoram, Teram and at Kanchanpur (Gharghoda Tehsil). Part of the existing road is passing through Govt revenue forest. The road is 3.75M wide. In order to facilitate smooth movement of vehicles as well as ease for movement of villagers, it is proposed to widen this road to 7M.
2. Widening and strengthening of the road apart from increasing the ease of movement, will also reduce dust pollution, increase safety and can provide better access to cater to emergencies of the villagers.
3. The present proposal of 1.732 ha consists of **ONLY Government Revenue forest**. There is **No Notified Forest Land**.
4. Alternatives have been examined and the proposed road will be involving least forest land and connects Gharghoda-Lailunga state highway and Gharghoda-Dharamjaygarh state highway thus avoiding approx 9 kms (extra lead) avoiding movement through Gharghoda chowk.
5. The Merry Go Round (MGR) railway line is being constructed for evacuation of coal from Talaipalli Coal Mining Project but initially this road will also be required for the movement of coal despatch trucks till completion of MGR. Subsequently road will be of use to villagers and project personnel. As the present proposal is for widening the existing road, part of the road passing through the Govt Revenue forest (1.732 ha) cannot be avoided.
6. Keeping in view of the above facts the road passing through 1.732 has Govt Revenue forest cannot be avoided.



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