

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI**

Original Application No. 609/2023

In re: news report appearing in Prabhat Khabar dated 13.09.2023 titled
“झारखंड: लोहरदगा में फल-फूल रहा बाक्साइट का अवैध धंधा, वन क्षेत्र से खनन
किया जा रहा डंप”

Date of hearing: 10.10.2023

**CORAM: HON’BLE MR. JUSTICE PRAKASH SHRIVASTAVA, CHAIRPERSON
HON’BLE MR. JUSTICE SUDHIR AGARWAL, JUDICIAL MEMBER
HON’BLE DR. A. SENTHIL VEL, EXPERT MEMBER**

Respondent: Mr. Kumar Anurag Singh, Adv. for DC, Lohardaga (Through VC)
Ms. Suman Arora, Adv. for CPCB (Through VC)

ORDER

1. This original application has been registered on the basis of news item dated 13.09.2023 published in Prabhat Khabar titled “झारखंड: लोहरदगा में फल-फूल रहा बाक्साइट का अवैध धंधा, वन क्षेत्र से खनन किया जा रहा डंप”.
2. The news item reveals that the Lohardaga is known as bauxite city and in the forest area large scale rampant illegal mining of bauxite is going on and the bauxite is clandestinely transported in the trucks having forged number plates, on account of which Lohardaga has become a dumping yard of the illegally transported bauxite. It is alleged that on account of such a dumping, the ground water level has gone down. The wells and boring of the area have dried up and the sound pollution has crossed the permissible limit and the entire area is affected by the dust pollution.
3. The news item reveals that a substantial issue relating to compliance of environmental laws is involved.

4. Power of the Tribunal to register an OA on *suo-motu* exercise of power has been recognized by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the matter of "*Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai vs. Ankita Sinha & Ors.*" reported in 2021 SCC Online SC 897.

5. Considering the aforesaid, we deem it proper to form a joint Committee comprising of the representatives of MoEF&CC, Member Secretary, CPCB, Member Secretary, State PCB and the concerned DFO. The concerned DFO will act as a nodal agency for coordination and compliance. The Committee will examine the issue and will submit the fact-finding and action taken report before the Eastern Zone Bench, Kolkata by e-mail.

6. Since the issue relates to Eastern Zone Bench, Kolkata, therefore, it is transferred to the said Bench. The Registry is directed to transfer the record of this matter to the Eastern Zone Bench, Kolkata.

7. The OA is to be treated as disposed of for re-registration at the Eastern Zone Bench, Kolkata.

Prakash Shrivastava, CP

Sudhir Agarwal, JM

Dr. A. Senthil Vel, EM

October 10, 2023
Original Application No. 609/2023
DV