

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI

Original Application No. 179 of 2023 (SZ)

In the matter of:

Tribunal on its own SUO MOTU based
On the news item in “The Times of India”,
Chennai Edition dt: 12.11.2023, under the
Caption “Activists, local residents’ question
Legality of tourism development work at Ooty
Lake” and in “The Hindu” Newspaper dt: 12.11.2023,
Under the caption “Residents stage protest at Ooty lake,
Demand halting of illegal constructions by government
Departments”.

With

The District Collector,
The Nilgiris Collectorate,
Udhagamandalam and Ors.

...Respondent(s)

INDEX

S. No.	Date	Description	Page No.
1.	13.05.2024	Status report filed by the 5 th Respondent, The District Collector, Nilgiris	1 – 12

(Note: The page numbers are at the top centre of every page)



Through

Dr. D. Shanmuganathan
Standing Counsel of Tamil Nadu
National Green Tribunal
Southern Zone, Chennai

Date: 13.05.2024

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI
ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 179 OF 2023 (SZ)

In the matter of:

Suo Motu

Versus

1. Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority.
2. The Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation.
3. PCCF Head of Forest Force.
4. Additional Chief Secretary to Government of Tamil Nadu
Environment Climate Change and Forest Department,
5. The District Collector, The Nilgiris.
6. Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board.
7. The Udhagamandalam Municipality (The Nilgiris District).

..... Respondents

STATUS REPORT FILED BY THE 5TH RESPONDENT -

THE DISTRICT COLLECTOR, NILGIRIS

I, M.Aruna,I.A.S., W/o.Senthil Murugan, aged 46 years, residing at Monte Roza, Tamizhagam Road, Udhagamandalam, The Nilgiris District discharging duties as the District Collector, Nilgiris do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows:

1. I submit that the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal on its own motion Suo Motu based on the News Item in "The Times of India" Chennai Edition dated: 12.11.2023, under the caption "Activists, local residents question legality of tourism development work at Ooty Lake" and the "The Hindu" Newspaper dated: 12.11.2023, under the caption "Residents stage protest at Ooty Lake, demand halting of illegal constructions by Government Department" had demanded to file reply along with supporting documents on 11.12.2023. In connection to this, the following statements are submitted.
2. I submit that the Hon'ble Minister for Tourism had announced 30 key initiatives in the budget session for the year 2021 - 2022 aimed for the development and promotion of tourism. One such announcement was setting up of an adventure and eco -camping sites at hill stations, forests and coastal areas.
3. I submit that necessary Government order to enable setting up of an adventure and eco -camping sites at hill stations, forests and coastal areas was issued vide G.O (Ms) No: 85. Tourism Culture and Religious Endowments (T3-2) Department and specifically sanctioned an amount of Rs. 320.00 lakhs for setting up of adventure activities at Ooty Boat House, at Udthagamandalam, The Nilgiris.
4. I submit that the sub section (f) & (g) of Rule Section - II (4) of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 exempts any Human made water bodies specifically constructed for recreation and irrigation purposes respectively out of the purview of consideration as Wet Land under the above Act. The Ooty Lake is a Man -made lake, constructed exclusively for

irrigation purpose, and later converted for recreational purpose (Tourism Purpose). As per the National Wetland Inventory and Assessment based on Resources at 2/2A LISS – III satellite data, the Ooty Lake has been classified under the category of Man – made lake, in the year 1825 during the British Period. Hence, the contention that the Ooty Lake is a Wetland as claimed in the article dated 08.12.2023 published in the Time of India is not maintainable under law.

5. The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Southern Zone, Chennai directed the file further report on the structures being constructed in the Ooty Lake as whether it is permanent or temporary in Nature. A report was called for by the District Collector from the Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation (TTDC). Accordingly, a report was submitted by the Regional Manager, Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation (TTDC) on 09.05.2024 and the content of the report is as follows;
6. I submit that the proposed temporary structures for Adventure activities at Ooty Lake are proposed to be constructed as purely Temporary structures, which can be dismantled at a specified time period mentioned in this affidavit. Moreover, there are no adventure sport activities planned in the water body and all the activities will be in the air as well as in the ground, around the lake bund.
7. I submit that the following temporary structures would be put up in and around Ooty Lake, whose details are submitted below under each sub-heading for kind perusal.

Short Name of the proposed Adventure Activities:

- i) High Rope Course
- ii) Sky walk

- iii) Zip line
- iv) Artificial Rock Climbing Wall
- v) Giant Swing
- vi) Zip Cycle
- vii) Shooting and Archery Area
- viii) Food Kiosks

a. Suspension Bridge detailed Specification:



The proposed area of the suspension Bridge is about 136 Square Meter which is 68 Meters of Length and 1.8 Meters of Breadth and its tower height is about 10.90 Meter and 9.10 meter, 70 Persons will be allowed at a time in the Suspension Bridge and the dismantling period for this structure is 3 months.

The following materials are used for temporary construction of the suspension Bridge,

- MS Square tuber hollow section of various sizes MS-T 200*200, 75*75

- Anchor Bolts for various sizes to be used
- Splice plate provided all the vertical joints of the main members 6 mm thick
- All MS Steel structures applied with two coat Epoxy primer and two coat Epoxy paint
- Bridge foot path blanks are Galvanized pipes used 80mm *40mm (Zinc Coated pipes)
- Suspension bridge sag cable – 24 mm wire rope (2 Nos.)
- Vertical cables are being provided every 2metres – 12mmwire rope
- Horizontal cable is being provided with 12 mm wire rope both sides.

b. Starting Tower Detailed Specification:



The proposed area of the Starting Tower is about 414.74 Square Meters and the Bungee Pump is 32.4 meter and the Zip line length is 478.29 meter and its total tower height is about 39.6 Meter, Three Persons will be allowed at a time in the Zip line and One person will be allowed in the Bungee Jumping and the dismantling period for this structure is Six month.

The following materials are used for the above temporary constructions,

- MS Rectangular and square tubular hollow section of various sizes and tubes 300*200, 75*75, 100*100, MS – ISMB 200, ISMC 150, L Angle 75*75, 100*100
- 40 mm diameter pipe in staircase,
- Splice plate provided all the vertical joints of the main members 6 mm thick
- MS Chequered plate various size and various areas
- Anchor bolts and nuts of various sizes at various areas are being used
- All MS Steel structures applied with two coat Epoxy primer and two coat Epoxy paint
- Zip Line cable 14 mm diameter steel wire rope 6/19 Core cable
- Two lifts are being used of capacity 10 to 15 persons per lift for crowd management
- Steel Structures are welded joints.

c. Giant Swing Detailed Specification:



The proposed area of the Giant Swing is about 9 square meters and the swing height is 40 meter and its total tower height is about 15 meter and 11.4 meter, Three Persons will be allowed at a time and the dismantling period for this structure is one month.

The following materials are used for the above temporary constructions,

- MS Rectangular and square tubular hollow section of various sizes and tubes MS T 150 *150, 75 * 75, 50 * 50
- Splice plate provided all the vertical joints of the main members 6 mm thick
- Anchor bolts and nuts of various sizes at various areas are being used
- Swing cable 12 mm diameter GI steel wire rope

- All MS Steel structures applied with two coat Epoxy primer and two coat Epoxy paint
- Steel Structures are welded joints
- 3 HP motor pulling with gear box, drum and control switch along with pulley

d. Landing Tower cum Zip cycle



The proposed area of the Landing Tower cum Zip Cycle is about 46.40 square meters and the Zip line length is 476 meters and its total tower height is about 8 meters, Three Persons will be allowed at a time and the dismantling period for this structure is six month.

The following materials are used for the above temporary constructions,

- MS Rectangular and square tubular hollow section of various sizes and tubes MS T 150*150, 75 *75, 100 *100
- 40 mm diameter pipe in stair case
- Splice plate provided all the vertical joints of the main members 6 mm thick

- MS Chequered plate various size and various areas
- Anchor bolts and nuts of various sizes at various areas are being used
- All MS Steel structures applied with two coat Epoxy primer and two coat Epoxy paint
- Zip Line cable 14 MM diameter steel wire rope 6/19 Core cable
- Steel Structures are welded joints

e. Zip cycle:



The proposed area of the Zip Cycle is about 126.71 meters and its length is about 200 meters, Two Zip cycles will be setting up the above place, two Persons will be allowed at a time and the dismantling period for this structure is one month.

The following materials are used for the above temporary constructions,

- Zip cycle Cable 12mm diameter GI Wire Rope Cable
- 2HP Motorized Mechanism
- Zip cycle will be modified to have inbuilt turning mechanism at launch and landing towers for quick turnaround.

f. REST AREA



The proposed rest area of the Ground Floor is about 309.49 square meters and the First Floor is 348.84 square meters, 300 Persons will be allowed at a time and the dismantling period for this structure is four months.

The following materials are used for the above temporary constructions,

- Steel Structures various sections in Columns, Main Beam and Secondary Beams
- Decking Sheet of 2.5 mm thickness has been used
- Splice plate provided all the vertical joints of the main members
- UPVC roof panel boards are being used as roofing material
- Anchor bolts and nuts of various sizes at various areas are being used
- All MS Steel structures applied with two coat Epoxy primer and two coat Epoxy paint

- Light Weight AAC blocks are being used in between Steel structures as Tri-Partition filling material
- AAC blocks (80 % air and this aerated material is then autoclaved) side walls are being used for toilet purpose and Kitchen purpose. These blocks are used as a substituted for conventional building masonry.
- Steel Structures are Bolt and Nut joints.

g. ROLLER COASTER



The proposed area of the Roller Coaster is about 13.97 square meters and the length is 200 meters and its total tower height is about 18.67meter, one Person will be allowed at a time and the dismantling period for this structure is four month.

The following materials are used for the above temporary constructions,

- MS Rectangular and square tubular hollow section of various sizes and tubes MS T 150*150, 75*75
- Roller Coaster Track is made of Stainless-Steel Material

- 40 mm diameter pipe in stair case
- Splice plate provided all the vertical joints of the main members 6 mm thick
- MS Chequered plate various size and various areas
- Anchor bolts and nuts of various sizes at various areas are being used
- All MS Steel structures applied with two coat Epoxy primer and two coat Epoxy paint
- Suspended track through 10mm GI Steel core cables
- Steel Structures are welded joints
- Roller coaster track on 70 mm diameter Stainless steel tube with flange

8. Hence it is humbly submitted that **no permanent structures are planned to be constructed at Ooty Lake** as per the report and Photographs furnished by the TTDC. Thus it is more humbly prayed to permit the proposed temporary structures.

9. It is also insisted and instructed to give top priority for safety with prior testing with First aid Kit, Escape Routes Safety hanging belts, helmets, Gloves etc. with proper display boards. The Periodic maintenance would be made and all activities will be conducted under professional Supervision.

I therefore humbly submitted that the above said facts may kindly be taken into consideration by the Hon'ble Tribunal and pass necessary orders as it deems fit and thus render justice.

Date: 13.05.2024


District Collector,
The Nilgiris.

B.
13/5/24