

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL SOUTHERN ZONE,
CHENNAI**

O.A No. 179 of 2023(SZ)

In the matter of:

Tribunal on its own SUO MOTO 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 Department work at Ooty Lake" and in "The Hindu" Newspaper dt.12.11.2023, Under the caption "Residents stage protest at Ooty Lake, Demanding halt of illegal constructions by government departments"

With

The District Collector,
Nilgiris Collectorate,

Udhagamandalam and ors

...Respondents

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Through

A.EDWIN PRABAKAR
Counsel for 2nd Respondent

Date:13.05.2024

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL**SOUTHERN ZONE., CHENNAI****Original Application No.179 of 2023 (SZ)****IN THE MATTER OF:**

Suo Motu

- Versus -

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

STATUS REPORT FILED BY THE 2nd RESPONDENT

I, S. Kavitha, Daughter of S. Sathiyakeerthy, Indian, aged about 42 years working as the General Manager, having office at Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation Limited, No.2, Wallajah Road, Chennai-2 do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows:

1. The Hon'ble Minister for Tourism has announced 30 key initiatives in the budget session for the year 2021 -22 for the development and promotion of tourism. One such announcement is setting up of adventure and eco-camping sites at hill stations, forests and coastal areas.
2. The Tourism demand for Tourism 2021 – 22 announcement regarding setting up of adventure and eco- camping sited at hill stations, forests and coastal areas has been made by the Hon'ble Minster for Tourism, necessary Government order was issued vide G.O (Ms)No : 85, Tourism Culture and


 General Manager
 TAMIL NADU TOURISM DEVELOPMENT
 CORPORATION LTD.
 WALLAJAH ROAD, CHENNAI-600 002.

Religious Endowments (T3-2) Department and specifically sanctioned for an amount of Rs. 320.00 lakhs has been sanctioned for setting up of adventure activities at Boat House Ooty, The Nilgiris against total sanction of Rs.1115.00 lakhs and preliminary works have been initiated by the TTDC.

3. TTDC after the bid evaluation has issued the Letter Of Intent (LOI) to M/s. Amali Builders Pvt Ltd., Chennai for the Establishment, Operation and Maintenance of Adventure activities at Ooty Boat House on Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer (DBFOT) basis through PPP mode vide TTDC Letter No.2297/Engg/2022, dt.18.10.2022.
4. M/s.Amali Builders Pvt.Ltd., Chennai vide their letter dated:22.12.2022 has requested to consider their new entity formed by themselves with M/s. I Explore Adventure Activities LLP, Lonavala, Pune – 410 401 to carry out the awarded works in the name of M/s. Greeny Adventures and Resorts, having its office at 94/D/1 Aladi Street, Cheranmahadevi, Tirunelveli District, Tamil Nadu – 627 414.
5. Subsequently, TTDC has issued the Letter of Award to M/s. Greeny Adventures and Resorts vide Letter No.2297/Engg/2022, dt.23.12.2022 and entered in to agreement on 16.02.2023.
6. The Hon'ble 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 "Activities, local residents question legality of tourism development work at Ooty Lake and in "The Hindu" Newspaper dated: 12.11.2023 under the caption: Residents stage protest at Ooty lake demand halting of illegal constructions by government departments.
7. TTDC submitted the application to the District Administration on 30.03.2023 for approval under HACA. Necessary NOC's were obtained from Public Works Department, Forest Department, Geo-Tech Department, Agricultural Engineering Department, Revenue Divisional officer, Fire Department and the same was furnished to AAA committee for the approval. The AAA committee Meeting was convened on 09.01.2024 and the application has been forwarded to Hill Areas Conservation Authority (HACA) for approval.
8. 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. The Rules contained in the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 it is very clear that the Ooty Lake is a Man –made lake, constructed exclusively for irrigation purpose, and later converted for recreational purpose (Tourism

Purpose). Hence, the contention that the Ooty Lake is a Wetland as claimed in the article dated 08.12.2023 published in the Times of India is not maintainable under law. I submit that the structures put up in and around Ooty Lake are only temporary in nature and not Permanent structures.

9. The Adventure activities proposed are to be constructed as purely Temporary structures, which can be removable, is going to be the set up in the Boat House.
10. Moreover there is no adventure sport activity in the water body and the activities will be in the air as well as around the lake bund.
11. The Details of the project and its components are submitted for your records.

S.No	Name and Location of the Project	List of Components
1.	Establishment operation and maintenance of adventure activities at Boat House, Ooty on Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer Basis.	a) High Rope Course b) Sky walk c) Zip line d) Artificial Rock Climbing Wall e) Giant Swing f) Zip Cycle g) Shooting and Archery Area h) Food Kiosks
2.	Estimated Project Cost (Rs. Crores)	3.00

12. The components with detailed specifications are detailed below

A) Suspension Bridge detailed Specification:

- Area – 136 Square Meter
- Tower Height: 10.90 Meter & 9.10 Meter
- Length of the bridge: 68 Meters
- Breadth of the bridge: 1.8 Meter

Capacity Allowed: 70 Persons can be allowed at a time

B) Starting Tower Detailed Specification:

- Area: 414.74 Square Meters
- Total tower height: 39.6 meter
- Bungee Platform: 32.4 meter
- Zip line Length : 478.29 meter

Capacity Allowed

- Zip line : Three persons at a time
- Bungee Jumping : One Person at a time

C) Giant Swing Detailed Specification:

- Area: 9 Square Meters
- Total tower height: 15 meter and 11.4 meter
- Swing height : 40 feet

Capacity Allowed: Three Persons at a Time

D) Landing Tower Detailed Specifications:

- Area: 46.40 Square Meters
- Total tower height: 8 meters
- Zip line Length : 476 meters

Capacity Allowed: Zip line Landing: Three persons at a time

E) Zip Cycle Detailed Specification

Zip Cycle Distance: 126.71 meters

Length: 200 Meters

Capacity Allowed: 2 Zip cycles - 2 Members at a time at each zip cycle

F) Rest Area Detailed Specifications:

Area 1: 309.49 Square Meters (Ground Floor)

Area 2: 348.84 Square Meters (First Floor)

Capacity Allowed: 300 Persons at a time

G) Roller Coaster

Area: 13.97 Square Meters

Total tower height: 18.67 meters

Length: 200 Meters

Capacity Allowed: Roller Coaster: One Person at a time

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 for the regular intervals preventive and maintenance & Supervision.

This adventure tourism activity is announced by the Government and is being implemented by TTDC through PPP mode to develop Tourism in the Nilgiris District with new perspective.

Hence, it is submitted that the response submitted by this answering respondent may kindly be accepted by the Hon'ble Tribunal and thus render justice.


General Manager
TAMIL NADU TOURISM DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION LTD.
WALLAJAH ROAD, CHENNAI-600 002.

DEPONENT

VERIFICATION

I, the aforementioned Deponent do hereby declare on this 13th day of May 2024 at Chennai that the contents of the affidavit are true to my knowledge and belief and nothing material has been concealed there from.


General Manager
TAMIL NADU TOURISM DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION LTD.
WALLAJAH ROAD, CHENNAI-600 002.

DEPONENT