

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

Original Application No. 11/2026 (EZ)

IN THE MATTER OF:

Ankur Sharma

...Applicant

Vs.

State of West Bengal & Ors.

...Respondent(s)

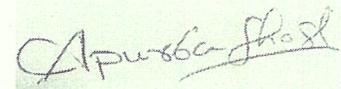
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Place: Kolkata

Dated: th30 March, 2026

Respondent No. 2



Through

Apurba Ghosh
Advocate

X

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...Applicant

Vs.

State of West Bengal & Ors.

...Respondent(s)



**BEFORE THE NOTARY PUBLIC
AT BIDHANNAGAR
DIST-NORTH 24 PARGANAS**

**COUNTER AFFIDAVIT ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT NO. 2 THE MINISTRY
OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE.**

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:

I, Dr. Shahida Parvin Quazi, daughter of Late Quazi Sirazul Haque, aged about 47 years, presently working as 'Scientist - E' at the Sub Office Kolkata, Regional Office Bhubaneswar under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, having its office at IB-198, Sector- III, Salt Lake City, Kolkata - 700 106, do hereby solemnly affirm on oath and state as under:

1. That I, in my official capacity in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, in the above mentioned matter, am conversant with the facts and circumstances of the case on the basis of official records, and as such authorized and competent to swear this affidavit.
2. It is respectfully submitted that the applicant has filed the present Original Application under Sections 14, 15 and 18 of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010 alleging that construction activities relating to the "Oitika" project at Rajarhat, New Town, North 24 Parganas, West Bengal are being undertaken without prior Environmental Clearance and statutory approvals, and has sought various directions including stoppage of construction, demolition, restoration of canal/channel, environmental compensation and other consequential reliefs.

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Applicable provisions of grant of Environmental Clearance:

3. It is submitted that the Ministry has issued Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification No. S.O. 1533 E dated 14th September, 2006. The EIA Notification, 2006 as amended regulates developmental projects in respect of construction of new projects/activities/expansion or modernization of existing projects in different parts of the country for grant of prior Environmental Clearance.

4. That, it is respectfully submitted that the EIA Notification, 2006 as amended covers 38 projects/activities in its Schedule which inter-alia includes different types of infrastructure projects viz. Airports, Ports, Highways, and Building & Construction Projects etc. as specified and classified in the Schedule of the said notification. All such projects/activities shall require prior Environmental Clearance from the concerned regulatory authority, e.g., MoEF&CC in the Central Government for matters falling under Category 'A' in the Schedule and the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) at State level for matters falling under Category 'B' in the said Schedule, before starting any construction work. Broadly, following categories projects/activities are covered under the ambit of EIA Notification, 2006 as amended:

- a. All new projects or activities listed in the Schedule to this notification;
- b. Expansion and modernization of existing projects or activities listed in the Schedule to this notification with addition of capacity beyond the limits specified for the concerned sector, that is, projects or activities which cross the threshold limits given in the Schedule, after expansion or modernization;
- c. Any change in product - mix in an existing manufacturing unit included in Schedule beyond the specified range.

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6. That under the provisions of the EIA Notification, 2006 as amended, Environmental Clearance for Building and Construction Projects & Township and Area Development Projects are covered under entry 8 (a) & (b) of the Schedule to the EIA Notification, 2006. Entries 8(a) and 8(b) of the Schedule of EIA Notification 2006 provides as follows;

“8(a): Building and Construction projects - >20000 sq. m and <150000 sq. m of built-up area require EC.

8(b): Townships and Area Development projects - Covering an area >50 ha. And or built up area >150000 sq. m- require EC.”

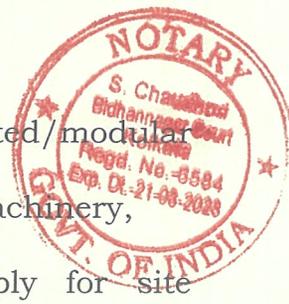
7. That the aforementioned entries under item 8(a) and 8(b) are qualified as category ‘B’ projects under the EIA Notification, 2006 and requires appraisal by the State Level Expert Appraisal Committees (SEACs) and approved by the State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authorities (SEIAAs). Further, that as per the EIA Notification, 2006, in the absence of a duly constituted SEIAA/SEAC, a category ‘B’ project shall be considered at the Central Level as a category ‘B’ project. It is most respectfully submitted that the requirement of taking Environmental Clearance for any building construction project is governed by the aforesaid provisions, stated in paras above.

8. Without prejudice to the above, it is further submitted that the Ministry has issued O.M. dated 29.03.2022 setting out those activities that can be undertaken by the Project Proponent prior to the grant of Environmental Clearance subject to certain conditions set out therein. These activities are:

- i. Fencing of the project site by boundary wall using civil construction, barbed wire or precast/prefabricated components

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- ii. Construction of temporary sheds using pre-fabricated/modular structure, for site office/guards and storing material and machinery,
- iii. Provision of temporary electricity and water supply for site office/guards only.

A true copy of the OM dated 29.03.2022 is marked and annexed herein as **ANNEXURE- R2/1**.

9. It is further submitted that, in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006, Building and Construction Projects falling under Item 8(a) of the Schedule and having built-up area exceeding 20,000 sq.m. require prior Environmental Clearance before commencement of construction activities. The project, as per the averments made in the Original Application falls under Category 'B', and appraisal and grant of Environmental Clearance in respect of such projects lie within the jurisdiction of the State Level Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC) and the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), West Bengal, in accordance with the procedure prescribed under the EIA Notification, 2006.

10. That, the Ministry vide notification no. S.O. 637 (E) dated 28.02.2014 delegated the power to SEIAA to issue show cause notice to project proponents in case of violation of the conditions of the Environmental Clearances (EC) issued by the said Authorities to projects or activities within their jurisdiction and to issue directions to the said project proponents for keeping such EC in abeyance or withdrawing them, if required, for violations. A true copy of the S.O. 637 (E) dated 28.02.2014 is annexed herewith and marked as **Annexure-R2/2**.

11. It is submitted that in view of the foregoing facts and submissions, this Hon'ble Tribunal may be pleased to take the present affidavit on record and pass such further order(s) as deemed fit in the interest of justice, which the answering respondent shall duly comply with.

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12. The answering Respondent craves liberty to file additional information, if any, till pendente lite.



S. Shabida Parui

DEPONENT

VERIFICATION

Verified at Kolkata on this 30th day of March, 2026 that the contents of this affidavit based on official record(s) maintained and information available in the office are true and correct, no part of it is false and nothing has been concealed therefrom.

S. Shabida Parui

DEPONENT

SC
 S. CHAUDHURI
 ★ NOTARY ★
 GOVT. OF INDIA
 Regd. No.-6584/06
 Bidhannagar Court
 Dist.-North 24 Pgs.

30 MAR 2026



F. No. IA3-22/10/2022-IA.III [E 177258]

Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Impact Assessment Division)

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Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Aliganj, Jorbagh Road
New Delhi-110 003

Dated: 29th March, 2022

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Clarification regarding activities which can be undertaken for securing the land prior to grant of Environmental Clearance-regarding.

As per the provisions of Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification 2006, the project or activities [New/Expansion/ Modernization/ change of product-mix or raw material mix] listed in the Schedule to the said Notification would require prior Environment Clearance (EC) from the concerned Competent Authority before undertaking any construction work or preparation of land by the project proponent, except for securing the land.

2. In this regard, Office Memorandum No. J-11011/41/2006-IA.II(I) dated 19/08/2010 clarified that while securing the land, no activity relating to any project covered under EIA Notification, 2006 including civil construction can be undertaken at the site without prior EC except fencing of the site to protect it from getting encroached and construction of temporary shed(s) for the guard(s).

3. Over a period of time, various options other than conventional barbed wire and wall fencing, have come into existence, viz., use of pre-fabricated structures, pre-cast compound wall etc. Further, in order to secure the land, the project proponent may need to have water and electricity connection. In view of the same, it has been decided by the Competent Authority in the Ministry to explicitly clarify that following activities can be undertaken by the project proponent for securing the land.

- i. Fencing of the project site by boundary wall using civil construction, barbed wire or precast/ prefabricated components.
 - ii. Construction of temporary sheds using pre-fabricated / modular structure, for site office/guards and storing material and machinery.
 - iii. Provision of temporary electricity and water supply for site office/guards only.
4. The above activities shall be undertaken subject to the following:

- i. The land should be in the legal possession of the project proponent and all statutory approvals in respect of the project site should have been obtained.
 - ii. In case of involvement of any forest land, no activity shall be initiated at the site till the Stage II Forest Clearance is obtained under the relevant provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. In case of applicability of Wildlife Clearance, necessary permission from Standing Committee for National Board for Wildlife (SCNBWL) shall be obtained under the provisions of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
 - iii. In case of felling of trees if any, requisite permission from the Forest Department/Statutory Authorities of the concerned State Government shall be obtained.
 - iv. The investment made by the Project Proponent on the above, in anticipation of the applicable clearances under the relevant provisions of the Acts/Rules, shall be entirely at the cost and risk of the proponent.
5. However, the above dispensation would not entitle the project proponent to claim ***fait accompli*** with regard to grant of EC or any other applicable permission from any concerned statutory authority and further, the works of the aforesaid nature shall have no bearing on appraisal of the project for grant of EC which shall follow the due process and procedure as laid down in EIA Notification 2006, as amended.
6. This O.M. is being issued in supersession of the earlier O.M. dated 19/08/2010 and with the approval of the Competent Authority.



(A.K. Agrawal)
Director

To

1. Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)
2. Chairman of all the Expert Appraisal Committees
3. Chairperson/Member Secretaries of all the SEIAAs/SEACs
4. Chairpersons/Member Secretaries of all SPCBs/UTPCCs
5. All the Officers of I.A. Division

Copy for information to:

1. PS to Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change
2. PS to Hon'ble MoS (EF&CC)
3. PPS to Secretary (EF&CC)
4. PPS to DG (FC) & SS
5. PPS to AS(TK) / AS (NPG)/ AS(RS)
6. PPS to JS (SKB)
7. Website, MoEF&CC/Guard file.




सत्यमेव जयते

भारत का राजपत्र The Gazette of India

असाधारण

EXTRAORDINARY

भाग II—खण्ड 3—उप-खण्ड (ii)

PART II—Section 3—Sub-section (ii)

प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

सं. 545]

नई दिल्ली, मंगलवार, मार्च 4, 2014/फाल्गुन 13, 1935

No. 545]

NEW DELHI, TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 2014/PHALGUNA 13, 1935

पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय

अधिसूचना

नई दिल्ली, 28 फरवरी, 2014

का.आ. 637(अ).—केन्द्रीय सरकार, पर्यावरण (संरक्षण) अधिनियम, 1986 (1986 का 29) की धारा 23 द्वारा प्रदत्त शक्तियों का प्रयोग करते हुए उक्त अधिनियम की धारा 5 के अधीन इसमें निहित शक्तियों को पर्यावरण (संरक्षण) अधिनियम, 1986 की धारा 3 की उप-धारा (3) के अधीन केंद्रीय सरकार द्वारा गठित किए गए सभी राज्य और संघराज्यक्षेत्र पर्यावरण समाघात प्राधिकरणों (जिन्हें इसमें इसके पश्चात् उक्त प्राधिकरण कहा गया है) को उक्त प्राधिकरणों द्वारा अपनी अधिकारिता के भीतर परियोजनाओं या क्रिया कलाओं को जारी पर्यावरण अनापत्तियों की शर्तों के अतिक्रमण की दशा में परियोजना प्रस्तावकों को कारण बताओ नोटिस जारी करने तथा इस शर्त के अधीन कि केंद्रीय सरकार शक्तियों के ऐसे प्रत्यायोजन का प्रतिसंहरण कर सकेगी या उक्त अधिनियम की धारा 5 के उपबंधों को स्वयं अवलंब ले सकेगी, यदि केंद्रीय सरकार की राय में लोक हित में ऐसी कार्यवाही आवश्यक है, यदि अपेक्षित हो तो अतिक्रमणों के लिए उक्त परियोजना प्रस्तावकों को ऐसी पर्यावरण अनापत्तियों को उन्हें प्रास्थगित रखने या वापस लिए जाने हेतु निदेश जारी करने की शक्तियों का प्रत्यायोजन करती है।

[सं. जे-11013/2/2013-आई ए (आई)]

अजय त्यागी, संयुक्त सचिव

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 28th February, 2014

S.O. 637(E).—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 23 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (29 of 1986), the Central Government hereby delegates the powers vested in it under section 5 of the said Act to all the State and Union Territory Environment Impact Assessment Authorities (Hereinafter referred to as the said Authorities) constituted by the Central Government under sub-section (3) of section 3 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, to issue show cause notice to project proponents in case of violation of the conditions of the environment clearances issued by the said Authorities to projects or activities within their jurisdiction and to issue directions to the said project proponents for keeping such environment clearances in abeyance or withdrawing them, if required, for violations, subject to the condition that the Central Government may revoke such delegations of powers or may itself invoke the provisions of section 5 of the said Act, if in the opinion of the Central Government such a Course of action is necessary in the public interest.

[No. J-11013/2/2013-IA. (I)]

AJAY TYAGI, Jt. Secy.



अधिसूचना

नई दिल्ली, 28 फरवरी, 2014

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का.आ. 638(अ).—केन्द्रीय सरकार, पर्यावरण (संरक्षण) अधिनियम, 1986 (1986 का 29) की धारा 19 के खण्ड (क) द्वारा प्रदत्त शक्तियों का प्रयोग करते हुए उक्त की धारा के प्रयोजन के लिए इससे उपाबद्ध उस सारणी के स्तंभ (3) में उनमें से प्रत्येक के सामने उल्लिखित अधिकारिता के साथ उस सारणी के स्तंभ (2) में उल्लिखित प्राधिकरण या अधिकारी को प्रातिकृत करती है:

सारणी

क्रम संख्यांक	प्राधिकरण/अधिकारी	अधिकारिता
(1)	(2)	(3)
1.	पर्यावरण (संरक्षण) अधिनियम, 1986 की धारा 3 की उपधारा (3) के अधीन केंद्रीय सरकार द्वारा गठित राज्य या संघ राज्यक्षेत्र स्तर पर्यावरण समाघात प्राधिकरण (एस.ई.आई.ए.ए.)	संपूर्ण राज्य या संघ राज्यक्षेत्र
2.	पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय (एम.ओ.ई.एफ.) के किन्हीं प्रादेशिक कार्यालयों में तैनात कोई निदेशक, वन संरक्षक या अपर प्रधान मुख्य वन संरक्षक	पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय द्वारा यथा-विनिश्चित प्रादेशिक कार्यालय की अधिकारिता

[सं. जे-11013/2/2013-आई ए (आई)]

अजय त्यागी, संयुक्त सचिव

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 28th February, 2014

S.O. 638(E).—In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (a) of section 19 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (29 of 1986), the Central Government hereby authorises the Authority or officer mentioned in column (2) of the Table hereto for the purpose of the said section with the jurisdiction mentioned against each of them in column (3) of that Table:

TABLE

S. No.	Authority/Officer	Jurisdiction
(1)	(2)	(3)
1.	State or Union Territory level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) constituted by the Central Government under sub-section (3) of section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.	Whole of State or Union Territory
2.	Any Director, Conservator of Forests or Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Posted in any of the Regional Offices of the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF).	Jurisdiction of the Regional Office as decided by the Ministry of Environment and Forests

[No. J-11013/2/2013-IA. (I)]

AJAY TYAGI, Jt. Secy.