



Office of Divisional Forest Officer,  
Chatra South Forest Division, Chatra

E-mail : dfo-chatrasouth@gov.in

Phone : 8987790213



Letter No. : 2470

Date : 21.12.2024

To,

The Conservator of Forests,  
Territorial Circle, Chatra.

Subject:- Reply of query made by Regional Office, Ranchi, MoEF&CC, GoI regarding forest land diversion proposal for construction of by-pass around Chatra town on NH-22 (Old NH-99).

Madam,


A nine-point query was raised by Regional Office, Ranchi, MoEF&CC, GoI regarding forest land diversion proposal for construction of by-pass around Chatra town on NH-22 (Old NH-99), which has been replied by the user agency on 09.12.2024. Same is being forwarded with comments of undersigned for necessary action.

Sr No.	Query	Compliance
I.	The total area proposed for diversion mentioned in online Part – I and Part – II is 64.0849 Ha instead of 60.0849 Ha which is actually forwarded after consideration by State authorities. The proposed area has been revised by concerned DFO and CF as 7.49 Ha of forest land has been proposed for 'Utility' purpose, out of which 4 ha is proposed to be utilized for development of roadside amenities like Cafeteria, Hospital, Restroom etc. These are non-site-specific activities and can be developed on non-forest land as well. Hence concerned DFO and CF have not recommended the corresponding area. These non-site-specific amenities must be shifted to non-forest area and must be highlighted to make the desired shift visible to processing authorities.	The User agency has replied that the DPR of the project has been approved by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRT&H), GoI.  The forest land measuring 4 ha, where non-site-specific activities have been proposed may, accordingly be not considered for a approval. The User Agency in due course will make efforts to get the DPR revised and get the non-site-specific activities proposed shifted to non-forest land.
II.	Present alignment, at place, shows that road is deliberately diverted to forest area for logistic ease as the bypass road of the town is 90% proposed in forest only which can easily be avoided.	User Agency has submitted that two alternatives alignments were explored for minimum usage of forest land. They have submitted that proposed Alignment 1 & 2 passes through valley portion. So, technically it is not feasible to construct bypass along alignment 1 & 2. Also land has been acquired for some another projects where Alignment 1 & 2 passes.
III.	The alternative routes of the road are not judiciously explored. The DSS analysis shows that the proposed alignment is fragmenting several forest patches involved leaving few fragmented parts discrete, isolated and impractical to manage like forest in the vicinity of a sprawling urban area. Therefore, the alignment must be shifted to save such fragmentation and loss of forest thereafter.	User Agency has submitted that two alternatives alignments were explored for minimum usage of forest land. They have submitted that proposed Alignment 1 & 2 passes through valley portion. So, technically it is not feasible to construct bypass along alignment 1 & 2. Also land has been acquired for some another projects where Alignment 1 & 2 passes.

IV.	Comments from State Forest Department, Nodal Office (FC) and concerned DFO regarding actual tree felling for the project have not been submitted. Details in this regard may be uploaded.	Details regarding trees falling in the alignment have been filled in Para 4 (ii) of Form-A, Part-II and the enumeration list has been uploaded as additional document.
V.	Cost-Benefit analysis is not correct. It may be rectified.	User agency has uploaded a rectified Cost-Benefit analysis report.
VI.	Undertaking/ Comments of the User Agency regarding the implementation of Wildlife Management Plan, Soil Conservation Measures need to be uploaded.	Complied.
VII.	The details (PF and JJ land), kml file and Geo-referenced pdf map mismatched. Therefore, it needs to be corrected.	Complied.
VIII.	CA needs to be proposed on equivalent Non Forest Land instead of Degraded Forest Land. Accordingly, kml file of revised CA area and all related documents need to be uploaded on portal.	As per MoEF&CC, GoI guideline dated 17.12.2024, CA over DFL may be considered.
IX.	Encroachment, both agricultural & residential, has been observed at some places in the proposed forest.	The land proposed for diversion was visited by the field staff of the division and the status of encroachment was communicated to the division. Few patches visible as encroachment are Van Pattas given under Forest Rights Act, 2006. Remaining encroachments over forest land will be removed with proper legal action. (Annex-1)

Sent for necessary action.

Yours faithfully,

 21/12/2024

Divisional Forest Officer,  
Chatra South Forest Division, Chatra.