

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

APPEAL NO. 14 of 2024

IN THE MATTER OF: -

U. Selvi

.... 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.14 of 2024 (SZ)

U. SELVI

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.14 of 2024 (SZ)**

Tmt. U. SELVI,
W/o. S.Uthirasami,
5/56, O No.2/190, Kuttakadu,
Rc Chettipatti Post, Palpakki,
Omalur, Salem – 636 455
ritachandrasedkar@gmail.com
Cell No. 9840979920

... 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
Phone No. 044-24359973
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
Phone No. 044-24359973.

... RESPONDENTS

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

MEMBER SECRETARY
STATE LEVEL ENVIRONMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY - TN
Panagal Maligai, No.1, Jeenis Road,
Saidapet, Chennai - 15

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

I, A.R. Rahul Nadh, I.A.S, 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 all the averments and allegations stated in this Appeal No.14 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 Tmt. U. Selvi has applied to State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority – Tamil Nadu (SEIAA-TN) seeking prior Environmental Clearance for the project/activity is covered under Category “B2” of Item 1(a) “Mining Projects” of the Schedule to the EIA Notification, 2006 for the proposed Rough Stone and Gravel Quarry lease over an extent of 0.93.0 Ha S.F.No.247/2, Veppilai Village, Kadayampatti Taluk, Salem District, Tamil Nadu vide online proposal letter No. SIA/TN/MIN/409045/2022, dated: 03.12.2022.
4. I respectfully submitted that; the proposal was placed for appraisal in the 364th SEAC meeting held on 23.03.2023. Based on the presentation and documents furnished by the project proponent, SEAC noted the following
 - i. The proposed mine site is un-mined so far.
 - ii. Thoppaiyar Dam & Amman Eri are located nearer to the proposed mining site.

Hence, the SEAC, after detailed deliberations, decided to make an on-spot inspection to assess the present status of highly sensitive environmental settings of the site and availability of haul road for the transportation through a sub-committee

constituted for the purpose. The SEAC will take further course of action based on the site inspection & report.

5. I respectfully submitted that; In view of the above, the proposal was again placed in the 413th SEAC meeting held on 05.10.2023 where the Sub-Committee report was deliberated and its observations & conclusions are given as below:

Context and Chronology

- i. Rough Stone and Gravel Quarry is owned by Tmt. U. Selvi of Salem, Tamil Nadu. Tmt. U. Selvi has applied for obtaining of mining lease over an area of 0.93.0 Ha at S.F. No. 247/2 of Veppilai Village, Kadayampatti Taluk, Salem District, Tamil Nadu.
- ii. While the original mining lease for rough stone was granted for 5 years and gravel was granted for 3 years has been approved through Precise Area Communication Letter vide Na. Ka. En. 108/2021/Kanimam Aa dated 14.10.2022 by The Deputy Director, Department of Geology and Mining, District Collectorate, Salem. The lease is valid up to 5 years.
- iii. The mining plan for the lease area was approved vide Letter Roc. No. 108/2021/Mines-B dated 01.11.2022 by Deputy Director, Department of Geology and Mining, Collectorate, Salem.
- iv. The mining activity is covered under category "B2".
- v. 500-meter radius letter was approved by Deputy Director, Department of Geology and Mining, Collectorate, Salem vide Letter Roc.108/2021/Mines-B dated 11.11.2022.
- vi. The proposal was appraised by SEAC-TN in its 364th meeting held on 23.03.2023.
- vii. The SEAC-TN constituted a sub-committee comprising Thiru. D. Velazhagan and Thiru. D. Narasimhan, to make on-spot inspection to assess the present status of highly sensitive environmental settings of the site and availability of haul road for the transportation through a sub-committee constituted for the purpose.
- viii. The sub-committee inspected the project site on 01.05.2023, interacted with the proponent and the EIA coordinator.

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

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

On-site Inspection – Observations:

- i. The environmental and socio-economic settings of the mine include:
 - Nearest reserve forest – 0.70 km (SE); Lokkur R.F
 - Nearest water body – 0.94 km (NE); Amman Eri
 - Nearest Dam/Reservoir – 2.78 km (NW); Thoppaiyar Dam/Reservoir
 - Nearest archeological place – 29.42 (S); Government Museum, Salem
 - Nearest park – 22.06 (S); Kurumbapatty Zoological Park
 - Nearest habitation – more than 300 m away
- ii. The mine operations were of Opencast with hydraulic rock breaker, and excavator for loading.
- iii. The mine was a fresh lease and fresh quarry
- iv. Luxuriant trees of different varieties are seen as green belt surrounding the mine. The proponent informed that these trees were planted and maintained by the proponent. The greenbelt is well maintained.

INSPECTION PROCEEDINGS:

The sub-committee visited Rough Stone and Gravel Quarry on 01.05.2023.

The following are the observations of committee:

- i. The subcommittee observed that the quarries are located on Thoppur hills, an eastern ghat hill range that runs in Dharmapuri district.
- ii. The entire Thoppur hills is a major watershed for the area, which is otherwise a dry area.
- iii. The water that runs off the Hill, drains in to an Odai that feeds the ‘Amman Eri’, a nearby lake, that is key to all the agricultural activities in the area.
- iv. Surplus from Amman eri flows in to the Thoppaiyar dam, a crucial watershed that supports agricultural area and a source of drinking water for the population in and around, otherwise a dry area.
- v. The proposed quarries are spread over the hills. the dust and the residue, including the explosive residues from the quarries and a crusher located in the vicinity, likely to seep into the odai and eventually in to the Amman eri.



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

this pollution load interferes with the quality of water and may reduce the agricultural productivity in the long run.

- vi. The quarrying activity also alters and affects the water drainage system of the hill.
- vii. Thoppaiyar Dam, a source of drinking water for the population around, will be rendered with a reduced services that affects the ecology and economy of the area.

Hence the subcommittee opines that the environmental clearance need not be given to the proposed quarries in the thoppur Hills.

Based on the presentation and documents furnished by the project proponent and the recommendation of the Sub- committee constituted by SEAC. Considering the environmental settings of the proposed mining area, SEAC decided to agree with the conclusion of the subcommittee and not to recommend grant of EC for this project.

6. I respectfully submitted that; subsequently, the subject was placed before the **Authority (SEIAA-TN) in its 665th meeting held on 26.10.2023**. 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 413th SEAC minutes. Further, Authority decided to close and record this proposal.
7. 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.9634/2023 dated 20.12.2023. Hence this file is closed and recorded accordingly.**



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

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 28th 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, Jeeris Road,
Saidapet, Chennai - 15

2. The project/activity is covered under Category "B2" of Item 1(a) "Mining Projects" of the Schedule to the EIA Notification, 2006.

Based on the presentation and documents furnished by the project proponent, SEAC decided to call for the following additional details.

1. The PP shall submit a detailed letter obtained from the competent authority indicating the details of the existing pits, as the PP has been imposed a penalty for illegally mining operations.

2. The PP shall submit EC compliance report.

On the receipt of the same further deliberation will be done.

Agenda No: 364 - 08

(File No: 9634/2023)

Proposed Rough Stone and Gravel Quarry lease over an extent of 0.93.0 Ha S.F.No.247/2, Veppilai Village, Kadayampatti Taluk, Salem District by Thiru. U Selvi - For Environmental Clearance. (SIA/TN/MIN/40*9045/2022, dt: 03.12.2022)

The proposal was placed for appraisal in this 364th SEAC meeting held on 23.03.2023. The details of the project furnished by the proponent are given in the website (parivesh.nic.in).

1. The Project Proponent, Thiru. U Selvi has applied for Environmental Clearance for the proposed Rough Stone and Gravel Quarry lease over an extent of 0.93.0 Ha S.F.No.247/2, Veppilai Village, Kadayampatti Taluk, Salem District, Tamil Nadu.
2. The project/activity is covered under Category "B2" of item 1(a) "Mining of Minerals Project" of the Schedule to the EIA Notification, 2006.
3. The precise area communication/lease is issued for the period of 5 Years. The approved mining plan is for the period of five years & production should not exceed 53,530 m³ of Rough Stone & 12,510 m³ of Gravel and the annual peak production shall not exceed 11950m³ of Rough Stone (4th Year) & 4510m³ of Gravel (1st Year). The ultimate depth is 27m AGL.


MEMBER SECRETARY
SEAC -TN

CHAIRMAN
SEAC - TN



Based on the presentation and documents furnished by the project proponent, SEAC noted that (i) the proposed mine site is un-mined so far and (ii) Thoppaiyar Dam & Amman Eri are located nearer to the proposed mining site. Hence, the SEAC, after detailed deliberations, decided to make an on-spot inspection to assess the present status of highly sensitive environmental settings of the site and availability of haul road for the transportation through a sub-committee constituted for the purpose.

The SEAC will take further course of action based on the site inspection & report.

Agenda No: 364 - 09

(File No: 9622/2023)

Proposed Rough Stone and Gravel Quarry lease over an extent of 1.21.50Ha S.F.No.246/3, Veppilai Village, Kadayampatti Taluk, Salem District by Thiru.S.Uthirasami - For Environmental Clearance. (SIA/TN/MIN/409129/2022, dt: 03.12.2022)

The proposal was placed for appraisal in this 364th SEAC meeting held on 23.03.2023. The details of the project furnished by the proponent are given in the website (parivesh.nic.in).

1. The Project Proponent, Thiru.S.Uthirasami has applied for Environmental Clearance for the proposed Rough Stone and Gravel Quarry lease over an extent of 1.21.50Ha S.F.No.246/3, Veppilai Village, Kadayampatti Taluk, Salem District, Tamil Nadu.
2. The project/activity is covered under Category "B2" of item I(a) "Mining of Minerals Project" of the Schedule to the EIA Notification,2006.
3. The precise area communication/lease is issued for the period of 5Years. The approved mining plan is for the period of five years & production should not exceed 89,335m³ of Rough Stone & 18,852 m³ of Gravel and the annual peak production shall not exceed 18000 m³ of Rough Stone (4th Year) & 9312m³ of Gravel (1st Year). The ultimate depth is 42m BGL.

The salient features of the project are as follows:

Sl. No	Details of the Proposal	Data Furnished
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MEMBER SECRETARY
SEAC -TN

27


CHAIRMAN
SEAC- TN

Agenda No: 413 – TA - 02

(File No: 9634/2022)

Proposed Rough Stone and Gravel Quarry lease over an extent of 0.93.0 Ha S.F.No.247/2, Veppilai Village, Kadayampatti Taluk, Salem District by Tmt. U. Selvi - For Environmental Clearance. (SIA/TN/MIN/409045/2022, dt: 03.12.2022)

The proposal was placed for appraisal in this 413th SEAC meeting held on 05.10.2023. 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, Tmt. U. Selvi has applied for Environmental Clearance for the proposed Rough Stone and Gravel Quarry lease over an extent of 0.93.0 Ha S.F.No.247/2, Veppilai Village, Kadayampatti Taluk, Salem District, Tamil Nadu.
2. The project/activity is covered under Category "B2" of item 1(a) "Mining of Minerals Project" of the Schedule to the EIA Notification,2006.
3. The precise area communication/lease is issued for the period of 5 Years. The approved mining plan is for the period of five years & production should not exceed 53,530 m³ of Rough Stone & 12,510 m³ of Gravel and the annual peak production shall not exceed 11950m³ of Rough Stone (5th Year) & 4510m³ of Gravel (1st Year). The ultimate depth is 27m AGL.
4. Earlier, the proposal was placed for appraisal in this 364th SEAC meeting held on 23.03.2023. Based on the presentation and documents furnished by the project proponent, SEAC noted that (i) the proposed mine site is un-mined so far and (ii) Thoppaiyar Dam & Amman Eri are located nearer to the proposed mining site. Hence, the SEAC, after detailed deliberations, decided to make an on-spot inspection to assess the present status of highly sensitive environmental settings of the site and availability of haul road for the transportation through a sub-committee constituted for the purpose.

The SEAC will take further course of action based on the site inspection & report.

In view of the above, the proposal was again placed in this 413th SEAC meeting held on 05.10.2023 where the Sub-Committee report was deliberated and its observations & conclusions are given as below:


MEMBER SECRETARY
SEAC -TN


CHAIRMAN
SEAC- TN

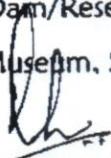
1.0 Context and Chronology

- Rough Stone and Gravel Quarry is owned by Tmt. U. Selvi of Salem, Tamil Nadu. Tmt. U. Selvi has applied for obtaining of mining lease over an area of 0.93.0 Ha at S.F. No. 247/2 of Veppilai Village, Kadayampatti Taluk, Salem District, Tamil Nadu.
- While the original mining lease for rough stone was granted for 5 years and gravel was granted for 3 years has been approved through Precise Area Communication Letter vide Na. Ka. En. 108/2021/Kanimam Aa dated 14.10.2022 by The Deputy Director, Department of Geology and Mining, District Collectorate, Salem. The lease is valid up to 5 years.
- The mining plan for the lease area was approved vide Letter Roc. No. 108/2021/Mines-B dated 01.11.2022 by Deputy Director, Department of Geology and Mining, Collectorate, Salem.
- The mining activity is covered under category "B2".
- 500 meter radius letter was approved by Deputy Director, Department of Geology and Mining, Collectorate, Salem vide Letter Roc.108/2021/Mines-B dated 11.11.2022.
- The proposal was appraised by SEAC-TN in its 364th meeting held on 23.03.2023.
- The SEAC-TN constituted a sub-committee comprising Thiru. D. Velazhagan and Thiru. D. Narasimhan, to make on-spot inspection to assess the present status of highly sensitive environmental settings of the site and availability of haul road for the transportation through a sub-committee constituted for the purpose.
- The sub-committee inspected the project site on 01.05.2023, interacted with the proponent and the EIA coordinator.

2.0 On-site Inspection – Observations

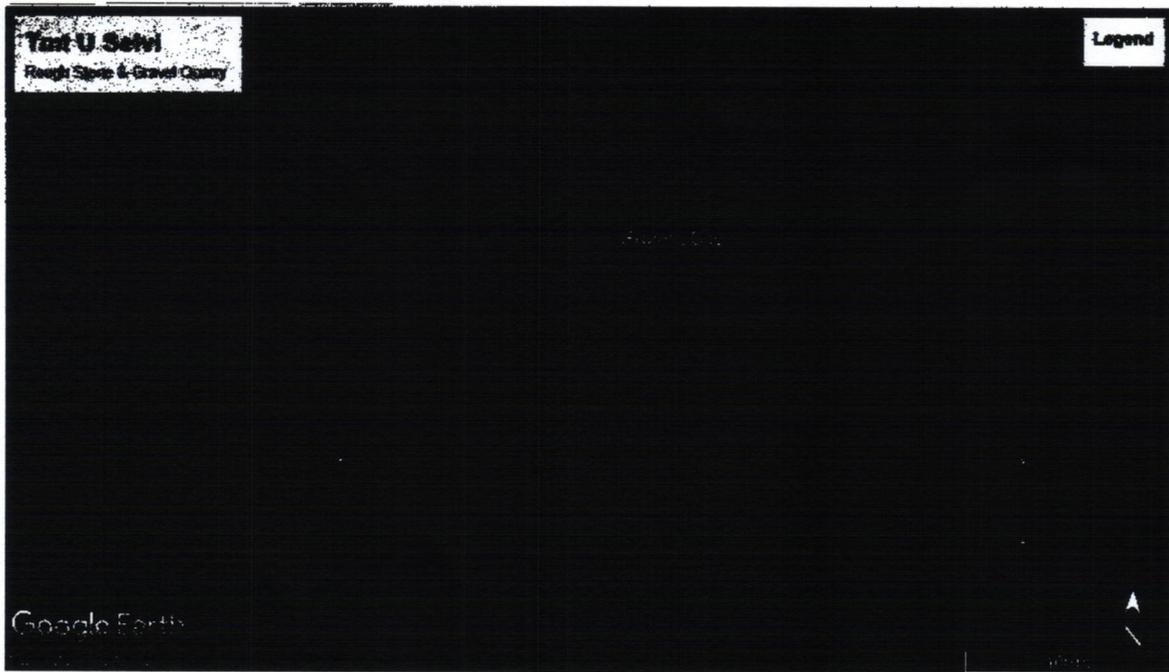
- The environmental and socio-economic settings of the mine include:
 - Nearest reserve forest – 0.70 km (SE); Lokkur R.F
 - Nearest water body – 0.94 km (NE); Amman Eri
 - Nearest Dam/Reservoir – 2.78 km (NW); Thoppaiyar Dam/Reservoir
 - Nearest archeological place – 29.42 (S); Government Museum, Salem


MEMBER SECRETARY
SEAC -TN


CHAIRMAN
SEAC- TN

- Nearest park – 22.06 (S); Kurumbapatty Zoological Park
- Nearest habitation – more than 300 m away
- The mine operations were of Opencast with hydraulic rock breaker, and excavator for loading.
- The mine was a fresh lease and fresh quarry
- Luxuriant trees of different varieties are seen as green belt surrounding the mine. The proponent informed that these trees were planted and maintained by the proponent. The greenbelt is well maintained.

Evidence that the mine was a fresh quarry:



[Handwritten Signature]
MEMBER SECRETARY
SEAC -TN

[Handwritten Signature]
CHAIRMAN
SEAC- TN

INSPECTION PROCEEDINGS:

1. The Project Proponent. Tmt. U. Selvi has applied for Environmental Clearance for the proposed Rough Stone and Gravel Quarry lease over an extent of 0.93.0 Ha at S.F.No.247/2, Veppilai Village, Kadayampatti Taluk, Salem District, Tamil Nadu.
2. The project/activity is covered under Category "B2" of item 1(a) "Mining of Minerals Project" of the Schedule to the EIA Notification, 2006.
3. The precise area communication/lease is issued for the period of 5 Years. The approved mining plan is for the period of five years & production should not exceed 53,530 m³ of Rough Stone & 12,510 m³ of Gravel and the annual peak production shall not exceed 11,950 m³ of Rough Stone (5th Year) & 4510 m³ of Gravel (1st Year). The ultimate depth is 27 m BGL.

Based on the presentation and documents furnished by the project proponent, SEAC noted that (i) the proposed mine site is un-mined so far and (ii) Thoppaiyar Dam & Amman Eri are located nearer to the proposed mining site. Hence, the SEAC, after detailed deliberations, decided to make an on-spot inspection to assess the present status of highly sensitive environmental setting of the site and availability of haul road for the transportation through a sub-committee constituted for the purpose.

The sub-committee visited Rough Stone and Gravel Quarry on 01.05.2023.

The following are the observations of committee.

1. The sub committee observed that the quarries are located on Thoppur hills, an eastern ghat hill range that runs in Dharmapuri district.
2. The entire Thoppur hills is a major watershed for the area, which is other wise a dry area.
3. The water that runs off the Hill, drains in to an *Odoi* that feeds the '*Amman Eri*', a nearby lake, that is key to all the agricultural activities in the area.
4. Surplus from *Amman eri* flows in to the Thoppaiyar dam, a crucial watershed that supports agricultural area and a source of drinking water for the population in and around, otherwise a dry area.

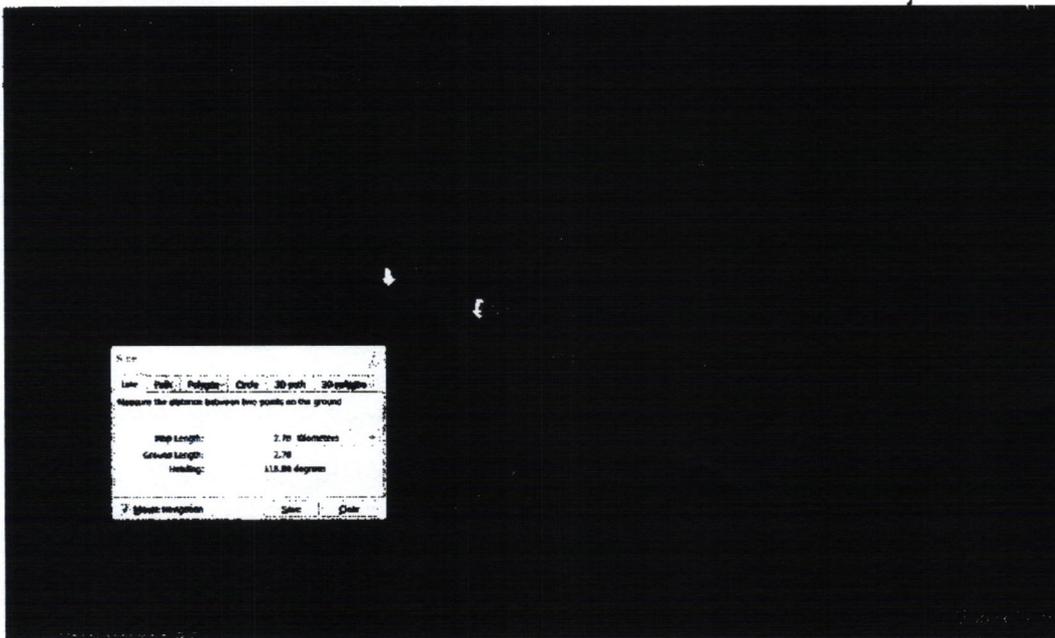

MEMBER SECRETARY
SEAC -TN


CHAIRMAN
SEAC- TN

5. The proposed quarries are spread over the hills. the dust and the residue, including the explosive residues from the quarries and a crusher located in the vicinity, likely to seep into the *odai* and eventually in to the Amman eri. this pollution load interferes with the quality of water and may reduce the agricultural productivity in the long run.
6. The quarrying activity also alters and affects the water drainage system of the hill.
7. Thoppaiyar Dam, a source of drinking water for the population around, will be rendered with a reduced services that affects the ecology and economy of the area.

HENCE THE SUBCOMMITTEE OPINES THAT THE ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE NEED NOT BE GIVEN TO THE PROPOSED QUARRIES IN THE THOPPUR HILLS.

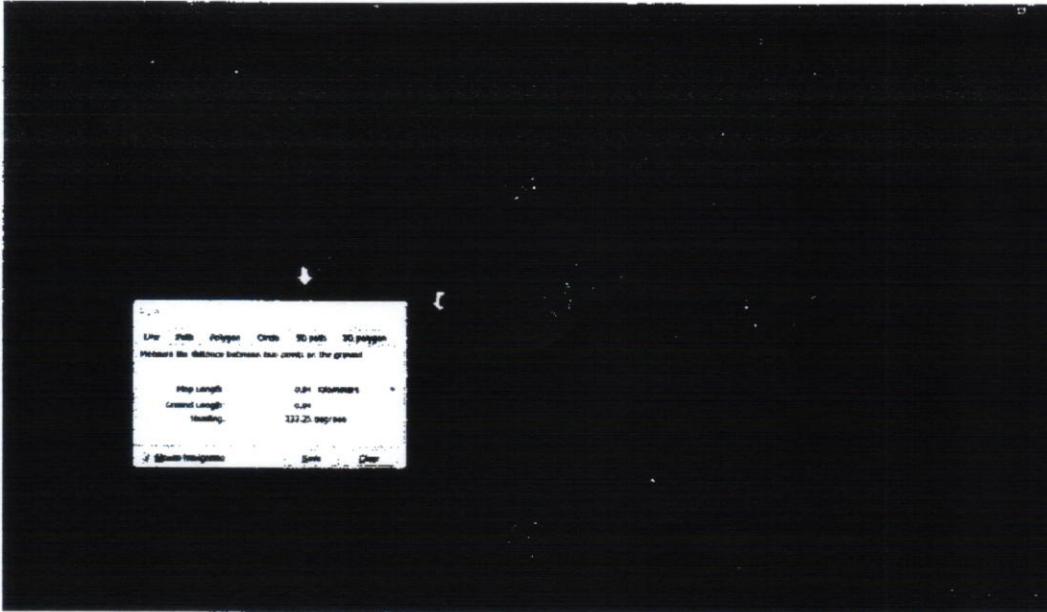
DISTANCE OF PROJECT SITE FROM THOPPAIYAR DAM



DISTANCE OF PROJECT SITE FROM AMMAN ERI


MEMBER SECRETARY
SEAC -TN


CHAIRMAN
SEAC- TN



Based on the presentation and documents furnished by the project proponent and the recommendation of the Sub- committee constituted by SEAC. Considering the environmental settings of the proposed mining area, SEAC decided to agree with the conclusion of the subcommittee and not to recommend grant of EC for this project.

Agenda No: 413 – TA - 03

(File No: 9635/2023)

Proposed Rough Stone and Gravel Quarry lease over an extent of 0.63.50Ha S.F.No.248/1, 248/2, 248/3, Veppilai Village, Kadayampatti Taluk, Salem District by Tmt.U.Selvi - For Environmental Clearance. (SIA/TN/MIN/409029/2022, dt: 07.12.2022)

Earlier, the proposal was placed for appraisal in this 364th SEAC meeting held on 23.03.2023. The details of the project furnished by the proponent are given in the website (parivesh.nic.in).

1. The Project Proponent, Tmt.U.Selvi has applied for Environmental Clearance for the proposed Rough Stone and Gravel Quarry lease over an extent of 0.63.50Ha S.F.No.248/1, 248/2, 248/3, Veppilai Village, Kadayampatti Taluk, Salem District, Tamil Nadu.
2. The project/activity is covered under Category "B2" of item I(a) "Mining of Minerals Project' of the Schedule to the EIA Notification,2006.

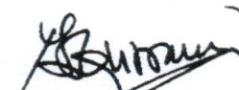

MEMBER SECRETARY
SEAC -TN


CHAIRMAN
SEAC- TN

			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 SEAC minutes. Further, Authority decided to close and record this proposal.
22.	Proposed Rough Stone and Gravel Quarry lease over an extent of 0.93.0 Ha S.F.No.247/2, Veppilai Village, Kadayampatti Taluk, Salem District by Tmt. U. Selvi - For Environmental Clearance. (SIA/TN/MIN/409045/2022)	9634	The authority noted that the subject was appraised in the 413 th SEAC meeting held on 05.10.2023. Based on the presentation and documents furnished by the project proponent and the recommendation of the Sub-committee constituted by SEAC. Considering the environmental settings of the proposed mining area, SEAC decided to agree with the conclusion of the subcommittee and not to recommend grant of EC for this project. 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 413 th SEAC minutes. Further, Authority decided to close and record this proposal.
23.	Proposed Rough Stone and Gravel Quarry lease over an extent of 0.63.50Ha S.F.No.248/1, 248/2, 248/3, Veppilai Village, Kadayampatti Taluk, Salem District by Tmt.U.Selvi - For Environmental Clearance. (SIA/TN/MIN/409029/2022)	9635	The authority noted that the subject was appraised in the 413 th meeting of SEAC held on 05.10.2023 and the sub-committee visited Rough Stone and Gravel Quarry on 01.05.2023. The following are the observations of committee. 1. The sub committee observed that the quarries are located on Thoppur hills, an eastern ghat hill range that runs in Dharmapuri district. 2. The entire Thoppur hills is a major watershed for the area, which is other wise a dry area.



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.9634/2023 dated:20.12.2023

To

Tmt. U. Selvi,
W/o. Utthirasamy,
5/56, O No. 2/190, Kuttakkadu,
RC Chettipatti Post, Palpakki,
Omalar, Salem District - 636 455.

Sir,

Sub: SEIAA-TN – Proposal seeking Environmental Clearance for Proposed Rough Stone and Gravel quarry lease area over an extent of 0.93.0 Ha at S.F.No. 247/2 of Veppilai Village, Kadayampatti Taluk, Salem District, Tamil Nadu by Tmt. U. Selvi – under 1(a) Mining projects of the schedule of the EIA Notification, 2006 – not recommended – Application Closed and Recorded – Regarding

Ref: 1. Online Proposal No. SIA/TN/MIN/409045/2022. Dated: 03.12.2022
2. Minutes of the 364th SEAC meeting held on 23.03.2023
3. Site inspection by the sub-committee on 01.05.2023
4. Minutes of the 413th SEAC meeting held on 05.10.2023
5. Minutes of the 665th SEIAA meeting held on 26.10.2023

I invite your kind attention to the reference cited above, wherein the application received from Tmt. U. Selvi for Environmental Clearance for the Proposed Rough Stone and Gravel quarry lease area over an extent of 0.93.0 Ha at S.F.No. 247/2 of Veppilai Village, Kadayampatti Taluk, Salem District, Tamil Nadu.

Earlier, the proposal was placed for appraisal in this 364th SEAC meeting held on 23.03.2023. Based on the presentation and documents furnished by the project proponent, SEAC noted that (i) the proposed mine site is un-mined so far and (ii) Thoppaiyar Dam & Amman Eri are located nearer to the proposed mining site. Hence, the SEAC, after detailed deliberations, decided to make an on-spot inspection to assess the present status of highly sensitive environmental settings of the site and availability of haul road for the transportation through a sub-committee constituted for the purpose.

The SEAC will take further course of action based on the site inspection & report.

The proposal was again placed in this 413th SEAC meeting held on 05.10.2023 where the Sub-Committee report was deliberated and its observations & conclusions are given as below:

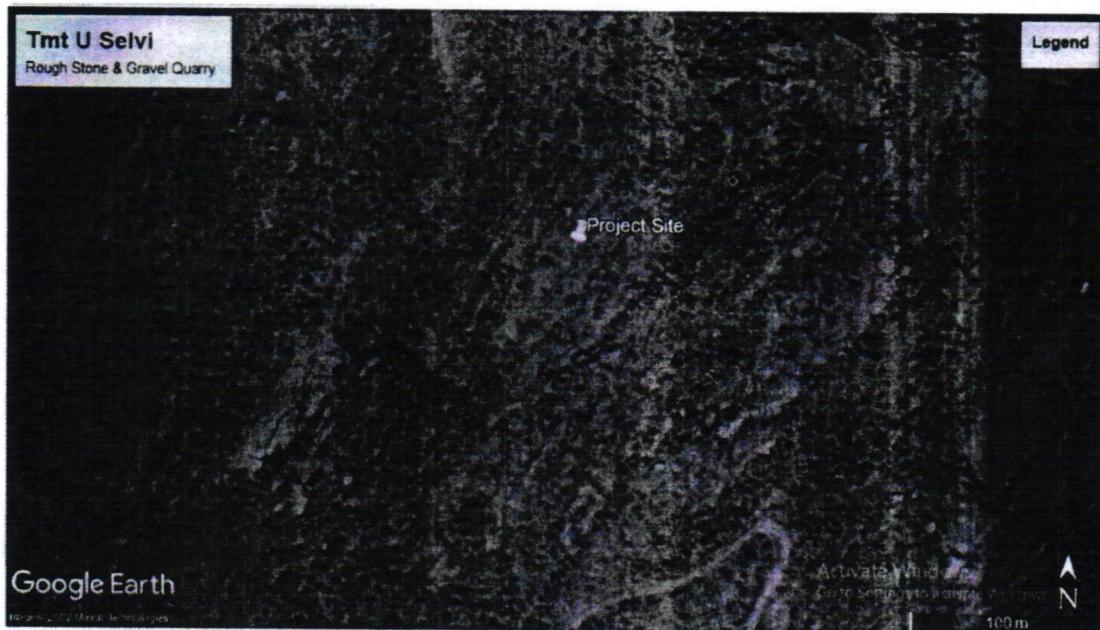
1.0 Context and Chronology

- Rough Stone and Gravel Quarry is owned by Tmt. U. Selvi of Salem, Tamil Nadu. Tmt. U. Selvi has applied for obtaining of mining lease over an area of 0.93.0 Ha at S.F. No. 247/2 of Veppilai Village, Kadayampatti Taluk, Salem District, Tamil Nadu.
- While the original mining lease for rough stone was granted for 5 years and gravel was granted for 3 years has been approved through Precise Area Communication Letter vide Na. Ka. En. 108/2021/Kanimam Aa dated 14.10.2022 by The Deputy Director, Department of Geology and Mining, District Collectorate, Salem. The lease is valid up to 5 years.
- The mining plan for the lease area was approved vide Letter Roc. No. 108/2021/Mines-B dated 01.11.2022 by Deputy Director, Department of Geology and Mining, Collectorate, Salem.
- The mining activity is covered under category "B2".
- 500 meter radius letter was approved by Deputy Director, Department of Geology and Mining, Collectorate, Salem vide Letter Roc.108/2021/Mines-B dated 11.11.2022,
- The proposal was appraised by SEAC-TN in its 364th meeting held on 23.03.2023.
- The SEAC-TN constituted a sub-committee comprising Thiru. D. Velazhagan and Thiru. D. Narasimhan, to make on-spot inspection to assess the present status of highly sensitive environmental settings of the site and availability of haul road for the transportation through a sub-committee constituted for the purpose.
- The sub-committee inspected the project site on 01.05.2023, interacted with the proponent and the EIA coordinator.

2.0 On-site Inspection – Observations

- The environmental and socio-economic settings of the mine include:
 - Nearest reserve forest – 0.70 km (SE); Lokkur R.F
 - Nearest water body – 0.94 km (NE); Amman Eri
 - Nearest Dam/Reservoir – 2.78 km (NW); Thoppaiyar Dam/Reservoir
 - Nearest archeological place – 29.42 (S); Government Museum, Salem
 - Nearest park – 22.06 (S); Kurumbapatty Zoological Park
 - Nearest habitation – more than 300 m away
- The mine operations were of Opencast with hydraulic rock breaker, and excavator for loading.
- The mine was a fresh lease and fresh quarry
- Luxuriant trees of different varieties are seen as green belt surrounding the mine. The proponent informed that these trees were planted and maintained by the proponent. The greenbelt is well maintained.

Evidence that the mine was a fresh quarry:



INSPECTION PROCEEDINGS:

1. The Project Proponent, Tmt. U. Selvi has applied for Environmental Clearance for the proposed Rough Stone and Gravel Quarry lease over an extent of 0.93.0 Ha at S.F.No.247/2, Veppilai Village, Kadayampatti Taluk, Salem District, Tamil Nadu.
2. The project/activity is covered under Category "B2" of item 1(a) "Mining of Minerals Project" of the Schedule to the EIA Notification, 2006.
3. The precise area communication/lease is issued for the period of 5 Years. The approved mining plan is for the period of five years & production should not exceed 53,530 m³ of Rough Stone & 12,510 m³ of Gravel and the annual peak production shall not exceed 11,950 m³ of Rough Stone (5th Year) & 4510 m³ of Gravel (1st Year). The ultimate depth is 27 m BGL.

Based on the presentation and documents furnished by the project proponent, SEAC noted that (i) the proposed mine site is un-mined so far and (ii) Thoppaiyar Dam & Amman Eri are located nearer to the proposed mining site. Hence, the SEAC, after detailed deliberations, decided to make an on-spot inspection to assess the present status of highly sensitive environmental setting of the site and availability of haul road for the transportation through a sub-committee constituted for the purpose.

The sub-committee visited Rough Stone and Gravel Quarry on 01.05.2023.

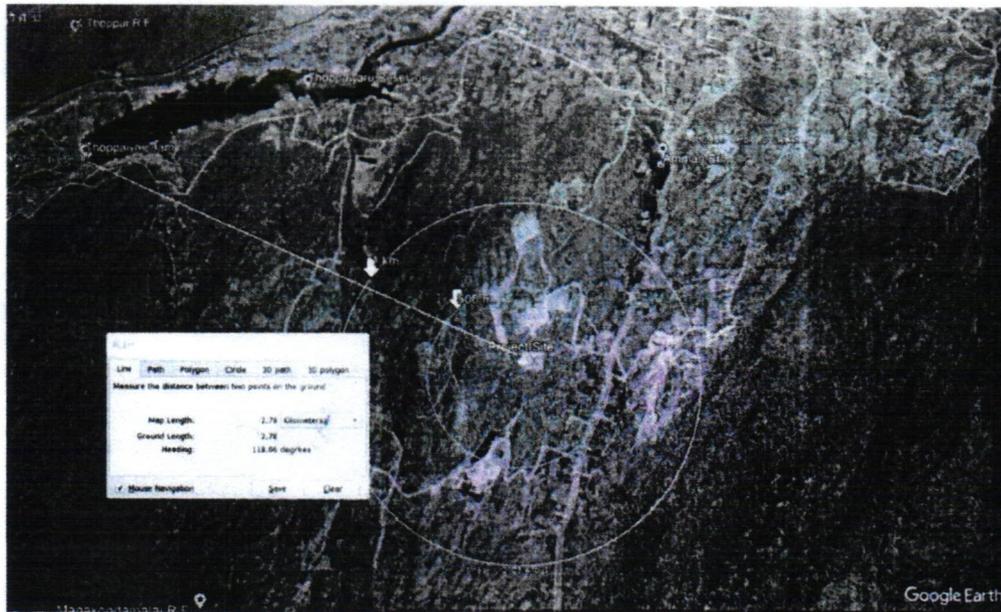
The following are the observations of committee.

1. The sub committee observed that the quarries are located on Thoppur hills, an eastern ghat hill range that runs in Dharmapuri district.
2. The entire Thoppur hills is a major watershed for the area, which is other wise a dry area.
3. The water that runs off the Hill, drains in to an *Odai* that feeds the '*Amman Eri*', a nearby lake, that is key to all the agricultural activities in the area.
4. Surplus from *Amman eri* flows in to the Thoppaiyar dam, a crucial watershed that supports agricultural area and a source of drinking water for the population in and around, otherwise a dry area.
5. The proposed quarries are spread over the hills. the dust and the residue, including the explosive residues from the quarries and a crusher located in the vicinity, likely to seep into the *odai* and eventually in to the Amman eri. this pollution load interferes with the quality of water and may reduce the agricultural productivity in the long run.
6. The quarrying activity also alters and affects the water drainage system of the hill.

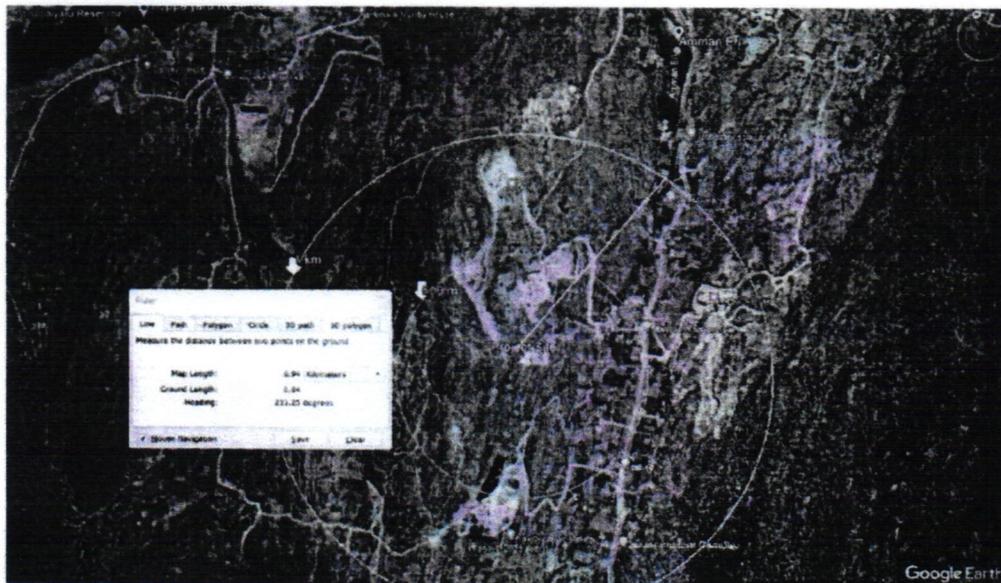
7. Thoppaiyar Dam, a source of drinking water for the population around, will be rendered with a reduced services that affects the ecology and economy of the area.

HENCE THE SUBCOMMITTEE OPINES THAT THE ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE NEED NOT BE GIVEN TO THE PROPOSED QUARRIES IN THE THOPPUR HILLS.

DISTANCE OF PROJECT SITE FROM THOPPAIYAR DAM



DISTANCE OF PROJECT SITE FROM AMMAN ERI



Based on the presentation and documents furnished by the project proponent and the recommendation of the Sub-committee constituted by SEAC. Considering the environmental settings of the proposed mining area. SEAC decided to agree with the conclusion of the subcommittee and not to recommend grant of EC for this project.

Subsequently, the proposal was placed in the 665th authority meeting held on 26.10.2023. 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 413th SEAC minutes. Further, Authority decided to close and record this proposal.

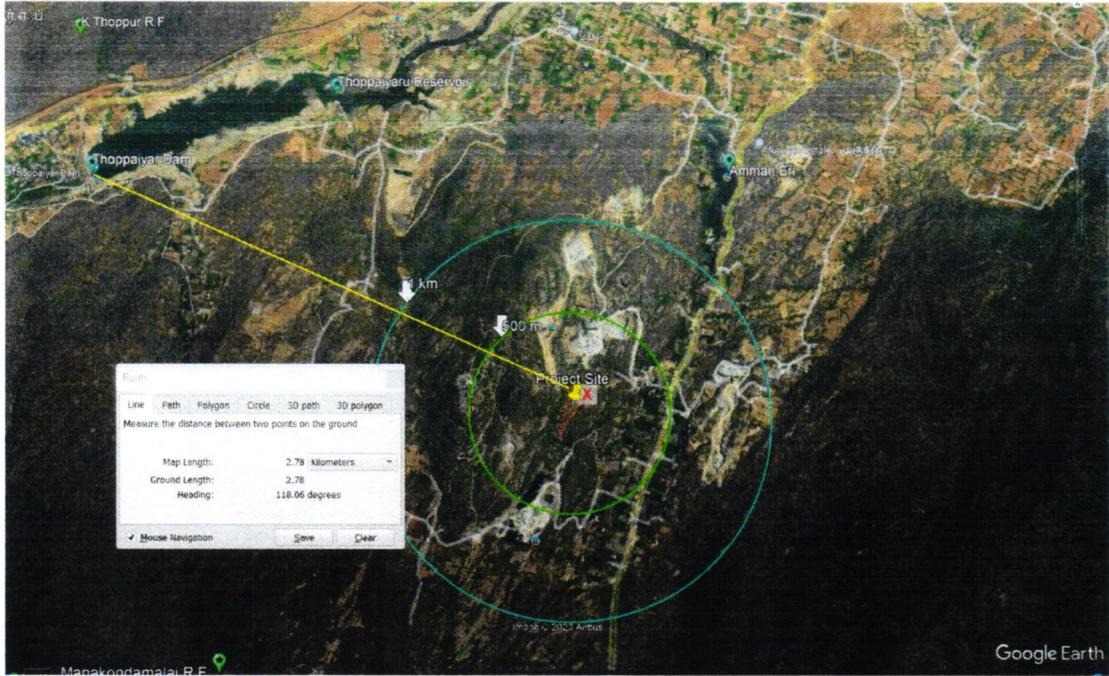
Hence, the above mentioned file is **closed and recorded accordingly**.

20/12/2023
20/12/2023
MEMBER SECRETARY
SEIAA-TN

Evidence that the mine was a fresh quarry:



DISTANCE OF PROJECT SITE FROM THOPPAIYAR DAM



DISTANCE OF PROJECT SITE FROM AMMAN ERI

