

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

Original Application No. 389/2018  
(Earlier O.A. No. 237/2013 (THC))

Court on its own motion

Applicant(s)

Versus

State of Himachal Pradesh & Ors.

Respondent(s)

Date of hearing: 06.05.2019

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ADARSH KUMAR GOEL, CHAIRPERSON  
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE K. RAMAKRISHNAN, JUDICIAL MEMBER  
HON'BLE DR. NAGIN NANDA, EXPERT MEMBER**

For Applicant:

For Respondent: Mr. Vikas Mahajan, AAG, Mr. R.D. Dhiman, Additional  
Chief Secretary, State of HP for R-1

**ORDER**

1. Question for consideration is the steps for eco balance in Rohtang Pass area in the State of Himachal Pradesh. The area is eco-sensitive and frequented by the tourists.
2. This Tribunal on 06.02.2014 issued directions to regulate traffic and take effective steps for solid waste management. The direction included restriction on permitting horses. Subsequent directions were issued to check waste burning, forest fires and pollution caused by human activities. On 16.07.2015, directions were issued to regulate number of persons to be permitted to cross Rohtang and to explore CNG and electric vehicles, restricting skiing sports activities, ensure sanitation arrangements, set up ropeways, take steps for afforestation etc.

On further review, directions were issued for prohibiting use of plastic, providing eco-friendly toilets at certain locations, reforestation, setting up eco-friendly markets and removal of encroachments. Similar directions were issued in light of status reports filed for protection of environment and public health. On 17.07.2018, this Tribunal required that action plans should be time bound and effective on the ground in view of the mandate of Article 21 of the Constitution. The matter has been monitored thereafter also, including on 20.08.2018. Status report furnished on behalf of the State of Himachal Pradesh was reviewed. It was observed that most critical aspect of construction of Palchan – Rohtang Ropeway was unduly delayed on account of absence of forest clearance. Further, direction was for the timeline for parking facilities at Gulaba Beas Nallah (below Marhi) and below Rohtang and a new STP.

3. We have reviewed the matter in the light of earlier directions. As per status report dated 09.04.2019 and status report filed today, in principle approval has been granted by the Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Dehradun for diversion of the forest land for the project of Ropeway. Progress has also been indicated on the subject of setting up and upgradation of a STP at Manali and eco-friendly market at Marhi.
4. This Tribunal expects that steps are taken expeditiously and the matter pending before MoEF&CC is also expedited having regard to ensuing tourist season and potential harm to the environment.

Since carrying capacity of the area is limited, the restriction on number of vehicles in terms of earlier directions may be maintained. Further status report may be filed after three months by e-mail at [ngt.filing@gmail.com](mailto:ngt.filing@gmail.com).

Additional Chief Secretary who is present in person today need not be present on the next date.

List for further consideration on 19.08.2019.

Adarsh Kumar Goel, CP

K. Ramakrishnan, JM

Dr. Nagin Nanda, EM

May 06, 2019  
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