

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL (SOUTHER ZONE)
AT CHENNAI**

(Special Original Jurisdiction)

Original Application No.177 of 2020 (SZ)

In the Matter of

Tribunal on its own motion – Suo Motu

Based on the News item in the Hindu Newspaper,
Chennai Edition dated 07.09.2020, “illegal road in
Sanctuary poses threat to wildlife”

..... Applicant

Versus

1. Ministry of Environment, Forests and
Climate Change, Govt. of India,
Rep. by its Secretary,
Indira Paryavaran Bhavan,
Jorbagh Road, New Delhi – 110 003.

2. The Secretary to Government,
Department of Environment & Forests,
Govt. Secretariat, Chennai.9

3. Department of Environment,
Rep. by its Director,
No.1, Jeenis Road, Panagal Building Ground Floor,
Saidapet, Chennai -600 015.

4. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests &
Head of Forests Force,
Department of Forests,
Panagal Building, Saidapet, Chennai.15

5. Grizzled Squirrel Wildlife Sanctuary,
Rep. by its Wildlife Warden,
Madurai Road, Pillaiyarnathan Post,
Srivilliputhur – 626 101.

6. The District Collector,
Virudhunagar District,
Virudhunagar – 626 002.

7. District Forest Officer,
Virudhunagar District,
District Collectorate Campus,
Virudhunagar – 626 002.

(Signature)

(Signature)

ASSISTANT CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS
GREEN SQUAD,
O/o. DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT
PANAGAL MALIGAI,
SAIDAPET, CHENNAI-600 015.

(Signature)
Director

Department of Environment
Chennai - 15.

8. The Tahsildar,
Rajapalayam Taluk,
Rajapalayam - 626 117.

... .. Respondents

REPLY AFFIDAVIT FILED BY THE 3rd RESPONDENT

I, K.V. Giridhar, I.F.S, S/o K. Seetharama Rao about 57 years and having office at Ground Floor, Panagal Buildings, Saidapet, Chennai - 600 015 solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows.

1. I humbly submit that I am the Director, Department of Environment and also the Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu State Coastal Zone Management Authority and I am well acquainted with the facts of the case from the records available and I am filing this reply in my official capacity on behalf of 5th and 6th respondents.
2. I humbly submit that I have gone through the averments contained in the affidavit filed by the Applicant and I deny all the averments except those that are specifically admitted herein and the Applicant is put to strict proof of the same.
3. I humbly submit that the National Green Tribunal has registered an Application on the basis of the news paper report published in the Hindu Newspaper Chennai edition dated 07.09.2020 under the caption "Illegal road in Sanctuary poses threat to wildlife".
4. I humbly submit that the Hon'ble NGT has ordered (on 17.09.2020) for forming a Committee comprising 1) Senior official from MoEF & CC (Regional Office, Chennai), 2) a Senior Officer not below the rank of Chief Conservator of Forests, 3) the Wildlife Warden, Grizzled Squirrel Wildlife Sanctuary and 4) the District Collector, Virudhunagar district to inspect the area and to submit a factual report, if there is any violation found and to file a report on or before 05.11.2020.
5. I humbly submit that the Indian Forests Act, 1972, the Wildlife Protection Act, Rules 1973, the Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Act, 2006 and the Forests (Conservation) Act, 1980 are vested with the Forests Department.

Before me/

[Signature]
ASSISTANT CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS
GREEN SQUAD,
D/o. DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT
PANAGAL MALIGAI,
SAIDAPET, CHENNAI-600 015.

[Signature]
Director
Department of Environment
Chennai - 15.

.3.

6. It is most respectfully submitted that in light of the above, the respondent is a formal party under the facts of the current case herein. Nevertheless, it respectfully submitted that this respondent reserves the right to file an additional affidavit, if deemed necessary at a later stage.

It is therefore humbly prayed that this Hon'ble High Court may be pleased to record the above mentioned facts and pass such order or orders as this Hon'ble High Court may deem fit and proper in the interest of justice.

Solemnly affirmed at Chennai
This the 6th day of November 2020
and Signed his name in presence


Director
Department of Environment
Chennai - 15.

BEFORE ME


ASSISTANT CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS
GREEN SQUAD,
O/o. DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT
PANAGAL MALIGAI,
SAIDAPET, CHENNAI-600 015.