

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE REGIONAL EMPOWERED COMMITTEE (REC)
CONVENED ON 22nd SEPTEMBER, 2015**

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 (PUNJAB)

F.NO	Name of the Project	State	Area	U.A.
9- PBC400- 2015- CHA	Diversion of 12.918 hectare of forest land in favour National Highway Authority of India for 4-lanning of Chandigarh-Kharar Section starting from Sector-39 (Roundabout) at Chandigarh (LM 0.000 Design Chainage) to Kharar (KM 10.185 Design Chainage) of NH-21 (New NH-05) in the State of Punjab on EPC mode under Forest Division and District S.A.S. Nagar, Punjab	Punjab	12.918 ha	NHAI

The Regional Empowered Committee discussed the above mentioned proposal, and observed as below:

1. The proposal envisages diversion of 12.918 hectare of forest land in favour National Highway Authority of India for 4-lanning of Chandigarh-Kharar Section starting from Sector-39 (Roundabout) at Chandigarh (LM 0.000 Design Chainage) to Kharar (KM 10.185 Design Chainage) of NH-21 (New NH-05) in the State of Punjab on EPC mode under Forest Division and District S.A.S. Nagar, Punjab.
2. The proposal involves felling of 924 trees and 158 plants (poles).
3. Compensatory Afforestation has been proposed on 25.836 ha forest land in Sohali Bandh RD 84-10 B/s, Tehsil Kharar, Distt.-SAS Nagar. The Compensatory Afforestation scheme involves maintenance of plantation for ten years.
4. The legal status of the forest land proposed for diversion is Protected Forest.
5. As the project envisages expansion/ four lanning of NH, there is no other alternative possible for the project avoiding forest land.
6. The proposed alignment is not passing through any National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Elephant /Tiger Reserve.
7. The requirement of land is unavoidable and barest minimum.
8. No violation of Forest (Conservation), Act is there as per DFO's site inspection report.
9. No rare /endangered/vulnerable and endemic species of flora and fauna have been found/ recorded in the area.
- 10.No sacred grove or very old growth trees/forests exists on the site and the forest land proposed for diversion is not having any socio-cultural/religious value.
- 11.There is no Protected Archeological /Heritage site/Defence establishment in the proposed.
- 12.This proposal was examined in the Regional Office and on 17th August, 2015 following information were sought from the State Government:

- i) Certificate under FRA, 2006 issued by Deputy Commissioner.






