

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

APPEAL NO. 17 of 2024

IN THE MATTER OF: -

T. Raviganesan

.... 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.17 of 2024 (SZ)

T. RAVIGANESAN

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.17 of 2024 (SZ)

Thiru. T. RAVIGANESAN,
S/o. Theeradha Vinai Theertha Goundar,
No. 2/237 -146, Kuravan kaadu,
Poosaripatti Village & Post,
Kadaiyampatti Taluk,
Salem District – 636 305.

... 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: mstnseiaa@yahoo.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: mstnseiaa@yahoo.com

Phone No. 044-24359973.

... RESPONDENTS



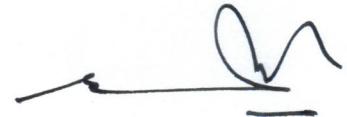
**Member Secretary
STATE LEVEL ENVIRONMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY - TN
Panagal Maligai, No.1, Jeenis Road,
Saidapet, Chennai - 15**

**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, 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.17 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. T. Raviganesan 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 and Gravel Gravel lease over an extent of 3.44.0 Ha (Patta Land) at S.F.Nos. 68/1 (Part) & 69 (Part) of Katteri Village, Uthangarai Taluk, Krishnagiri District, Tamil Nadu vide online proposal No.SIA/TN/MIN/432309/2023 dated 06.06.2023.
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. Raviganesan appeared before the committee with his EIA Co-ordinator for appraisal.



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

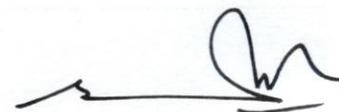
Member Secretary
 STATE LEVEL ENVIRONMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY - TN
 Panagal Maligai, No.1, Jeensis Road,
 Saidapet, Chennai - 15

Based on the presentation made and documents submitted and from the KML file uploaded in the PARIVESH Portal, SEAC noted the following.

- i. The applied site is a fresh area, hitherto unmined.
- ii. Kottukarampatti village/habitation is located at a distance of about 260m from the project site on the northern side.
- iii. Onnarakai RF is located at a distance of 55m from the northern boundary of the project area.
- iv. SH 179 A connecting Uthangarai to Arur is located at a distance of 220m on the western side of the project site.
- v. Govt. Veterinary Hospital is located at a distance of 225m on the western side of the project area.
- vi. One major water body – Katteri Lake is located at a distance of 390 m from the boundary of lease.
- vii. One educational institute, namely, Sri Vidya Mandir Arts & Science College is located at a distance of 550m on the southern side of the project area.
- viii. Habitations are also located on the south-western side of the project area at a distance of 310m.

In view of the above sensitivities, 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.10111/2023 dated 07.09.2023. Hence this file is closed and recorded.**



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 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, Jeeris Road,
Saidapet, Chennai - 15

only after obtaining Environmental clearance from SEIAA-TN once completing the remedial actions based on such re-appraisal by SEIAA-TN.

4. The PP shall submit a letter obtained from concerned AD/Mines regarding the following details.
 - i. Exact depth of existing pit, period of the operation and stoppage of the earlier mining operation & quantity of minerals mined out.
 - ii. The copy of demand notice served on total penalty levied, if any and copy of remittance of total penalty by PP.
 - iii. A letter from AD/DD mines stating that the project will not fall under violation category, clearly stating whether mining has been carried out outside mine lease area for which the PP has not obtained any prior EC.

On receipt of the details sought above, the SEAC will further deliberate and decide on future course of action. The proponent is advised to submit the additional documents/information as sought above within a period of 30 days failing which your proposal will automatically get delisted from the PARIVESH portal.

Agenda No: 401-15

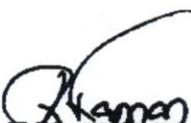
(File No.10111/2023)

Proposed Rough Stone Quarry and Gravel lease over an extent of 3.44.0 Ha (Patta Land) at S.F.Nos. 68/1 (Part) & 69 (Part) of Katteri Village, Uthangarai Taluk, Krishnagiri District, Tamil Nadu by Thiru. T. Raviganesan – For Environmental Clearance. (SIA/TN/MIN/432309/2023 dated:06.06.2023)

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, Thiru. T. Raviganesan has applied for Environmental Clearance for the Proposed Rough Stone Quarry and Gravel lease over an extent of 3.44.0 Ha (Patta Land) at S.F.Nos. 68/1 (Part) & 69 (Part) of Katteri Village, Uthangarai Taluk, Krishnagiri 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.


MEMBER SECRETARY
SEAC -TN


CHAIRMAN
SEAC- TN

Based on the presentation made and documents submitted and from the KML file uploaded in the PARIVESH Portal, SEAC noted the following.

- i) The applied site is a fresh area, hitherto unmined.
- ii) Kottukarampatti village/habitation is located at a distance of about 260m from the project site on the northern side.
- iii) Onnakarai RF is located at a distance of 55m from the northern boundary of the project area.
- iv) SH 179 A connecting Uthangarai to Arur is located at a distance of 220m on the western side of the project site.
- v) Govt. Veterinary Hospital is located at a distance of 225m on the western side of the project area.
- vi) One major water body – Katteri Lake is located at a distance of 390 m from the boundary of lease.
- vii) One educational institute, namely, Sri Vidya Mandir Arts & Science College is located at a distance of 550m on the southern side of the project area.
- viii) Habitations are also located on the south-western side of the project area at a distance of 310m.

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

Agenda No: 401-16

(File No.10123/2023)

Proposed Rough Stone and Gravel Quarry lease over an extent of 1.76.0 Ha (Patta Land) at S.F.Nos. 353/2 & 354 of Periyapatti Village, Namakkal Taluk, Namakkal District, Tamil Nadu by Tmt. A. Indira – For Environmental Clearance. (SIA/TN/MIN/432646/2023 dated:09.06.2023)

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, Tmt. A. Indira has applied for Environmental Clearance for the Proposed Rough Stone and Gravel Quarry lease over an extent of 1.76.0


MEMBER SECRETARY
SEAC -TN


CHAIRMAN
SEAC- TN

Raviganesan

Legend

- 📍 ANNADURAI HOME
- 📍 Feature 1
- 📍 TASMAC
- 📍 Temple
- 📍 Untitled Polygon



Google Earth

Image © 2024 Airbus

400 m

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			<p>proposal will automatically get delisted from the PARIVESH portal.</p> <p>In the view of the above, SEIAA accepts the decision of SEAC and decided to request Member Secretary to communicate the minutes of 401st SEAC held on 16.08.2023 to the project proponent.</p>
15.	<p>Proposed Rough Stone Quarry and Gravel lease over an extent of 3.44.0 Ha (Patta Land) at S.F.Nos. 68/1 (Part) & 69 (Part) of Katteri Village, Uthangarai Taluk, Krishnagiri District, Tamil Nadu by Thiru. T. Raviganesan – For Environmental Clearance. (SIA/TN/MIN/432309/2023)</p>	10111	<p>The authority noted that the subject was appraised in the 401st SEAC meeting held on 16.08.2023. Based on the presentation made and documents submitted and from the KML file uploaded in the PARIVESH Portal, SEAC noted the following.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i) The applied site is a fresh area, hitherto unmined. ii) Kottukarampatti village/habitation is located at a distance of about 260m from the project site on the northern side. iii) Onnakarai RF is located at a distance of 55m from the northern boundary of the project area. iv) SH 179 A connecting Uthangarai to Arur is located at a distance of 220m on the western side of the project site. v) Govt. Veterinary Hospital is located at a distance of 225m on the western side of the project area. vi) One major water body – Katteri Lake is located at a distance of 390 m from the boundary of lease. vii) One educational institute, namely, Sri Vidya Mandir Arts & Science College is located at a distance of 550m on the southern side of the project area.

MEMBER SECRETARY

MEMBER

CHAIRMAN
SEIAA-TN

			<p>viii) Habitations are also located on the south-western side of the project area at a distance of 310m.</p> <p>In view of the above sensitivities, 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>
16.	<p>Proposed Rough Stone and Gravel Quarry lease over an extent of 1.76.0 Ha (Patta Land) at S.F.Nos. 353/2 & 354 of Periyapatti Village, Namakkal Taluk, Namakkal District, Tamil Nadu by Tmt. A. Indira – For Environmental Clearance. (SIA/TN/MIN/432646/2023)</p>	10123	<p>The authority noted that the subject was appraised in the 401st SEAC meeting held on 16.08.2023. 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. <p>In view of this, the authority after deliberations, decided to request Member Secretary, SEIAA to communicate the minutes of the 401st SEAC meeting to the project proponent.</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.10111/2023 dated: 07.09.2023.

To

Thiru. T. Raviganesan,
S/o. Theeradha Vinai Theertha Goundar,
No. 2/237-146, Kuravan Kaadu,
Poosaripatti Village & Post,
Kadaiyampatti Taluk,
Salem District-636 305.

Sir,

Sub: SEIAA-TN – An application seeking Environmental Clearance for the Proposed Rough Stone Quarry and Gravel lease over an extent of 3.44.0 Ha (Patta Land) at S.F.Nos. 68/1 (Part) & 69 (Part) of Katteri Village, Uthangarai Taluk, Krishnagiri District, Tamil Nadu by Thiru. T. Raviganesan - under Schedule I(a) 'Mining of mineral projects' of the EIA Notification, 2006 – proposal not recommended – application closed and recorded - Reg.

- Ref: 1. Online Proposal No SIA/TN/MIN/432309/2023 dated:06.06.2023.
2. Your application for Environmental Clearance dated.12.06.2023.
3. Minutes of the 401st SEAC meeting held on 16.08.2023.
4. Minutes of the 652nd SEIAA meeting held on 07.09.2023.

I invite your kind attention to the references cited above wherein in you have submitted an application seeking Environmental Clearance for the Proposed Rough Stone Quarry and

Gravel lease over an extent of 3.44.0 Ha (Patta Land) at S.F.Nos. 68/1 (Part) & 69 (Part) of Katteri Village, Uthangarai Taluk, Krishnagiri 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, **Thiru. T. Raviganesan** has applied for Environmental Clearance for the Proposed Rough Stone Quarry and Gravel lease over an extent of 3.44.0 Ha (Patta Land) at S.F.Nos. 68/1 (Part) & 69 (Part) of Katteri Village, Uthangarai Taluk, Krishnagiri 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. Based on the presentation made and documents submitted and from the KML file uploaded in the PARIVESH Portal, SEAC noted the following.
 - i) The applied site is a fresh area, hitherto unmined.
 - ii) Kottukarampatti village/habitation is located at a distance of about **260m** from the project site on the northern side.
 - iii) Onnakarai RF is located at a distance of **55m** from the northern boundary of the project area.
 - iv) **SH 179 A** connecting Uthangarai to Arur is located at a distance of **220m** on the western side of the project site.
 - v) Govt. Veterinary Hospital is located at a distance of **225m** on the western side of the project area.
 - vi) One major water body – Katteri Lake is located at a distance of **390 m** from the boundary of lease.
 - vii) **One educational institute, namely, Sri Vidya Mandir Arts & Science College** is located at a distance of **550m** on the southern side of the project area.
 - viii) Habitations are also located on the south-western side of the project area at a distance of **310m**.

In view of the above sensitivities, 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