



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & CLIMATE CHANGE
NORTH EASTERN REGIONAL OFFICE
LAW-U-SIB, LUMBATNGEN
SHILLONG-793021
PHONE NO: 0364-2537609
FAX NO: 0364-2536041
SHILLONG.
Email: ro.nez.shil@gmail.com & moefshil_09@rediffmail.com

F.No 3-SK C 078/2017-SHI 5929

16th March, 2017

To

The PCCF-Cum Principal Secretary,
Govt of Sikkim,
Deptt. of Forests & Environment,
Deorali,
Gangtok- 737102.

Sub: Proposal for diversion of 10.794 ha of forestland for construction/widening of alternate highway to Gangtok section Rhenock-Rorathang-Pakyong (Package-I) on NH -717 in East District of Sikkim by National Highways & Infrastructure Dev. Corp Limited.

Ref: (i) Letter No. 1688/FCA/FEWMD/901 dated 08.03.2017 of State Govt of Sikkim.

Sir,

Please refer to the State Government letter above on the subject mentioned above, seeking prior approval of the central Government in accordance with Section 2 of the FCA, 1980. I am directed to inform that the proposal referred above has been examined in this office in the light of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, and rules/guidelines framed thereunder and following information/documents are found lacking:

- (i) The compensatory afforestation map submitted is showing more area i.e. **30.12 ha** (i.e. 8.53216 ha + 8.736 ha under Pakyong (T) Range, East Division against the diversion of 4.368 ha and 8.532 ha + 4.32 ha under Pakyong (T) Range against the diversion of 2.16 ha. However, the proposed CA area is **21.59 ha**. State Govt to clarify the same.
- (ii) In the submitted proposal, ~~nos~~ numbers of trees to be felled is 205 nos and 172 nos of poles as per the State Govt letter, whereas it is also stated 10,651 nos of trees/poles by the joint inspection report and 467 nos by Divisional Forest Officer in his inspection report. State Govt to clarify the anomaly and submit the exact nos of trees to be affected.
- (iii) The photographs of the sample plot along with GPS coordinates of the trees to be affected by this diversion, depicting the serial numbers of the trees with red/yellow paint.

(iv) As per the Environment Impact Notification(EIA),2006, Environmental clearance is required for the following project:-

(a) **For category A project:-**

New National Highway and expansion of National Highways greater than 100 km involving additional right of way or land acquisition greater than 40 m on existing alignment and 60 m on realignment or by-passes.

(b) **For category B project:-**

All new State Highways Project and State High way expansion project in hilly terrain (above 1000m AMSL) and or ecologically sensitive area; Expansion of National /State Highways greater than 30 km involving additional right of way greater than 20 m involving land acquisition.

In view of the above, State Govt to clarify the applicability of the Environment Clearance for this proposal.

(v) The aerial distance of the proposed site from the nearest Protected Area /Wildlife Sanctuary/National Park.

(vi) The forest Compartment No. of the proposed diversion site and compensatory afforestation site along with the GPS co-ordinates.

(vii) The GPS coordinates of the starting and end point of the proposed road with location names.

(viii) The photographs and GPS co-ordinates of the site inspection of the proposed site and compensatory afforestation sites conducted by DFO/CF.

(ix) To examine the alternate route and to depict the same in SoI toposheet map showing the proposed area and alternate route examined for the proposed road with distinguish colour.

(x) The diagrammatic cross section of the proposed road depicting the Right of Way and drains.

(xi) A brief of the remaining stretch of the road.

(xii) The hard and soft copy of shape /kml file of the proposed road and compensatory afforestation area.

State Govt is requested to kindly furnish the above information at the earliest to this office for further processing of this proposal.

Yours faithfully,


(R.L. Sanga)

Conservator of Forest(C)

