

**GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS (T)  
CENTRAL ASSAM CIRCLE :BASISTHA:GUWAHATI-781029**

Letter No. FG.4/Diversion Proposal/NHDCL/GLP/CAC/2021

Date: 07/02/2022.

To ,

The Chief Conservator of Forests  
& Nodal Officer, (F.C.Act), Assam  
Panjabari, Guwahati-37

Sub : Diversion of 27.054 hectares of forest land for up-gradation of National Highways from Pancharatna to Dupdhara under Goalpara district, in the State of Assam by NHDCL.

Ref: Your letter No. FG.27/FCA/Proposal/NHIDCL/Goalpara/A,dt. 30/11/2021

Sir,

With reference to the above, I am to inform you that the proposal no.: FP/AS/ROAD/44439/2020 envisages forest clearance for the proposed 4-laning of the Bilaspara-Guwahati (New NH No.:17) Section passing through the district of Goalpara (approx. 80km). The project is being developed under the ambitious "Bharatmala Pariyojna" and is a feeder corridor to the Multi Modal Logistics Park, under construction at Jogighopa. The existing 2-lane + Paved Shoulder (10m Carriageway) is being developed to a 4-lane facility, majorly by following the existing alignment. The following facts substantiate the basis on which it was considered to follow the existing alignment:

- i. Existing Right of Way (EROW), i.e. the width of NH Land is approximately 20m in the stretch between Pancharatna to Dhupdhara (in 6 Civil Work Packages: Pkg-VI to XXI) in Goalpara District. For constructing a 4-lane facility, the land width requirement is 45m. Accordingly, by following the existing alignment, marginal acquisition of land is required as substantial width of land is already available.
- ii. In the Forest Area (Reserved/Proposed), the Proposed Right of Way (PROW) has been restricted to 30m from general PROW requirement of 45m, to further minimize the diversion of forest land to average 10m only. In case realignment is considered, the requirement of revenue/forest land will increase.
- iii. Nine elephant corridors, as indicated and required by the Forest Department have been catered in the Project.
- iv. By 4-laning of existing 2-lane alignment, 6 Nos. of Black Spots, which are causing fatal accidents on existing 2-lane NH-17, will be improved and obviated, thereby saving precious lives of human beings.

2. The area was visited by the CCF(T) CAC on 17.12.2021 along with the DFO, Goalpara and NHIDCL Officers to explore any possibility of realignment in an effort to reduce the area of diversion of forest land and further minimize the number of tree felling. However, considering all aspects in detail, it was found that any deviation from the existing alignment will result in felling of

Issued On 07-02-2022

1 07-02-2022 O/C