

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

O.A. No. 172/2024/EZ

NEWS ITEM TITLED "CHAIBASA ILLEGAL MINING OF STONES IS GOING ON IN SARANDA  
FOREST" APPEARING IN LAGATAR DATED 31.05.2024

VS

CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

Date:

In the present case, a *suo moto* matter was taken up by the Principal Bench and the transferred to the Eastern Zone Bench at Kolkata. The genesis of the matter was a news item published in 'Lagatar' on 31.05.2024 with the title of the article: "Chaibasa: Illegal mining of stones is going on in Saranda Forest". It was stated in the news item that illegal mining of stone is occurring in the Saranda Forest, specifically in the area between Usruiya and Ponga villages, in the State of Jharkhand to supply material for construction of a bridge and guard wall on the Dulai River. The article further mentioned that a contractor from Palamu/Ranchi, is accused of illegal sourcing stones from the forest which has raised concern among villagers. The case has been disposed of vide order dt. 22.01.2025 with the following observations:

"11. From the averments of parties and documents on record, the allegations made in the news item stand established with regard to the illegal mining of stones in the Saranda Forest Division particularly Koyna Forest Range. Forest Offence Report No.0287 dated 29.05.2024 has also been lodged against the Contractor involved in the illegal mining activities. The tractor used in transportation of illegal mined stones along with boulders has been seized. It is also stated by the Divisional Forest Officer, Saranda Forest Division, Chaibasa that to prevent the recurrence of such illegal activities, the Koyna Forest Range staff have intensified patrolling in the affected areas and regular monitoring and surveillance are being conducted to ensure protection of the forest resources.

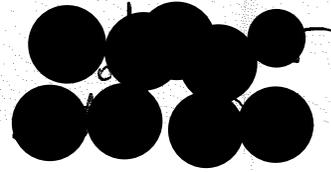
12. We, therefore, dispose of this Original Application with a direction to the Jharkhand State Pollution Control Board (JSPCB) with the assistance of the Divisional Forest Officer, Saranda Forest Division, Chaibasa to determine and recover the Environmental Compensation (EC) from the Contractor for the damage caused to the environment due to the illegal mining of stones/boulders by the Contractor in question from the Saranda Forest Division/Koyna Reserve Forest, in accordance with law giving the Contractor an opportunity of being heard.

13. The Jharkhand State Pollution Control Board and the Divisional Forest Officer, Saranda, Jharkhand shall utilize the Environmental Compensation amount towards the restoration of the site in question with adequate afforestation and plantation of trees with species peculiar to that area. This exercise shall be completed by the Jharkhand State Pollution Control Board and the Divisional Forest Officer, Saranda, Jharkhand within a period of three months and report of compliance be filed with the Registrar, National Green Tribunal, Eastern Zone Bench, Kolkata within a further period of one week"

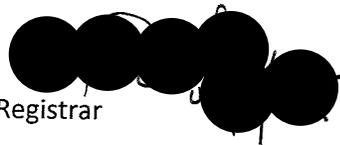
However, it is submitted that no report of compliance has been filed by either Jharkhand State Pollution Control Board or the Divisional Forest Officer, Saranda, Jharkhand, Respondent No. 2 and 5 respectively, in terms of above-mentioned directions as on date.

Therefore, if directed, M.A. may be registered in the instant case for the purpose of compliance of order of the Hon'ble Tribunal as the O.A. has already been disposed of.

Placed for appropriate order/direction.

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Ld. Deputy Registrar

  
Ld. Registrar

  
Hon'ble Expert Member

  
Hon'ble Judicial Member