

## **JUSTIFICATION FOR PROJECT IN FOREST LAND**

**Name of Work : “Rehabilitation and Upgradation of NH 85 (Old NH 49) from km 119/017 to km 161/300 (Design chainage km 119/017 to 160/800) (Bodimettu to Munnar) to two lane with paved shoulders in the State of Kerala”**

Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Govt. of India, vide Order No.RW/NH-120-14/87/2016-KU/P7/10-2-2017 has accorded Administrative approval, Financial Sanction and Technical Sanction for the Rehabilitation and Upgradation of NH 85 (Old NH 49) from km 119/017 to km 161/300 (Design chainage km 119/017 to 160/800) (Bodimettu to Munnar) to two lane with paved shoulders in the State of Kerala

Scope of the project is rehabilitation, upgradation and widen the entire stretch from Bodimettu to Munnar of NH 85 to Two Lane with paved shoulders. The total length of the project road is 42.283 km which falls within the Revenue Administration of Devikulam / Udumbanchola Taluks of Idukki District. The project involves widening of existing intermediate lane to 2 lane with paved shoulder for capacity augmentation of NH.

This National Highway 85 connecting Kerala & Tamil Nadu through the Western Ghats containing Forest and Wildlife area and has heavy passenger and commercial vehicle traffic during all seasons. This vehicular traffic increases during the Sabarimala Pilgrimage season and Tourist season inviting pilgrims, travelers and other necessary commodities. Many private goods carriers and public transport vehicles ply on this project road and connect both the states carrying passengers and goods across the border. Hence the project road is a major lifeline for the local residents and commuters and is proposed to increase the capacity of the NH by upgrading it.