

**IN THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL, SOUTHERN ZONE
BENCH, CHENNAI**

APPEAL NO. 13 of 2023

IN THE MATTER OF: -

Pritto Francis

.... Applicant

Versus

The Member Secretary, SEIAA and Ors.

.... Respondent

**COUNTER AFFIDAVIT FILED ON BEHALF OF STATE LEVEL
ENVIRONMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY (SEIAA)**



Filed by:
G.M. SYED NURULLAH SHERIFF
Senior Standing Counsel
MoEF & Cc.
Mob. No. 9444015330
Counsel for Respondent no. 1

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI

Appeal No.13 of 2024 (SZ)

PRITTO FRANCIS

Vs

State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA)

&

State Level Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC)

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BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI

Appeal No.13 of 2024 (SZ)

Pritto Francis (Managing Partner),
M/s. Green Sand Granites,
1/409, Mannur Post,
Mannur Village,
Pollachi Taluk,
Coimbatore District – 642005.
E-mail: prittofrancis005@gmail.com

... APPELLANT

Vs

1. State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA),

Rep. by its Member Secretary,

3rd Floor, Panagal Maaligai, No.1, Jeenis Road,
Saidapet, Chennai – 600 015.

Email: seiaamstn@gmail.com

2. State Level Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC),

Rep. by its Chairman,

3rd Floor, Panagal Maaligai, No.1, Jeenis Road,
Saidapet, Chennai – 600 015.

Email: seacchairmantn@gmail.com

3. The District Collector,

Coimbatore, Coimbatore District,

Email: collrcebe@nic.in

4. The Assistant Director,

Department of Geology & Mining,

Collectorate, Coimbatore,

Coimbatore District.

Email: minescbe@gmail.com

... RESPONDENTS



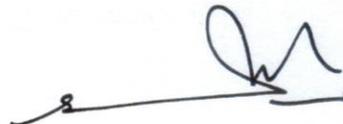
COUNTER AFFIDAVIT FILED ON BEHALF OF SEIAA – TAMIL NADU, THE
1st and 2nd RESPONDENTS

I, A.R. Rahul Nadh, aged 36 years working as Member Secretary, State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Tamil Nadu (SEIAA-TN) having office at Third Floor, Panagal Maaligai, Saidapet, Chennai – 600015, solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows:

1. I am filing this counter affidavit on behalf of the 1st & 2nd Respondent /SEIAA-TN herein and as such I am well acquainted with the facts and the circumstances of the case from the records available in this office.
2. I deny the averments and allegations stated in this Appeal No.13 of 2024 except those that are specifically admitted hereunder and put the applicant to strict proof of the same.
3. It is respectfully submitted that; the project proponent Thiru. Pritto Francis (Managing Partner) of M/s. Green Sand Granites has applied to State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority – Tamil Nadu (SEIAA-TN) seeking prior Environmental Clearance for the project/activity covered under Category “B2” of Item 1(a) “Mining Projects” of the Schedule to the EIA Notification, 2006 for the Proposed Rough Stone Quarry & Gravel lease over an extent of 2.07.0 Ha (Patta Land) at S.F.Nos. 208/1 (Part) of Ramapattinam Village, Pollachi Taluk, Coimbatore District, Tamil Nadu vide online proposal No.SIA/TN/MIN/432865/2023 dated 10.06.2023.
4. I respectfully submitted that; the proposal was scheduled to be appraised in the **401st meeting of State Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC) &** the schedule was communicated to the Project Proponent via email on 28.07.2023. Subsequently, it was placed in the **401st meeting of State Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC) held on 16.08.2023.** The Proponent, Thiru. Pritto Francis appeared before the committee with his EIA Co-ordinator for appraisal.

During deliberations and from the KML file uploaded in the PARIVESH Portal, the Committee observed that:

- i. The proposed site is a fresh area.



Member Secretary
STATE LEVEL ENVIRONMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY - TN
Panagal Maligai, No.1, Jeanis Road,
Saidapet, Chennai - 15

Member Secretary
STATE LEVEL ENVIRONMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY - TN
Panagal Maligai, No.1, Jeanis Road,
Saidapet, Chennai - 15

- ii. The proposed project area is surrounded by numerous coconut trees and farms on all sides.
- iii. A crusher and two other quarries are already operating near the proposed project area and hence the commencement of one more quarry (current proposal) operation in the area will lead to excessive dust and noise pollution load disrupting the existing environmental settings.

In view of the above, the Committee decided not to recommend the proposal for grant of Environmental Clearance.

5. I respectfully submitted that; subsequently, the subject was placed before the **Authority (SEIAA-TN) in its 652nd meeting held on 07.09.2023**. In view of the above, The Authority, after discussions, accepted the decision of SEAC Rejected the proposal and decided to request Member Secretary, SEIAA-TN to grant rejection letter to proponent as per the 401st SEAC minutes. Further, Authority decided to close and record this proposal.

6. I respectfully submitted that; based on the above, **the rejection letter was sent to the Project proponent vide this office letter No. SEIAA-TN/F.No.10129/2023 dated 07.09.2023. Hence this file is closed and recorded.**

Therefore, humbly prayed that this Hon'ble Tribunal may be pleased to record and pass orders as this Hon'ble Tribunal may deem to fit and proper in light of the facts and circumstances of this case and thus render justice.

Solemnly affirmed at Chennai on
this 26th day of February 2024 &
Signed his name in my presence

}

**FIRST & SECOND
RESPONDENT**

BEFORE ME



**MEMBER SECRETARY
SEIAA-TN**

Member Secretary
STATE LEVEL ENVIRONMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY - TN
Panagal Maligai, No.1, Jeenias Road,
Saidapet, Chennai - 15

Hence, based on the presentation and details furnished by the project proponent, the Committee decided to call for the following details from the project proponent to consider the proposal for appraisal:

- i) Details on the existence of schools (both Govt & Private schools) and any other sensitive structures including temples, etc in the vicinity of the existing quarry site and detail the impact of mining activities & mitigation measures for protecting these structures.
- ii) Details of EC violation by way of exceeding the prescribed depth and for mining in the safety area.

Hence, the proponent is advised to submit the above-mentioned details within a period of 30 days failing which the proposal will be automatically delisted from the PARIVESH Portal.

Agenda No: 401-17

(File No.10129/2023)

Proposed Rough Stone Quarry and Gravel lease over an extent of 2.07.0 Ha (Patta Land) at S.F.Nos. 208/1 (Part) of Ramapattinam Village, Pollachi Taluk, Coimbatore District, Tamil Nadu by Mr. Pritto Francis (Managing Partner) of M/s. Green Sand Granites – For Environmental Clearance. (SIA/TN/MIN/432865/2023 dated:10.06.2023)

The proposal was placed in the 401st meeting of SEAC held on 16.08.2023. The details of the project furnished by the proponent are given in the website (parivesh.nic.in).

The SEAC noted the following:

1. The project proponent, **Mr. Pritto Francis (Managing Partner) of M/s. Green Sand Granites** has applied for Environmental Clearance for the Proposed Rough Stone Quarry and Gravel lease over an extent of 2.07.0 Ha (Patta Land) at S.F.Nos. 208/1 (Part) of Ramapattinam Village, Pollachi Taluk, Coimbatore District, Tamil Nadu.
2. The project/activity is covered under Category "B2" of Item 1(a) "Mining of Minerals Projects" of the Schedule to the EIA Notification, 2006.

During deliberations and from the KML file uploaded in the PARIVESH Portal, the Committee observed that:


MEMBER SECRETARY
SEAC -TN


CHAIRMAN
SEAC- TN

- i) The proposed site is a fresh area.
- ii) The proposed project area is surrounded by numerous coconut trees and farms on all sides.
- iii) A crusher and two other quarries are already operating near the proposed project area and hence the commencement of one more quarry (current proposal) operation in the area will lead to excessive dust and noise pollution load disrupting the existing environmental settings.

In view of the above, the Committee decided not to recommend the proposal for grant of Environmental Clearance.

Agenda No: 401-18

(File No: 9890/2023)

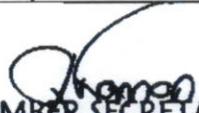
Proposed Rough stone & Gravel quarry lease over an extent of 2.48.15Ha at SF.No. 349/2(P), 349/3(P), 349/5(P), 349/8(P), 349/9(P) & 349/11(P) of Sathyamangalam Village, Kulathur Taluk, Pudukottai District, Tamil Nadu by Thiru. M. Rasu - for Environmental Clearance. (SIA/TN/MIN/432437/2023, Dated:07.06.2023)

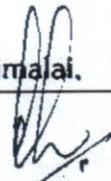
The proposal was placed in 401st meeting of SEAC held on 16.08.2023. The details of the project furnished by the proponent are available in the website (parivesh.nic.in).

The SEAC noted the following:

1. The Project Proponent, Thiru.M.Rasu has applied for Environmental Clearance for the proposed Rough stone & Gravel quarry lease over an extent of 2.48.15Ha at SF.No. 349/2(P), 349/3(P), 349/5(P), 349/8(P), 349/9(P) & 349/11(P) of Sathyamangalam Village, Kulathur Taluk, Pudukottai District, Tamil Nadu.
2. The proposed quarry/activity is covered under Category "B2" of Item 1(a) "Mining Projects" of the Schedule to the EIA Notification, 2006.

File No	9890/2023	Category	B2
	SIA/TN/MIN/432437/2023, Dated:07.06.2023		
Sl. No	Salient Features of the Proposal		
1.	Name of the Owner/Firm	Thiru.M.Rasu : S/o.Mariyappan, Door No-587, Pommadimalai.	


MEMBER SECRETARY
SEAC -TN


CHAIRMAN
SEAC- TN

Pritto Francis

Legend

📍 Feature 1

6

AGRI FARMS

📍 Green sand crusher

📍 Green Sand Blue Metals

Google Earth

Image © 2024 Maxar Technologies

Image © 2024 Airbus

Image © 2024 Maxar Technologies

Saimithran &co Qualmage © 2024 Airbus



100 m

17.	Proposed Rough Stone Quarry and Gravel lease over an extent of 2.07.0 Ha (Patta Land) at S.F.Nos. 208/1 (Part) of Ramapattinam Village, Pollachi Taluk, Coimbatore District, Tamil Nadu by Mr. Pritto Francis (Managing Partner) of M/s. Green Sand Granites – For Environmental Clearance. (SIA/TN/MIN/432865/2023)	10129	<p>The authority noted that the subject was appraised in the 401st SEAC meeting held on 16.08.2023. During deliberations and from the KML file uploaded in the PARIVESH Portal, the Committee observed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) The proposed site is a fresh area. ii) The proposed project area is surrounded by numerous coconut trees and farms on all sides. iii) A crusher and two other quarries are already operating near the proposed project area and hence the commencement of one more quarry (current proposal) operation in the area will lead to excessive dust and noise pollution load disrupting the existing environmental settings. <p>In view of the above, the Committee decided not to recommend the proposal for grant of Environmental Clearance.</p> <p>The Authority, after discussions, accepted the decision of SEAC Rejected the proposal and decided to request Member Secretary, SEIAA-TN to grant rejection letter to proponent as per the 401st SEAC minutes. Further, Authority decided to close and record this proposal.</p>
18.	Proposed Rough stone & Gravel quarry lease over an extent of 2.48.15Ha at SF.No. 349/2(P), 349/3(P), 349/5(P), 349/8(P), 349/9(P) & 349/11(P) of Sathyamangalam Village, Kulathur Taluk, Pudukottai District, Tamil	9890	<p>The authority noted that the subject was appraised in the 401st SEAC meeting held on 16.8.2023. SEAC has furnished its recommendations for granting Environmental Clearance subject to the conditions stated therein.</p> <p>After detailed discussions, the Authority taking into account the recommendations of SEAC and also the</p>

MEMBER SECRETARY

MEMBER

CHAIRMAN
SEIAA-TN



THIRU.DEEPAK S. BILGI, I.F.S
MEMBER SECRETARY

STATE LEVEL ENVIRONMENT IMPACT
ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY-TAMILNADU

3rd Floor, Panagal Maaligai,
No.1, Jeenis Road, Saidapet
Chennai-600015
Phone No.044-24359973
Fax No. 044-24359975

Letter No. SEIAA-TN/F.No.10129/2023 dated: 07.09.2023.

To

Mr. Pritto Francis (Managing Partner)
M/s. Green Sand Granites,
1/409, Mannur Post
Mannur Village, Pollachi Taluk,
Coimbatore District – 642 005.

Sir,

Sub: SEIAA-TN – An application seeking Environmental Clearance for the Proposed Rough Stone Quarry and Gravel lease over an extent of 2.07.0 Ha (Patta Land) at S.F.Nos. 208/1 (Part) of Ramapattinam Village, Pollachi Taluk, Coimbatore District, Tamil Nadu by Mr. Pritto Francis (Managing Partner) of M/s. Green Sand Granites - under Schedule 1(a) 'Mining of minerals projects' of the EIA Notification, 2006 – Proposal **not recommended** for Environmental Clearance – application closed and recorded - Reg.

- Ref: 1. Online Proposal No. SIA/TN/MIN/432865/2023 dated.10.06.2023.
2. Your application for Environmental Clearance submitted at SEIAA-TN on 19.06.2023.
3. Minutes of the 401st SEAC meeting held on 16.08.2023.
4. Minutes of the 652nd SEIAA meeting held on 07.09.2023.

9.

I invite your kind attention to the references cited above, wherein you have submitted an application seeking Environmental Clearance for the Proposed Rough Stone Quarry and Gravel lease over an extent of 2.07.0 Ha (Patta Land) at S.F.Nos. 208/1 (Part) of Ramapattinam Village, Pollachi Taluk, Coimbatore District, Tamil Nadu.

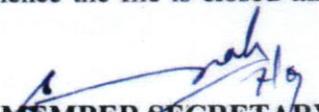
The proposal was placed in the 401st SEAC meeting held on 16.08.2023. The SEAC noted the following:

1. The project proponent, **Mr. Pritto Francis (Managing Partner) of M/s. Green Sand Granites** has applied for Environmental Clearance for the Proposed Rough Stone and Gravel quarry lease over an extent of 2.07.0 Ha (Patta Land) at S.F.Nos. 208/1 (Part) of Ramapattinam Village, Pollachi Taluk, Coimbatore District, Tamil Nadu.
2. The project/activity is covered under Category "B2" of Item 1(a) "Mining of Minerals Projects" of the Schedule to the EIA Notification, 2006.
3. During deliberations and from the KML file uploaded in the PARIVESH Portal, the Committee observed that:
 - i) The proposed site is a fresh area.
 - ii) The proposed project area is surrounded by numerous coconut trees and farms on all sides.
 - iii) A crusher and two other quarries are already operating near the proposed project area and hence the commencement of one more quarry (current proposal) operation in the area will lead to excessive dust and noise pollution load disrupting the existing environmental settings.

In view of the above, the Committee decided **not to recommend the proposal** for grant of Environmental Clearance.

Subsequently, the proposal was placed in the 652nd Authority meeting held on 07.09.2023. The Authority, after discussions, accepted the decision of SEAC, rejected the proposal and decided to request Member Secretary, SEIAA-TN to grant rejection letter to proponent as per the 401st SEAC minutes. Further, Authority decided to close and record this proposal.

In this regard, it is informed that the proposal was rejected and hence the file is **closed and recorded accordingly**.


MEMBER SECRETARY
SEIAA-TN


7/9/23