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

IN

OA. No. 11/2025/EZ

IN THE MATTER OF

Aruna Kumar Jena and Others

....APPLICANT(S)

VERSUS

State of Odisha and Ors.

....RESPONDENT(S)

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[Handwritten Signature]

Mrinal Kanti Biswas

Regional Director & Scientist E,
CPCB, Kolkata

Filed through

[Handwritten Signature]
Counsel
for CPCB

Dated: 24/05/2025

Place: Kolkata

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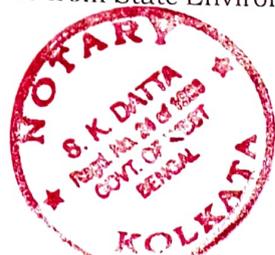
VERSUS

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.... **RESPONDENT(S)**

REPLY ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT NO. 17 i.e. CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

1. That the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal Eastern Zone Bench (hereinafter referred to as "Hon'ble NGT (EZ)") vide order dated 23.01.2025 in Original Application (hereinafter referred to as "OA") No. 11 of 2025 (EZ), has directed Central Pollution Control Board (hereinafter referred to as "CPCB") to file response in the instant matter. Thereby, the reply is made in succeeding paragraphs.
2. That the instant case is related to illegal operation of Road Metal Quarries in BAJABATI (CLUSTER SL NO.3A) located at Village-Bajabati, Tahasil-Dharmasala, Dist-Jajpur, **Odisha**. The Stone quarries are allegedly operating illegally in violation of conditions of the Environmental Clearance (hereinafter referred as "EC"), Consent to Operate and the Mining Plan.
3. That CPCB has been constituted under Section 3 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 (hereinafter referred to as "the Water Act, 1974"). It performs the functions under the Water Act, 1974 along with the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 (hereinafter referred to as "the Air Act, 1981") and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (hereinafter referred to as "the E(P) Act, 1986").
4. That vide MOEF&CC notification dated 15.01.2016 S.O. 141(E), mining projects including stone quarry require "Environmental Clearance" (hereinafter referred as "EC"). For Category 'A' projects the project proponent must obtain EC from the MOEF&CC and for Category 'B' projects the project proponent must obtain EC from State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA).



5. That, under the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation), Act, 1957 (hereinafter called as "MMDR Act, 1957"), the States are empowered to make the rules for regulating the grant of prospecting licenses or mining leases in respect of minor minerals and making rules for preventing illegal mining, transportation and storage of minerals. The Section 23(C) of MMDR Act 1957, empowers States to make rules for preventing illegal mining, transportation and storage of minerals. All such mining which qualifies illegal, shall be dealt with by the concerned state authorities as per the provision of the rules made under MMDR Act, 1957.

PARA-WISE REPLY:

7. That no comments are offered over the averment made in Para no. 1 of the OA being introductory in nature.
8. That no comments are offered over the averments made in Para nos. 2 to 6 of the OA wherein the letters by applicant, the EC granted by MOEF&CC, the report of Odisha Space Applications Centre (ORSAC) filed before Lokayukta Cuttack, and the show cause notice issued by Tahasildar have been referred to, these being matter of records.
9. That the averments made in Para nos. 7 to 9 of the OA are regarding alleged operation of stone quarries not falling within the prescribed guidelines. In this regard, it is humbly submitted that CPCB, in compliance of Hon'ble NGT order dated 28.08.2020 in OA 304 of 2019, has issued a letter No. CPCB/IPC-II/NGT-OA 304 of 2019/2020 dated May 12, 2020 to the State Pollution Control Boards / Pollution Control Committees, stating the Distance Criteria for Permitting Stone Quarrying to be 100 m from residential buildings and inhabited sites etc. When no blasting is involved and as 200 m when blasting is involved. However, further in the aforesaid matter, CPCB (being nodal authority in the Joint Committee) submitted final report dated 02.03.2023 in which a modified Distance Criteria has been recommended by the joint committee. The matter has been last heard on 19.02.2025 and is next listed on 23.05.2025. The copy of the letter is attached as **ANNEXURE I**.
10. That no comments are offered over the averment made in Para no. 10 of the OA wherein 158th SEIAA, Odisha meeting is mentioned this being matter of records.
11. That the averments made in Para no. 11 & 12 of the OA regarding operation of stone quarries is not within the prescribed guidelines. In this regard, it is humbly submitted that submission made in Para no. 9 of this reply is re-iterated and is not repeated herein for the sake of brevity.



12. That, no comments are offered over the averments made in Para nos. 13, 14 & 26 of the OA wherein violation of EC conditions is alleged as it has not been verified by this answering respondents.
13. That no comments are offered over the averments made in no. 15 & 16 of the OA being matter of records.
14. That, no comments are offered over the averments made in nos. 17 to 24 of the OA wherein violation of EC, CTO conditions, extraction of groundwater without permission, operating without valid explosive license and valid blasting permission and extraction of excess quantity stones has been alleged, as these have not been verified by this answering respondents.
15. That the averment made in Para nos. 25 of the OA relates to development of green belt. It is humbly submitted that in the joint committee report submitted before Hon'ble NGT in compliance with the Order dated 22.12.2021 of the Hon'ble NGT in the matter of OA No. 23/2017 (EZ), OA No. 776/2018, OA No. 373/2019) *Syed Arshad Nasar Vs Union of India with Ramchandra Chaurasia Vs. State of Jharkhand with Pradeep Kumar Singh Vs. State of Jharkhand in August 2022*, following recommendations were made highlighting measures to be taken for crushers/mines:
- i. *In the case of stone crushers, the crushing units (both primary & secondary) should be placed in a covered section and the crushing units having capacity more than 100 TPH, shall be provided with bag house as emission control system.*
 - ii. *The Crushers shall install scientifically designed adequate number of sprinklers with requisite hydraulic pressure and shall ensure that the sprinklers remained in operation during crushing period.*
 - iii. *JSPCB along with district administration shall ensure that crushers are not in operation without having requisite pollution control measures through strict vigilance. Priority may be given for the grids where negative supporting carrying capacity has been observed.*
 - iv. *Conveyor belts should be covered /enclosed to avoid fugitive emission, without side gaps, in enclosure and belts.*
 - v. *The crushed stones or finished products should be stored in a silo, or the finished goods should be kept lower than the height of wind-breaking walls. Strong structural base and framing should be provided for wind-breaking walls to withstand strong wind conditions. The height of the stockpile should always be kept lower than the height of the wind-breaking wall. The wall can be erected radially with a screen as centre point. In addition, proper sprinkling arrangement should be provided all around the stockpiles.*



- vi. *The haul roads/roads within the mines/industry premises used for the transportation of the products from the stone crushers or mines shall be paved and sufficient number of sprinklers be in operation. The concerned crushers shall be responsible for installation and O&M.*
 - vii. *Cleaning of crushing units and railway goods shed shall be performed with only mechanical means on regular basis.*
 - viii. *JSPCB shall direct the concerned agencies to maintain the national highways and other metalled roads to reduce fugitive emission.*
 - ix. *The stone dusts from the stone crushing/ mines are dumped in the nearby area causing may be utilized for construction activities of the 4-lane highway and Ganga Bridge in the area and filling up the ponds/mine voids which were created during the stone mining or reclamation of the stone mines.*
 - x. *A proper green belt is to be developed surrounding the crushers.*
16. That the averment made in Para no. 27 of the OA is regarding development of green belt. In this regard it is humbly submitted that submission made at para 15 above is re-iterated and is not repeated herein here for the sake of brevity.
17. That the averment made in Para no. 28 of the OA is regarding hazardous waste authorization. It is humbly submitted that hazardous waste authorization is granted by SPCBs under Hazardous and Other Wastes Management Rules, 2016, hence no comments are offered over it from this Answering Respondent.
18. That, averment made in Para nos. 29 of the OA regarding compliant made by villagers dated 03/12/2024 requesting the authorities to take urgent action against illegal stone quarry. It is humbly submitted that CPCB has not received such complain related to alleged stone crushers.
19. That, averment made in Para nos. 30 of the OA is regarding alleged air and noise pollution caused by vehicles. In this regard it is humbly submitted that submission made at para 15 of the reply is re-iterated and is not repeated herein here for the sake of brevity
20. That, no comments are offered over the averments made in Para nos. 31 to 34 of the OA wherein violation of EC, operation of illegal stone quarries, extraction of stone beyond permission and blasting beyond permission limit has been alleged, as it has not been verified by this answering respondents.



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21. That, no comments are offered over the averments made in Para no. 35 of the OA wherein inspection carried out by the Director General of Mines Safety (DGMS) has been referred to, being matter of records.
22. That, no comments are offered over the averments made in Para no. 36 and 37 of the OA wherein EC conditions imposed on the quarries have been mentioned and violation of various conditions alleged, as it has not been verified by this answering respondents.
23. It is humbly submitted that CPCB has prepared Environmental Guidelines in July, 2023 for the Regulatory/ Monitoring Mechanism of the stone crushing units and circulated to all SPCBs for implementation. The weblink of the guideline is

<https://cpcb.nic.in/openpdffile.php?id=TmV3c0ZpbGVzLzEwMV8xNjg3MjU0NjMzX21lZGlhcGhvdG8xNDMxMS5wZGY=#:~:text=Stone%20crushing%20unit%20shall%20comply,in%20upwind%20and%20downwind%20directions.>

24. That, no comments are offered over the averments made in Para no. 38 of the OA being matter of records.
25. That the averments made in Para nos. 39 & 40 of the OA are regarding alleged water, soil, air & noise pollution. It is humbly submitted that submission made in Para no. 23 of this reply is reiterated and is not repeated herein for the sake of brevity.
26. That no comments are offered over the averments made in Para nos. 41 to 43 of the OA being matter of records.
27. That, averment made in Para no. 44 of the OA is regarding operation of Stone quarries allegedly not within the prescribed guidelines. It is humbly submitted that submission made in Para no. 9 of this reply is reiterated and is not repeated herein for the sake of brevity.
28. That, averment made in Para no. 45 of the OA is regarding alleged discharge of water. It is humbly submitted that submission made in Para no. 23 of this reply is reiterated and is not repeated herein for the sake of brevity.
29. That the averments made in Para nos. 46 to 50 of the OA regarding lease validity, no FIR filed for unauthorized extraction of minor minerals, Odisha guidelines for mining, seizer of illegal vehicles, and resolutions passed by Odisha government do not refer to this Answering Respondent, hence need no reply from the Answering Respondent.
30. That no comments are offered over the averments made in Para nos. 51 to 54 of the OA, being matter of records.



31. That with regard to the averments made under grounds (A to F), it is respectfully submitted that the submissions made in preceding Paras are re-iterated and are not repeated herein for the sake of brevity.
32. That, in light of the above submissions, it is respectfully submitted that this answering respondent, i.e., CPCB, shall abide by all the order(s) or direction(s) passed by this Hon'ble Tribunal in this Original Application.

Prepared by me

Sibghati Chakraborti
Advocate
for CPCB

Mrinal Kanti Biswas

Mrinal Kanti Biswas
Regional Director & Scientist 'E'
CPCB, Kolkata



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AFFIDAVIT

I, Mrinal Kanti Biswas, S/o Saroj Kumar Biswas aged about 43 years, having office at the Regional Directorate, Central Pollution Control Board, Southend Conclave' Block No.502, 5th& 6th Floor,1582, Rajdanga Main Road, Kolkata-700107, do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows: -

1. That I, the deponent herein is well conversant with the facts and circumstances of the present case on the basis of the information derived from the official records, and hence, I am competent to verify, sign and swear this affidavit on behalf of the Respondent CPCB.
2. That the accompanying reply may be read part and parcel of the present affidavit as I am competent to swear this affidavit.
3. That the accompanying reply has been drafted and filed under my instructions and authority the contents thereof are true and correct on the basis of the record maintained during ordinary course of business of CPCB and available records and documents and the contents of the same are read over and explained to me and are not repeated herein for the sake of brevity.

Identified by me

Subjoyoti Chakrabarti
Advocate

[Signature]
DEPONENT

S.L. NO. 02/24/05/2025



**RANTOSH KUMAR DATTA
NOTARY
60/1A, Hari Choudh Street
Kolkata-700008
Regn. No.- 24 of 1998**

**Solemnly Affirmed
&
Declared before me
on Identification of Advocate**

[Signature]
**S. K. DATTA
NOTARY**

24.05.2025

24 MAY 2025

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VERIFICATION

Verified at Kolkata on this day of 24/05 2025 that the contents of the above reply are correct and true on the basis of the record of the cases as mentioned in the day-to-day affairs of the CPCB. Nothing has been concealed therefrom or mis-stated.

Verified at Kolkata on this the... Day of 24/05/ 2025.

Identified by me

Sibgyati Chakravarti
Advocate

A. K. B. S.

DEPONENT





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Annexure - (II)

केन्द्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड
CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय भारत सरकार
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT FOREST & CLIMATE CHANGE GOVT OF INDIA

E-Mail

No. CPCB/IPC-II/NGT-OA 304 of 2019/2020/

May 12, 2020

To,

The Member Secretary,
State Pollution Control Boards / Pollution Control Committees,
(As per list enclosed)

Sub.: In reference to Hon'ble NGT OA No. 304/2019 order dated-28.02.2020-reg.

Sir/Ma'am,

Hon'ble NGT in its order dated-09.10.2019 in OA No. 304/2019 observed that the Kerala SPCB has permitted stone quarrying beyond 50 m from residence and public roads, and directed the SPCB to revisit the existing criterion based on an appropriate study. Further, in its order dated-28.02.2020 the NGT noted that "a report has been filed by the Kerala State PCB on 17.12.2019 reiterating the distance criteria of 50 mtrs. and mentioning that no study is available with the CPCB", and the NGT expressed that "We are of the view, as earlier observed that the distance of 50 mtrs. for stone quarry, particularly when blasts are involved, is highly inadequate and can have deleterious effect on noise and air pollution, environment and public health.", and directed CPCB to examine and lay down more stringent conditions and appropriately longer distance within one month and convey the same to the State Boards.

Accordingly, in compliance of Hon'ble NGT Order dt.-28.02.2020 in OA No. 304/2019, CPCB has examined the matter and prepared a report on **Distance Criteria for Permitting Stone Quarrying**, which is enclosed for consideration and adoption by SPCB in consent mechanism.

Yours faithfully,

(Nazimuddin)

Additional Director &
Divisional Head - IPC - II

Encl.: As above

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SPCBs / PCCs	E-mails
Andhra Pradesh State Pollution Control Board D. No. 33-26-14 D2, Near Sunrise Hospital, Pashpa Hotel Centre, Chalamvari Street, Kasturibaipet, Vijayawada - 520 010 Andhra Pradesh	membersecy@appcb.gov.in
Arunachal Pradesh State Pollution Control Board Paryavaran Bhawan, Papu Hill, Yupia Road, Naharlagun- 791110 Arunachal Pradesh	arunachalspcb@gmail.com
Assam Pollution Control Board Bamunimaidan, Guwahati 781021 Assam	membersecretary@pcbassam.org
Bihar State Pollution Control Board Parivesh Bhawan, Plot No. NS-B 2 Paliputra Industrial Area, Patliputra, Patna 800 023 Bihar	mcellbspcb@gmail.com
Chhattisgarh Environment Conservation Board Paryavas Bhavan, North Block Sector-19, Naya Raipur 492002 Chhattisgarh	hocecb@gmail.com
Goa State Pollution Control Board Nr. Pilerne Industrial Estate, Opp. Saligao Seminary, Saligao - Bardez Goa - 403511 Goa	goapeb@rediffmail.com goapcb@rediffmail.com
Gujarat Pollution Control Board Paryavan Bhavan, Sector 10- A Gandhinagar - 382 043 Gujarat	membersecretarygpcb@gmail.com ms-gpcb@gujarat.gov.in
Haryana State Pollution Control Board C-11, Sector-6, Panchkula-134109, Haryana	mshspcb@gmail.com
Himachal Pradesh Pollution Control Board Him Parivesh, Phase-III, New Shimla 171009 Himachal Pradesh	mspcb-hp@nic.in
Jammu & Kashmir State Pollution Control Board Parivesh Bhawan, Shiekh-ul-Campus, behind Govt. Silk Factory, Raj Bagh, Srinagar Jammu & Kashmir	membersecretaryjkspcb@gmail.com
Jharkhand Pollution Control Board T.A Building, HEC, P.O. Dhurwa, Ranchi - 834004 Jharkhand	ranchijspcb@gmail.com
Karnataka State Pollution Control Board Parisara Bhavan, 4th & 5th Floor, # 49, Church St., Bangalore-560 001 Karnataka	memsecy@kspcb.gov.in ho@kspcb.gov.in

Kerala State Pollution Control Board Plamoodu Jn., Pattom Palace P.O. Thiruvananthapuram-695 004 Kerala	ms.kspcb@gov.in
Madhya Pradesh Pollution Control Board E-5, Arera Colony, Paryavaran Parisar, Bhopal - 462 016. Madhya Pradesh	it_mppcb@rediffmail.com
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board Kalpataru Point, 2nd – 4th Floor Opp. Cine Planet Cinema, Nr. Sion Circle, Sion (E) Mumbai – 400 022 Maharashtra	ms@mpcb.gov.in
Manipur Pollution Control Board Lamphelpat, Near Imphal West D.C. Office, Imphal Manipur	pcb-man@nic.in
Meghalaya Pollution Control Board Arden, Lumpyngngad Shillong: 793014 Meghalaya	megspcb@rediffmail.com
Mizoram Pollution Control Board New Secretariat Complex, Khatla Thlanmual Peng, Khatla, Aizawl 796001 Mizoram	duhawma15@yahoo.com
Nagaland Pollution Control Board Signal Point, Dimapur 797112 Nagaland	rusoviljohn@yahoo.co.in
Odisha Pollution Control Board A-118, Nilakanta Nagar, Unit –VIII, Bhubaneswar – 751012 Odisha	membersecretary@ospcb.org
Punjab Pollution Control Board, Vatavaran Bhawan, Nabha Road, Patiala, Punjab	msppcb@punjab.gov.in
Rajasthan Pollution Control Board, 4, Jhalana Institutional Area, Jhalana Doongri, Jaipur - 302 004 Rajasthan	member-secretary@rpccb.nic.in
Sikkim State Pollution Control Board Department of Forest, Environment & Wildlife Management Government of Sikkim, Deorali, Gangtok, -737102 Sikkim	drigopalpradhan@gmail.com spcbsikkim@gmail.com
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board 76, Mount Salai, Guindy, Chennai-600 032 Tamil Nadu	tnpcbmembersecretary@yahoo.com

Telangana State Pollution Control Board Paryavaran Bhawan, A-3, I.E. Sanath Nagar, Hyderabad-500 018 Telangana	ts_ms@pcb.ap.gov.in
Tripura Pollution Control Board Vigyan Bhawan Pandit Nehru Complex, Gorkhabasti, PO: Kunjaban Agartala: 799006 Tripura	mukherjee_manas@rediffmail.com
Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board Building No. TC-12V Vibhuti Khand, Gomti Nagar Lucknow-226 010 Uttar Pradesh	ms@uppcb.com
Uttarakhand Environmental Protection & Pollution Control Board 29/20, Nemi Road, Dehradun, Uttarakhand	msukpcb@gmail.com
West Bengal Pollution Control Board Paribesh Bhavan, 10A. Block-L.A., Sector III, Bidhan Nagar, Kolkata - 700 106 West Bengal	ms@wbpcb.gov.in
Andaman & Nicobar Islands Pollution Control Committee Department of Science & Technology, Dollygunj Van Sadan, Haddo P.O., Port Blair – 744102 Andaman & Nicobar	dstandamans@gmail.com
Chandigarh Pollution Control Committee Paryavaran Bhawan, Ground Floor, Sector 19 B Madhya Marg, Chandigarh	cpcc-chd@nic.in
Daman, Diu & Dadra Nagar Haveli Pollution Control Committee Office of the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Moti Daman, 396220 Daman	mspec_dmn@pcedaman.in
Delhi Pollution Control Committee Government of N.C.T. Delhi 4th Floor, ISBT Building, Kashmere Gate 110006 Delhi	msdpcc@nic.in
Lakshadweep Pollution Control Committee Department of Science, Technology & Environment, Kavarati- 682555 Lakshadweep	lk-dst@nic.in
Pondicherry Pollution Control Committee Housing Board Complex, Anna Nagar, 600 005 Pondicherry	ppcc.pon@nic.in

DISTANCE CRITERIA FOR PERMITTING STONE QUARRYING

1.0 Preamble:

Hon'ble National Green Tribunal vide order dated-28.02.2020 in the matter of M. Haridasan & Ors. Vs. State of Kerala in OA No. 304/2019 observed that a distance of 50 metres for stone quarry, particularly when blasts are involved, is highly inadequate and can have deleterious effect on noise and air pollution, environment and public health and accordingly, directed Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) to examine and lay down more stringent conditions and appropriately longer distance.

2.0 Stone Quarrying:

Stone is classified as minor minerals under Section 3(e) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulations) Act, 1957. As per provisions of MMDR Act, the administrative and legal control over minor minerals vests with State Governments and empowered to make rules to govern minor minerals.

Stone Quarrying / Mining is an activity where extraction of stone is done from hillocks or mountain or ground surface having geological mineral deposits. The stone extracted from stone quarry are used either as construction materials or in stone crushers to produce rori/bajri and dust.

Systematic Mining (formation of benches) is done by blasting and drilling, to loosen up the rock materials followed by fragmentation of large size into smaller size. The reduced size material is then loaded and transferred to stone crushers for further processing in order to obtain necessary sizes required for final use. The blasting and drilling during mining operation have environmental impacts and requires mitigation measures to minimise the impacts on environment and nearby habitations.

3.0 Minor Mineral Concession Rules

As per sub-section (1) of section 15 of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (Central Act 67 of 1957), State Government has to make Rules for regulating the grant of quarry lease, mining lease/permit, mineral concessions and purposes connected in respect of minor minerals.

Accordingly, State Governments have framed rules and defined the criteria of minimum distance of minor mineral mining from different locations based on the type of mining used. (Annexure I).

Minimum distance prescribed by various states is vary with respect to mining operation of minor mineral involved. In general, minimum distance prescribed by states such as Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Orissa, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, West Bengal, Sikkim, Meghalaya and Manipur are:

- In the range of **45 - 200 m** from any reservoir, canal, public works such as public roads and **buildings**
- In the range of **45 - 100 m** from any railway line / area
- In the range of **60 - 100 m** from National Highway, State Highway and other roads and **10 m** from village roads

Various states have further prescribed minimum distance based on the use of blasting in mining operation of minor mineral, as follow:

Kerala:

When blasting is involved, no mining within a range of **50 – 100 m** from the boundary line of any railway line, bridges, reservoirs, tanks, **residential buildings**, Government protected monuments, canals, rivers, public roads having vehicular traffic, any other public works or the boundary walls of places of worship whereas, when no blasting is involved, range of **50-75 m** is prescribed as minimum distance.

Karnataka, Maharashtra, Goa, Gujarat:

When blasting is involved, no mining within a distance of **200 m** from the boundary line of any railway line reservoir, tank bund, canal, or other public works and **public structures** or any public road or building whereas, when no blasting is involved, minimum distance of **50 m** is defined.

Jammu & Kashmir:

When blasting is involved, no mining within a distance of **500 m** from the outer periphery of the defined limits of a National Highway, Railway line, State Highway, Major District Roads (MDR) and Other District Road (ODRs) whereas, when no blasting is involved, minimum distance of **150 m** is defined.

Assam:

When blasting is involved, no mining within a distance of **250 m** from the outer periphery of the defined limits of any **village habitation**, National Highway, State Highway and other roads whereas, when no blasting is involved, minimum distance of **50 m** is defined.

Note: Distance criteria defined by various states, has been defined from the outer edge of the cutting or outer edge of the bank, as the case may be and in the case of a building horizontally from the plinth thereof.

4.0 Criteria of Danger Zone: Directorate General of Mines Safety

As per Directorate General of Mines Safety circular no. - DGMS (SOMA)/ (Tech) Cir No. 2 of 2003 Dt. 31/01/2003 (Annexure II), on subject of **Dangers due to blasting projectiles**, all places within the radius of **500 m** from the place of firing to be treated as danger zone and accordingly, all person in danger zone to take protection in substantially built shelter at the time of blasting.

Further, mine manager to control the throw and to prevent ejection of flying fragments within a safe distance with the use of refined blasting practices as well as developed explosives and accessories such as controlled blasting Technique with milli-second delay detonators / electric shock tubes/ cord relays or use of sequential blasting machines or by adequately muffling of holes etc.

5.0 Criteria of no blasting distance around blast sites: Indiana Department of Natural Resource, USA

(Source: Citizen Guide to Coal Mine Blasting in Indiana)

Indiana Department of Natural Resource, USA has stated that the blasting not to be conducted within **300 feet (~ 91 m)** of an **occupied dwelling** or school, church or hospital, public building, community or institutional building.

6.0 Conclusion:

In view of available information, following minimum distance criteria may be considered for permitting stone quarrying by SPCBs:

Mining Type		Minimum Distance	Locations
A.	When Blasting is not involved	100 m	Residential/Public buildings, Inhabited sites, Protected monuments, Heritage sites, National / State Highway, District roads, Public roads, Railway line/area, Ropeway or Ropeway trestle or station, Bridges, Dams, Reservoirs, River, Canals, or Lakes or Tanks, or any other locations to be considered by States.
B.	When Blasting is involved	200 m **	

****Note:** The regulations for danger zone (500 m) prescribed by Directorate General of Mines Safety also have to be complied compulsorily and necessary measures should be taken to minimise the impact on environment.

However, if any states is already having stringent criteria than the above for minor mineral mining (i.e. more prescribed distances than the above), the same shall be applicable.

Annexure I

State	Type of Mining	Distance	Location	Remarks
Kerala	Quarry	100 m	Minimum distance from boundary of quarry operation area to residential buildings, places of worship, public buildings, public road, river or lake, railway line and bridges.	Quarry distance as per SPCB circular no. PCB/TAC/WP/236/2006 dated 13-6-2007.
	Laterite Quarry	50 m	Minimum distance to residences and other establishments (m)	Laterite Quarry distance as per SPCB circular no. PCB/T4/115/97 dated 20-7-2011
	Quarrying where explosives are used	100 m	Minimum distance from any railway line, bridges, reservoirs, tanks, residential buildings, Government protected monuments, canals, rivers, public roads having vehicular traffic, any other public works or the boundary walls of places of worship	Kerala Minor Mineral Concession Rules 1967
		50 m	Minimum distance from any burial grounds or burning ghats or forest lands	
	Quarrying where explosives are not used	75 m	Minimum distance from any railway line and any bridge on National Highway	
50 m		Minimum distance from any reservoir, tanks, canals, rivers, bridges, public roads, other public works, residential buildings, the boundary walls of places of worship, burial grounds, burning ghats or any Government protected monuments or forest lands		
Karnataka	Blasting is involved	200 m	Minimum distance from the boundary line of any railway line reservoir, tank bund, canal, or other public works and public structures or any public road or building.	
	No blasting is involved	50 m		
Maharashtra	Blasting is involved	200 m	Minimum distance from the boundary of any railway line, any reservoir, canal, road, river, nallah, irrigation works or public works or building.	Maharashtra Minor Mineral Extraction (Development and Regulation) Rules 2013
	No blasting is involved	50 m		
Goa and Daman & Diu	Blasting is involved	200 m	Minimum distance from the boundary of any railway line, any reservoir, canal, road or public works or buildings	The Goa, Daman and Diu Minor Mineral Concession Rules 1985
	No blasting is involved	50 m		
Gujarat	Blasting is involved	200 m	Minimum distance from any road, notified reservoirs, canal, national highway, state highway, boundary of any railway line, public works, cities, towns, villages and other approved continuous habitations.	Gujarat Minor Mineral Concession Rules 2017
	No blasting is involved	50 m	Minimum distance from any road (excluding a village road or other district road), notified reservoirs, canal, national highway, state highway, boundary of any railway line, public works, cities, towns, villages and other approved continuous habitations.	

Rajasthan	Minor Mineral Mining	45 m	Minimum distance from any railway line, under or beneath any ropeway or ropeway trestle or station or from any public roads (excluding mines approach road or village roads), reservoir, canal or other public place or buildings, pillars of railway and road bridge or inhabited site.	Rajasthan Minor Mineral Concession Rules 2017
Madhya Pradesh	Minor Mineral Mining	50 m	Minimum distance from any railway line or from any reservoir, canal or other public works such as public roads and buildings or inhabited site	Madhya Pradesh Minor Mineral Rules 1996
Punjab	Minor Mineral Mining	75 m	Minimum distance from any railway line or bridges	Punjab Minor Mineral Concession Rules 1964
		60 m	Minimum distance from national highway	
		50 m	Minimum distance from any reservoir tank canal roads or other public works or buildings or inhabited sites	
Tamil Nadu	Minor Mineral Mining	50 m	Minimum distance from any railway line or under or beneath any ropeway or any ropeway trestle or station or from any reservoir, canal or other public works such as public roads and buildings	Tamil Nadu Minor Mineral Concession Rules 1959
Orissa	Minor Mineral Mining	100 m	Minimum distance from any railway line, National Highway, late Highway or any reservoir	Orissa Minor Minerals Concession Rules 2004
		50 m	Minimum distance from any tank, canal, road (other than a National or State Highway or other public works of buildings or inhabited sites), public roads, public buildings, temples, reservoirs, dams, burial ground, railway track monuments, heritage sites, etc.	
Chhattisgarh	Minor Mineral Mining	300 m	Minimum distance from sensitive area like radio station, doordarshan kendra, defence establishment etc. of the Central and State Government	Chhattisgarh Minor Mineral Rules 1996
		100 m	Minimum distance from abadi, school, hospital and other public places, buildings and habited sites	
		75 m	Minimum distance from any railway line, bridge or highway	
		50 m	Minimum distance from tank, river banks, reservoir, canal	
		10 m	Minimum distance from grameen kachcha road	
Bihar	Minor Mineral Mining	50 m	Minimum distance from any railway line or from any reservoir, public road, canal or other public work or buildings or inhabited site	Bihar Minor Mineral Concession Rules 1972
		10 m	Minimum distance from any village roads	
Uttar Pradesh	Minor Mineral Mining	50 m	Minimum distance from any railway line or from any reservoir, canal or other public works, such as public roads and buildings or inhabited site	Uttar Pradesh Minor Minerals (Concession) Rules 1963
		10 m	Minimum distance from any village roads	
Himachal Pradesh	Minor Mineral Mining	75 m	Minimum distance from any railway line or bridges	Himachal Pradesh Minor Minerals (Concession) Revised Rules 1971
		60 m	Minimum distance from National Highway	
		50 m	Minimum distance from any reservoir, tank, canal, roads or other public works or buildings or inhabited sites	
		50 m	Minimum distance for all type of mining from any river banks (except in cases of ordinary sand)	

Jammu & Kashmir	Mining where excavation require use of explosives	500 m	Minimum distance from outer periphery of the defined limits of a National Highway, Railway line, State Highway, Major District Roads (MDR) and Other District Road (ODRs)	Jammu & Kashmir Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 1962
	Mining where excavation does not require use of explosives	150 m	Minimum distance from outer periphery of the defined limits of a National Highway, Railway line, State Highway, Major District Roads (MDR) and Other District Road (ODRs)	
	Minor Mineral Mining	100 m	Minimum distance from any other public roads	
		50 m	Minimum distance from upstream as well as downstream of water works, head works or hydraulic works as defined under the J&K Water Resources (Regulation and Management) Act, 2010.	
		25 m	Minimum distance from any 'embankment' or 'flood embankment' as defined under the J&K Water Resources (Regulation and Management) Act, 2010.	
West Bengal	Minor Mineral Mining	5000 m	Minimum distance from a barrage axis or dam or a river	West Bengal Minor Minerals Rules 2002
		200 m	Minimum distance from any hydraulic structure, reservoir, bridge, canal, road and other public works or buildings	
		200 m	Minimum distance from both sides of any river bridge or culvert over any waterway or from any embankment and structural works of the Irrigation and Waterways Department	
		100 m	Minimum distance from any Railway land	
Sikkim	Minor Mineral Mining	60 m	Minimum distance from bridges on highways	Sikkim Minor Mineral Concession Rules 2016
		50 m	Minimum distance from any railway line or any reservoirs, canals or other public works, or buildings	
Assam	Mining where excavation require use of explosives	250 m	Minimum distance from the outer periphery of the defined limits of any village habitation, National Highway, State Highway and other roads	Assam Minor Mineral Concession Rules 2013
	Mining where excavation does not require use of explosives	50 m	Minimum distance from outer periphery of the defined limits of any village habitation, National Highway, State Highway and other roads	
	Minor Mineral Mining	500 m	Minimum distance from major structures like R.C.C. bridges, Guide bund etc.	
75 m		Minimum distance from any railway line or bridges		
Meghalaya	Minor Mineral Mining	50 m	Minimum distance from any railway line or under or beneath any rope way or any ropeway trestle or station, or from any reservoir, canal or other public works such as public roads and buildings or inhabited site	Meghalaya Minor Mineral Concession Rules 2016
		10 m	Minimum distance from any village roads	
Manipur	Minor Mineral Mining	50 m	Minimum distance from any reservoir, canal or other public works, or buildings.	Manipur Minor Mineral Concession Rules 2012