

Item No. 02

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
CENTRAL ZONE BENCH, BHOPAL
(Through Video Conferencing)**

Original Application No.59/2024(CZ)

Amit Kumar & Anr.

Applicant(s)

Vs

State of Rajasthan & Ors.

Respondent(s)

Date of Hearing: **15.03.2024**

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SHEO KUMAR SINGH, JUDICIAL MEMBER
HON'BLE DR. A SENTHIL VEL, EXPERT MEMBER**

For Applicant (s): Mr. Amit Kumar- Applicant in person

For Respondent(s):

ORDER

1. The issues raised in this application is illegal mining and unlawful encroachments in the Katli river known as the Kantali river, which flows through the Sikar, Jhunjhunu, Neem Ka Thana and Churu District of Rajasthan.
2. The Katli river, an inland river originating near Gidala village in Sikar District, Rajasthan, flows northwesterly across the Aravali mountain range. It then enters the alluvial plains and eventually disappears into the dunal sands near Rajgarh in Churu District. The river traverses there district – Sikar, Jhunjhunu and Churu. Additionally, smaller rivers within this basin, such as Doha, Dongar, Chandrawti, Udaipur, Lohargal Ki Nadi, Budhi Nala, Sukh Nadi (Singhana Nadi), Mendtha, and Sabi, contribute to the overall water network. The Katli river spans a totallength of approximately 135 kilometers, flowing through hilly terrain in its upper reaches cutting across the Aravalli ranges for about 52 Kilometers up to Manipur and Jhunjhunu district. Subsequently, if

- flows through the vast Aeolian dune field in the north. The Katli river's to total catchment area covers approximately 746 square kilometers.
3. The Katli river faces degradation due to unregulated mining activities in the riverbed. The deep pits created because of the illegal mining activities are left in the riverbed and these deep pits stop the water from flowing further into the river. Unauthorized construction along the bank of Katli river disrupt the natural flow and alter the ecosystem. At several places, there have been illegal encroachments by the neighbouring farmers using the riverbed for cultivation, hindering the flow of rainwater. The Katli river's decline has exacerbated water scarcity issues and loss of groundwater, pushing the community towards unsustainable water sources and practices. The loss of the Katli river as a natural, clean water source has heightened dependencies on groundwater extraction, accelerating the depletion of these reserves and leading to a vicious cycle of water insecurity. This situation has magnified the imperative for the river's revival, not only as an environmental endeavour but as a crucial step towards sustainable development and ensuring water security for future generations.
 4. A substantial issue of environmental has been raised. Issue notice to the respondents. Returnable within four weeks.
 5. Applicant is directed to take necessary steps for service to the respondents by both ways and also on available email.
 6. Respondents are directed to submit their reply/counter affidavit through E-filing portal, preferably in the form of searchable PDF/ OCR Support PDF and not in the form of Image PDF, before the next date of listing.
 7. We deem it just and proper to call a report on the matter in issue, in present application, from a Joint Committee consisting of:
 - (i) One Representative from the Collector Sikar (Rajasthan)

- (ii) One Representative from the Department of Water Resource, River Development Rajasthan
- (iii) One Representative from Ground Water Department, Government of Rajasthan (Rajasthan)
- (iv) One Representative from the Central Pollution Control Board.
- (v) One Representative from the Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board.

8. The Committee is directed to submit the factual and action taken report within six weeks. The State PCB will be the nodal agency for coordination and logistic support.
9. Applicant is directed to supply the required documents and copy of the application to the committee and the respondents within a week and after compliance of service, the Applicant has to submit an affidavit that notices and copy of the application have been served upon the committee and respondents.
10. The report in the matter be filed by the Committee by email at ngtczbbho-mp@gov.in preferably in the form of searchable PDF/OCR Support PDF and not in the form of Image PDF.

List it on **7th May, 2024.**

Sheo Kumar Singh, JM

Dr. A Senthil Vel, EM

15th March, 2024
O.A. No. 59/2024(CZ)
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