

Item No. 03

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI
(Through Video Conferencing)**

Original Application No. 18/2019/EZ
(I.A. No. 16/2019)

Jorjo Tana Tara

Applicant

Versus

Union of India & Ors.

Respondent(s)

Date of hearing: 09.11.2020

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE S. P. WANGDI, JUDICIAL MEMBER
HON'BLE MR. SAIBAL DASGUPTA, EXPERT MEMBER**

For Applicant(s): Ms. Kanika Sood, Adv a/w Mr. Rahul Chowdhury, Advocate

Respondent(s): Mr. Gora Chand Roy Chowdhury, Advocate for Respondent No. 1.
Mr. Anil Shrivastava, Advocate for Respondents No. 2 to 5.

ORDER

1. Response filed by the Applicant to the report of the State of Arunachal Pradesh dated 20.11.2019 is ordered to be taken on record. Mr. Anil Srivastava, learned Counsel appearing on behalf of the State, submits that he has not been served with the copy of the response and for a direction to that effect. He submits that the State shall consider the facts

and the suggestions made by the Applicant and explore possibility of implementing those.

2. Without going much into further into the facts and circumstances of the case, it is quite apparent that there has been hardly any progress made after the order dated 30.08.2019 passed by the Tribunal. By that order, we had pointed out serious lacunae in the administration of the forest area by the State. Even the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court do not appear to have been complied with. Although by the report filed on behalf of the State, it has been pointed out that certain actions have been taken, no tangible result appears to have emerged.
3. The principal difficulty expressed on behalf of the State is the shortage of manpower which the State Government has proposed to increase. We have been informed that as a first step the State Government intends to fill up the existing vacant post of the forest personnel and thereafter create over 200 post of front line staff including foresters and forest guards. We are rather disappointed to note that although we are in November of 2020, directions contained in the order dated 30.08.2019, which includes the

enhancement of the strength of the personnel, are yet to be complied.

4. Be that as it may, we direct the State to consider taking interim measures in view of the urgency of the situation which may include induction of retired personnel of the Forest Department as well as the personnel of the State Armed Police for the purpose. The state may also consider hiring of retired army personnel on contract basis for patrolling the hot spots in forest area. The Applicant has made useful suggestion of identifying hotspots where the illegalities are rampant. The State may take measures to make use of forest cover map prepared with the help of satellites imageries by Forest Survey of India, Dehradun of the very affected districts (hot spots) to observe the change in forest cover that has occurred over a time period of 10 years which will be helpful in evolving an action plan to deal with this issue.
5. Let the State file a status report of the actions taken thus far and on the direction that has been passed today by this order.

6. List on 06.01.2021.

S.P. Wangdi, JM

Saibal Dasgupta, EM

9th November, 2020
O.A. No. 18/2019/EZ
pk