

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

Original Application No. 624/2023

News Item published in The Tribune dated 28.09.2023 titled as "Hills 'vanish' as illegal mining rampant in Beet area"

Date of hearing: 11.03.2024

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

Respondent: Ms. Sunieta Ojha, Adv. for Punjab PCB (Through VC)  
Mr. Rahul Khurana & Mr. Hasil Jain, Advs. for R - 7, 9, 10, 12 to 19  
Ms. Nupur Kumar, Adv. for R - 5  
Mr. Shalabh Gupta, Adv. for MoEF & CC (Through VC)

**ORDER**

1. In this Original Application, registered *suo moto*, the issue of illegal mining and vanishing of Shivalik Hills, as high as 200 feet in the Beet area of Garhshankar sub-Division is under consideration. On the basis of the report filed by the PPCB and reply of the Department of Mines and Geology, State of Punjab, the Tribunal had noted the details of 13 stone crushers found to be violating the norms and had accordingly impleaded them as respondent no. 7 to 19 in the proceedings dated 11.01.2024.

2. The report filed by the Department of Mines and Geology on 11.01.2024 discloses that the FIRs have been registered against the persons found connected with the illegal mining. Along with the reply of respondent no. 5 filed on 06.03.2024, Annexure P3 is the report of the Joint Committee constituted by the ADC, Rupnagar. The said report discloses that 22 FIRs have been registered for mining contraventions against crushers installed in KheraKalmot Crusher Zone and 27 Demand Notices have been issued to the mining offenders amounting to Rs. 51.89 crores in the year 2023.

3. The PPCB has also filed the response on 06.03.2024 disclosing the action for imposition of Environmental Compensation (EC) against 13 named stone crushers. It is not in dispute that EC has been imposed by the PPCB for violation of the pollution norms by these stone crushers but no EC has been imposed on any violator who has caused environmental damage by carrying out illegal mining in the forests and mountains area concerned.

4. Learned Counsel for the PPCB has sought time to file the action taken report disclosing the action for imposition of EC against the persons responsible for illegal mining and consequential environmental damage. Let the same be filed at least one week before the next date of hearing by e-mail at [judicial-ngt@gov.in](mailto:judicial-ngt@gov.in) preferably in the form of searchable PDF/ OCR Support PDF and not in the form of Image PDF.

5. Learned Counsel appearing for the Respondent Nos.7 to 19 except respondent no. 8 and 11 has sought four weeks' time to file the reply.

6. List on 14.05.2024.

Prakash Shrivastava, CP

Sudhir Agarwal, JM

Arun Kumar Tyagi, JM

Dr. A. Senthil Vel, EM

March 11, 2024  
Original Application No. 624/2023  
SN