



**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
EASTERN ZONE BENCH, KOLKATA**

Under Section 19(4) (i) (j) read with 18(1) of National Green Tribunal  
Act, 2010

I A No-\_\_\_\_\_Of 2025

Original Application No.-233 Of 2024

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

1. **Jharana Dehury**, aged about 39 years, At/po- Chendipada, Dist-Angul, pin-759124
2. Bidesi Pradhan, S/o- Adhikari Pradhan, aged about 43 years, At-Saluikhaman, Po- Chhendipada , Dist-Angul, pin-759124
3. Tukuna Munda, S/o- Baru Munda, aged about 35 years , At-Saluikhaman, Po- Chhendipada , Dist-Angul, pin-759124
4. Hadi Pradhan, S/o- Adhikari Pradhan, aged about 55 years, At-Saluikhaman, Po- Chhendipada , Dist-Angul, pin-759124
5. Basant Kumar Sethi, S/o- Arakshit Sethi, aged about 25 years At/po- Chendipada, Dist-Angul, pin-759124.
6. Sunil Behera, S/o Bharat Behera, aged about 27 years, At-Kumbhara Sahi, Po- Chhendipada, Dist-Angul, pin-759124

7. Udayanath Behera, aged about- 64 years, S/o late Nityananda Behera, At/po- Chendipada, Dist-Angul, pin-759124
8. Padmanav Behera, aged about 56 years, S/o late Nityananda Behera, At/po- Chendipada, Dist-Angul, pin-759124
9. Bidyadhar Sahoo, C/o- Brundaban Sahoo, aged about 64 years, At/po- Chendipada, Dist-Angul, pin-759124 ...**APPLICANTS**

**VERSUS**

1. UNION OF INDIA Through the Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jorbagh, New Delhi – 110003; Email - mef@nic.in, [secy-moef@nic.in](mailto:secy-moef@nic.in)
2. State of Odisha represented by Additional Chief Secretary Forest Environment and Climate Change Dept. Govt. of Odisha, At: LokSeva Bhawan, Sachivalaya Marg, Bhubaneswar, Dist.: Khurda, Odisha, Pin: 751001. E-mail ID : [fesec.or@nic.in](mailto:fesec.or@nic.in)
3. District Collector Angul, At/Po- Collectorate, Angul– 759122, email- [dm-angul@nic.in](mailto:dm-angul@nic.in)
4. Tahasildar Chhendipada, At/po- Chhendipada, Odisha 759124, Email- [tah.chhendi-od@nic.in](mailto:tah.chhendi-od@nic.in)
5. Divisional Forest Officer Angul, at/Po- Amalapada, Angul,

Odisha 759122, Email- [dfo.angul@odisha.gov.in](mailto:dfo.angul@odisha.gov.in)

6. Singareni Collieries Company Limited, represented through it's General Manager, At/Po- Bikash Nagar, FCI Road Turanga, 759123, Odisha.
7. **Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India, 416, 4th Floor, B-Wing, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110001** email- [secy-tribal@nic.in](mailto:secy-tribal@nic.in)

....Respondents.

### **APPLICATION FOR STAY ON FELLING OF TREES**

#### **IT IS MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH;**

I, Bidyadhara Sahoo, C/O-Brundaban Sahu, aged about 64 years, AtPo- Chhendipada, Dist- Angul, Pin- 759124, hereby solemnly affirm, and declare as under:

1. That I am one of the applicants in the present original application and I am fully conversant with the facts and circumstances of the case and authorized by other applicants to file the present Interlocutory application.
2. That the **original application is being filed challenging the illegal handing over of 643.095 Ha of (Chhendipada- Ankurpal) Reserve Forest land for the non forestry use of Naini open cast project (Coal Mine) of M/S Singareni Collieries Company ltd. and proposed felling of 1,05,092 trees.**
3. That the photographs of the forest which is now facing the axe has been

protected by the local villagers as part of Van Surakshya Samiti as well as Voluntary efforts of Community of Chhendipada Villagers for generations in saving the trees.

4. That the Site proposed for coal mining use to be the Elephant path way and site for fodder and shelter of Elephants. This is acknowledged by the Forest Department and signboards were erected at the site. Photograph of sign board showing elephant path way is annexed here unto as **ANNEXURE-1**.
5. That the respondent company started large scale felling of trees from 21st December 2024 onwards and even after issue of notice on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2025 in the matter the tree felling are still ongoing. That the respondent company had already felled more than 5000 trees. Photographs dated 9th Jan 2025 which suggests that a large scale of tree felling has already done by the respondent company is annexed here with as **ANNEXURE-2**.
6. That the villagers along with adjoining villagers and intellectual people of the locality as well as different parts of the state has staged protest time and again against the tree felling but all those were never considered by the state and respondent company. Copy photographs showing protest and copy of News Paper published in The New Indian express dated 28/12/2024 is annexed here with as **ANNEXURE-3**.
7. It is needless to say that Chhendipada is the lungs of the Angul District where in the Sal Forest is still surviving and with the tree felling at this site, the district is doomed to distress considering the existing coal mines in Talcher

and large Scale thermal power plants and Alumina Smelter Plant already in the Angul District. Needless to say that Talcher-Angul is the first Critical Polluted Area declared since 1989 by Central Pollution Control Board.

8. That the news report with photograph also suggest that the Forest Range Officer Chhendipada could not control her tears seeing the large scale felling of tree. Copy of the news articles is annexed here unto as **ANNEXURE-4**.
9. That the authority could explore the possibility of transplantation of some of the trees and save it as much possible but they are going ahead with clear tree felling. Further the next date of listing is 21<sup>st</sup> Feb 2025 which is almost a month from today and if the tree felling is not stayed then by the next day of listing the whole area will denuded rendering the petition infructuous. Hence the applicant prays for immediate stay of tree felling by the Singrani Colliery (SCCL) in Chhendipada Forest.

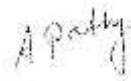
PRAYER

It humbly prayed before this hon'ble Tribunal in the interest of justice to direct the DFO Angul to ensure no further felling of trees until final disposal of the original application.

DATE- 18/01/2025

BY THE APPELLANTS THROUGH

PLACE- BHUBANESWAR



ADVOCATE

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
EASTERN ZONE BENCH, KOLKATA

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO - 233 OF 2024/EZ

I.A. No. - 07 2025

IN THE MATTER OF:

JHARANA DEHURY AND OTHERS

APPLICANTS

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA AND OTHERS

RESPONDENTS

8 JAN 2025

AFFIDAVIT

I, Bidyadhara Sahoo, C/O-Brundaban Sahu, aged about 64 years, At/Po-Chhendipada, Dist- Angul, Pin- 759124 do hereby solemnly affirm, and declare as under:

1. That I am one of the applicant in the above mentioned Original Application and I am fully conversant with the facts and circumstances of the case and authorized by other applicants therefore competent to swear this affidavit.
2. That I have read over the contents of the accompanying affidavit and the same is true and correct and is drafted on my instruction.

Bidyadhara Sahoo  
DEPONENT

VERIFICATION

Verified on this 18 JAN 2025 .....2024 at Bhubaneswar that the contents of the above affidavit are true and correct. No part of it is false and nothing material has been concealed there from.

Identified By  
Advocate  
10.10.18/23

Bidyadhara Sahoo  
DEPONENT



The above named deponent(s) being duly identified by Sri. S.P. Paul Advocate, Bhubaneswar. Appears before me on 18 JAN 2025 at Bhubaneswar on oath the contents of the affidavit are true to the best of his/her knowledge and belief.

Notary, Bhubaneswar

JANMEJAYA RAUTRAY  
NOTARY, GOVT. OF ODISHA  
BHUBANESWAR  
REGD. NO-DN-86/2012  
Mob. No. - 9337121273





PHOTOGRAPH DATED 20/10/2024 WHICH SHOWS THE DENSITY OF TREE GROWTH IN THE PROJECT SITE PRIOR TO FELLING OF TREES.



 **GPS Map Camera**

Angul, Odisha, India  
Sh 63, Odisha 759124, India  
Lat 21.059864° Long 84.885248°  
20/10/24 03:26 PM GMT +05:30

Google

**PHOTOGRAPH DATED 09/01/2025 WHICH SHOWS THAT A LARGE SCALE OF TREE FELLING HAS DONE BY THE RESPONDENT NO.-6.**











**PHOTOGRAPH DATED 28/12/2024 WHICH SHOWS THAT A LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE PROTESTING AGAINST THE LARGE SCALE OF TREE FELLING BY SINGARENI COLLIERIES (respondent no.-6)**







## Nayani coal project faces protest as locals object felling of 90,000 trees

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Angul

HUNDREDS of villagers of Chhendipada, led by Congress leader Sashmita Behera and Talcher-Angul Banchao convenor (TABA) Jagadananda Pradhan, on Saturday stormed the proposed Nayani Coal project site and stopped the ongoing tree felling.

Hyderabad-based Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) has been allotted Nayani coal block at Chhendipada to produce coal for commercial use. The company is slated to chop 90,000 trees for the project which is being vehemently opposed by the villagers.

After acquiring forest land, the company through Odisha Forest Development Corporation



(OFDC) has started tree felling from Monday. According to forest officials, in the first phase as many as 21,000 trees will be cut.

However, the tree felling for the coal project has invited strong resentment among the locals who held a demonstration by forming a human chain to oppose the tree felling. The villagers also embraced trees in a protest.

As a result, no OFDC official went to the spot and felling was stopped on the day. Massive po-

lice deployment was made at the protest site to maintain law and order. IIC Bibhudatta Patnaik said the protest passed off peacefully without any untoward incident.

Speaking to reporters, Behera vehemently opposed the felling on such a massive scale and wondered how the government allowed the forest which is an elephant corridor and a vital link between Similipal and Satkosia tiger habitats.

Pradhan also opposed the move saying instead of giving forest rights on the land, the government is allowing companies to destroy the forest. Both the leaders cautioned to intensify the agitation. The coal project will have an annual capacity of 10 million tonne.

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# କୋଇଲା ଖୋଳିବାକୁ ଗଛ କାଟିଲା ସିଙ୍ଗାରେଣୀ



କୋଇଲା ଖନନ ପାଇଁ ଛେଡ଼ିପଦା ଜଙ୍ଗଲରୁ ଗଛ କଟା ଆରମ୍ଭ ହୋଇଛି ।

କୋହ ସମ୍ପତ୍ତି ପାରୁନାହାନ୍ତି ରେଖର ।

**କୋହ ସମ୍ପତ୍ତି ପାରିଲେନି  
ବନାଞ୍ଚଳ ଅଧିକାରୀ**

ନ ଥିବାରୁ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ ଆଗକୁ ବଢ଼ି ପାରି ନ ଥିଲା । ଚେବେ ଗଡ଼ ବ୍ଲକ୍ ୪ ଡାକ୍ତରୀରେ ଖଣି ପାଇଁ ୬୪୩ ହେକ୍ଟର ସଂରକ୍ଷିତ ଜଙ୍ଗଲ ଜମି ରାଜ୍ୟ ସରକାର ମଞ୍ଜୁର କରିଥିଲେ । ଛେଡ଼ିପଦା ୧ ଓ ୨ ଜଙ୍ଗଲକୁ ପରିବେଶ ମଞ୍ଜୁରୀ ମିଳିବା ପରେ ୪୦୦ ହେକ୍ଟର ପରିମିତ ସରକାରୀ ଜାଗାରେ ଥିବା ଗଛକୁ ବନବିଭାଗ ପକ୍ଷରୁ ଚିହ୍ନିତ କରାଯାଇଥିଲା । ଏହାପରେ ନିମନ୍ତ୍ରିତ ଅତିଥି, ସିଙ୍ଗାରେଣୀ କମ୍ପାନୀ ଅଧିକାରୀ, ବନବିଭାଗ ଅଧିକାରୀ ଓ ଛେଡ଼ିପଦା ବନ ପୁରକ୍ଷା ସମିତିର କର୍ମକର୍ତ୍ତାଙ୍କ ଓ ଏସ୍‌ଏସ୍‌ଡିସି ପକ୍ଷରୁ ଗଛ କଟା ଆରମ୍ଭ ହୋଇଥିଲା । ଗଛକଟା ପରେ ଖୁବ୍‌ଶୀଘ୍ର କୋଇଲା ଖନନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ ଆରମ୍ଭ ହେବ ବୋଲି କମ୍ପାନୀ ପକ୍ଷରୁ କୁହାଯାଇଛି ।

**ଛେଡ଼ିପଦା, ୨୦୧୨ (ଅଜିତ ଧଳ)**  
ଅନୁଗୋଳ ଜିଲ୍ଲା ଛେଡ଼ିପଦାସ୍ଥିତ ନୟନା କୋଲ୍ ବ୍ଲକ୍ ହାତେଇଥିବା ସିଙ୍ଗାରେଣୀ କମ୍ପାନୀ ପକ୍ଷରୁ ଛେଡ଼ିପଦା ଜଙ୍ଗଲରେ ଶୁକ୍ରବାରଠାରୁ ଗଛକଟା ଆରମ୍ଭ ହୋଇଛି । ଆନୁଷ୍ଠାନିକ ଭାବେ ପୂଜାର୍ଚ୍ଚନା କରାଯିବା ପରେ ଗଛ କଟା ଯାଇଥିଲା । ଅତିଥି ଭାବେ ଛେଡ଼ିପଦା ବିଧାୟକ ଅଗସ୍ତି ବେହେରା,

ଛେଡ଼ିପଦା ବ୍ଲକ୍ ପୂର୍ବତନ ଅଧକ୍ଷ ଅଶୋକ କୁମାର ପ୍ରଧାନ, ବନ ପୁରକ୍ଷା ସମିତି ସଭାପତି ପ୍ରଫୁଲ୍ଲ ଉପସ୍ଥିତ ଥିଲେ । ଚେବେ ଜଙ୍ଗଲରୁ ଗଛକଟା ବେସ୍ତୁ ବନାଞ୍ଚଳ ଅଧିକାରୀ ଶୁଭ୍ର ସୁଚିଷ୍ମିତା ମହାପାତ୍ର କୋହ ସମ୍ପତ୍ତି ନ ପାରି କାନ୍ଦି ପକାଇଥିଲେ । ପ୍ରକାଶ ଯେ, ଛେଡ଼ିପଦାସ୍ଥିତ ନୟନା କୋଲ୍ ବ୍ଲକ୍ ପାଇଁ ଡେଇଁକମ୍ପାନୀ ସରକାରଙ୍କ ସିଙ୍ଗାରେଣୀ କମ୍ପାନୀ ୯୧୨.୭୯୯

ହେକ୍ଟର ଜମି ଅଧିଗ୍ରହଣ କରିଛି । ଏଠାରେ ଖୋଲା କୋଇଲା ଖଣି ପାଇଁ ସରକାରଙ୍କ ପକ୍ଷରୁ ୨୦୧୫ ଅଗଷ୍ଟ ୧୩ରେ କୋଲ୍ ବ୍ଲକ୍ ଆବେଦନ କରାଯାଇଥିଲା । ଏହାପରେ ପ୍ରଫୁଲ୍ଲ ନିୟନ୍ତ୍ରଣ ବୋର୍ଡ ପକ୍ଷରୁ ଜଣାଶୁଣାଣି କରାଯାଇଥିଲା । ୨୦୨୨ରେ ଖଣିକୁ ଷ୍ଟେଜ-୨ ପରିବେଶୀୟ ମଞ୍ଜୁରୀ ମିଳିଥିଲେ ମଧ୍ୟ ସଂରକ୍ଷିତ ଜଙ୍ଗଲ ଜମି ହସ୍ତାନ୍ତର ହୋଇ

## ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF NEWS PUBLISHED ON 20/12/2024

### SINGARENI CUT TREES TO DIG COAL

#### FOREST RANGER COULD NOT ABLE TO CONTROL HER TEARS

Cutting of trees in Chendipada forest has started from Friday on behalf of Singareni company, which operates Nayni coal block in Chendipada of Angul district. After formal worship, the tree was cut down. Chendipada MLA Agasti Behera as guest, Ashok Kumar Pradhan, former Chairman of Chendipada Block, President of Forest Protection Committee was prominently present. However, seeing the trees cut from the forest, the forest officer, Suchishmita Mohapatra, was unable to control herself and cried uncontrollably.

It has been revealed that Telangana Government's Singareni Company 912.799 ha. of land has been acquired for Neini Coal Block in Chendipada. Coal blocks were allocated by the government on August 13, 2015 for open pit coal mining here.

Later it was announced by the Pollution Control Board. In 2022, the mine got Stage-II environmental clearance. However, on July 4, the state government approved 643 hectares of protected forest land for mining. After getting environmental clearance for Chendipada 1 and 2 forests, the forest department identified the trees in government land covering 400 hectares. Tree felling started on behalf of SFDC in the presence of many guests, Singareni company officials, forest department officials and Chendipada forest protection committee workers. The company said that the coal mining will start soon after cutting the trees.



Sankar Pani <sankarprasadpani@gmail.com>

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## IA FILED IN OA 233/2024 EZ

1 message

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**Sankar Pani** <sankarprasadpani@gmail.com>

Mon, Jan 20, 2025 at 12:43 PM

To: Ashok Prasad <Ashokadvhc@gmail.com>, secy-moef@nic.in, advparthaohc@gmail.com, gm.naini@scclmines.com

Dear Sir/Madam, please find the attachment.

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Sankar Prasad Pani, Environment Lawyer  
National Green Tribunal Kolkata & Orissa Highcourt  
Res-Plot No 2132/4814(B), Nageswar Tangi,  
Bhubaneswar, 751002  
Cell- 9437279278  
Skype- sankar.pani



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