

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

Original Application No. 726/2023

News Item titled "Deforestation ill-planned construction and unscientific - illegal mining behind Himachal Pradesh, monsoon catastrophe" appearing in The Hindu dated 25.11.2023.

Date of hearing: 29.02.2024

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE PRAKASH SHRIVASTAVA, CHAIRPERSON
HON'BLE DR. A. SENTHIL VEL, EXPERT MEMBER
HON'BLE DR. AFROZ AHMAD, EXPERT MEMBER**

Respondent: Mr. Divyanshu Kumar Srivastava, Adv. for the State of HP (Through VC)
Mr. Pursoth Kannan, Adv. for HP SPCB (Through VC)

ORDER

1. One of the issue under consideration in this original application is deforestation, ill-planned construction activities, illegal mining along the river beds which are few reasons responsible for natural calamity at Himachal Pradesh (HP).

2. Tribunal by order dated 20.12.2023 had taken note of the submission of the Advocate General that units indulging in illegal mining have also been identified and their operations have been suspended, therefore, Tribunal had flagged the issue of imposition of environmental clearance against identified violators by applying the Principle of Polluter Pays and recovery thereof as also effective steps for preventing illegal deforestation, mining etc.

3. Concerned respondents were impleaded and notice issued with direction to file reply.

4. Replies on behalf of Department of Town and Country Planning Department, State of HP, HPPCB have been filed.

5. Learned Counsel for the State seeks two weeks time to go through all the replies and produce a consolidated report before the Tribunal.

6. Learned Counsel for the HPPCB also seeks time to disclose the details of the violators against whom EC has been imposed as mentioned in paragraph 5 of its reply.

7. In view of the above submission, original application is adjourned to 09.05.2024.

Prakash Shrivastava, CP

Dr. A. Senthil Vel, EM

Dr. Afroz Ahmad, EM

February 29, 2024
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JG.