

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
EASTERN ZONE BENCH, KOLKATA  
(THROUGH PHYSICAL HEARING WITH HYBRID MODE)**

Original Application No.57/2023/EZ

Ajay Rajak

Applicant(s)

Versus

Ministry of Coal & Ors.

Respondent(s)

Date of hearing: 04.07.2023

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE B. AMIT STHALEKAR, JUDICIAL MEMBER  
HON'BLE DR. AFROZ AHMAD, EXPERT MEMBER**

For Applicant(s) : Mr. Ajay Rajak, in person (in Virtual Mode)

**ORDER**

1. Heard Mr. Ajay Rajak, the Applicant in person (in Virtual Mode).
2. This Original Application has been filed on an allegation that there are several illegal coal mines operating in Central Surunga Paharigora, Parbad Laxmi Colliery etc. situated in Alakdiha OP, District – Dhanbad in the State of Jharkhand which belong to Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL), Lodna area under Coal India Limited.
3. It is alleged that in November 2022, about 20-25 people have lost their lives due to illegal mining in the Central Surunga Paharigora. It is also alleged that the said mines fall in the forest area and due to the mining operations, a part of Shiva Temple has also sunk into the ground.
4. It is alleged that about 1500-2000 people including women and children are engaged in illegal coal mining in tunnel like unsafe coal mines which can any day result in a major tragedy. It is alleged that the Respondent No.8, Bittu Yadav is the main operator of the coal mines.

5. In support of the allegations made, photocopies of the newspaper cuttings have been filed as annexures.
6. In our opinion, matter requires consideration.
7. Issue notice to the Respondents, returnable within four weeks.
8. All the Respondents shall file their counter-affidavits within four weeks.
9. Considering the nature of allegations made, we deem it appropriate to constitute a Committee comprising of the following Members:-
  - i) Dy. Commissioner, Dhanbad,
  - ii) Senior Scientist, Central Pollution Control Board,
  - iii) Senior Scientist, Jharkhand State Pollution Control Board,
  - iv) Senior Scientist, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Integrated Regional Office, Ranchi.
10. The Dy. Commissioner, Dhanbad shall be the Nodal office for all logistic purposes and shall file the counter-affidavit within four weeks.
11. The Committee shall visit the site and prepare an Inspection Report which shall be filed along with the affidavit.
12. The Applicant shall also implead (i) Central Pollution Control Board, (ii) Jharkhand State Pollution Control Board, as well as (iii) Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Regional Office, Ranchi in the array of respondents as Respondent Nos.9, 10 and 11 respectively.
13. Mr. Ashok Prasad, learned Counsel who is present in Court, accepts notice on behalf of the Respondent No.1, Ministry of Coal.
14. Mr. Surendra Kumar, learned Counsel who is present in Court, accepts notice on behalf of the State Pollution Control Board, Jharkhand.
15. Mr. Sibojyoti Chakraborty, learned Counsel who is present in Court, accepts notice on behalf of the Central Pollution Control Board.

16. Ms. Aishwarya Rajyashree, learned Counsel who is appearing (in Virtual Mode), accepts notice on behalf of the State Respondents.
17. Ms. Anamika Pandey, learned Counsel who is appearing (in Virtual Mode), accepts notice on behalf of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change.
18. Ms. Amrita Pandey, learned Counsel who is appearing (in Virtual Mode), accepts notice on behalf of Coal India Limited.
19. The Applicant shall serve e-copy/soft copy of the Original Application along with all its annexures to the learned Counsel appearing for the Respondents within 24 hours.
20. Issue notices to Respondent Nos.7 and 8, returnable within four weeks.
21. The said Respondents may file their counter-affidavits within four weeks.
22. The learned Counsel who have accepted notices on behalf of the Respondents, shall share their email addresses in the chatbox.
23. **List on 07.08.2023.**

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**B. Amit Sthalekar, JM**

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**Dr. Afroz Ahmad, EM**

July 04, 2023,  
Original Application No.57/2023/EZ  
SKB