

### Justification for locating the Project in forest area

The proposed 3<sup>rd</sup> Railway line between Titlagarh – Vizianagaram is an alternative route to overburdened existing line. This link also opens an alternative route to oversaturated Kharagpur – Jharsuguda section of Howrah – Mumbai Grand Truck Route and Howrah – Chennai section main line.

In Odisha, after industrialization between Jharsuguda –Rengali, Talcher – Angul – Dhenkanal, 3<sup>rd</sup> line between sambalpur – Vizianagaram is absolutely necessary to overcome the goods traffic in near future. Vizianagaram – Titlagarh is a part of this project and on completion of double line between Titlagarh – Sambalpur, 3<sup>rd</sup> line in this portion will further facilitate the movement of goods traffic.

After setting up of industries like Bhusan Steel Ltd., Vedanta Alumina Ltd, Adithya Alumina Ltd., Aryan Ispat etc near Jharsuguda and Jindal steel in and around Angul there would be heavy south bund traffic in the coming years. To cater the increased traffic capacity addition of the existing line in the section between Sambalpur – Vizianagaram would be highly essential. The section between cuttack and Talcher is already having double line and the section between Jharsuguda and Sambalpur is also opened for double line. The only patch link between Sambalpur-Titlagarh will be left with single line for which doubling is already in progress,

Consequent upon the accelerated development in Power sector, Industry, Mineral and agricultural fields in the State of Orissa, especially in western part of Orissa, it is foreseen that a substantial volume of additional traffic would be generated and required to be carried through this route.

Having considered the need for movement of expected additional traffic on the projected section, it is felt necessary to increase the existing handling capacity of the section and a proposal for 3rd line between Vizianagaram - Sambalpur section has been considered by the Railway Board and part 3rd line between Titlagarh-Vizianagaram is sanctioned vide Pink Book item No.24/2015-16.



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