

**IN THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL, SOUTHERN ZONE  
BENCH, CHENNAI**

**APPEAL NO. 18 of 2023**

**IN THE MATTER OF: -**

**P. Indumathi**

**.... Applicant**

**Versus**

**The Member Secretary, SEIAA and Ors.**

**.... Respondent**

**ADDITIONAL AFFIDAVIT FILED ON BEHALF OF STATE LEVEL  
ENVIRONMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY (SEIAA)**



Filed by:  
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**MoEF & Cc.**  
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**Counsel for Respondent no. 1**

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL**

**SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI**

**Appeal No.18 of 2023 (SZ)**

**P. Indumathi**

**Vs**

**State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA)**

**&**

**State Level Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC)**

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**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL,  
SOUTHERN ZONE AT CHENNAI**

**Appeal No. 18 of 2023**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

**P. INDUMATHI,**

W/o. Gopal, aged about 29 years,

E1, East Street, Kuzhanthaikuppam,

Vilangalpattu, Vanamadevi Post,

Cuddalore Taluk & District – 607105

E-Mail id: [gopal18nandha@gmail.com](mailto:gopal18nandha@gmail.com)

Phone Number: 944543308

**..... Applicant**

**Versus**

**1. STATE ENVIRONMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY,  
TAMIL NADU**

Third Floor, Panagal Maligai,

No.1, Jeenis Road, Saidapet, Chennai- 600015.

Phone: 044- 24359973

Email.: [mstnseiaa@yahoo.com](mailto:mstnseiaa@yahoo.com)

**2. STATE LEVEL EXPERT APPRAISAL COMMITTEE,**

Through the Member Secretary

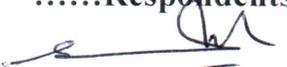
Third Floor, Panagal Maligai,

No.1, Jeenis Road, Saidapet, Chennai- 600015.

Phone: 044- 24359973

Email.: [mstnseiaa@yahoo.com](mailto:mstnseiaa@yahoo.com)

**..... Respondents**



**Member Secretary**

**STATE LEVEL ENVIRONMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY - TN**  
Panagal Maligai, No.1, Jeenis Road,  
Saidapet, Chennai - 15

**ADDITIONAL COUNTER AFFIDAVIT FILED ON BEHALF OF SEIAA –**  
**Tamilnadu, THE FIRST and SECOND RESPONDENTS**

I, A.R.Rahul Nadh, I.A.S., working as Member Secretary, State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Tamil Nadu (SEIAA-TN) having office at Third Floor, Panagal Maaligai, Saidapet, Chennai – 600015 solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows:

1. I am filing this additional counter affidavit on behalf of the First & Second Respondent/SEIAA-TN herein and as such I am well acquainted with the facts and the circumstances of the case from the records available in this office.
2. I deny all the averments and allegations stated in this Appeal No.18 of 2023 except those that are specifically admitted hereunder and put the applicant to strict proof of the same.
3. It is respectfully submitted that; the project proponent has applied to State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority – Tamil Nadu (SEIAA-TN) seeking prior Environmental Clearance for the proposed Filed before the Respondent No.1 on 15.07.2021 under the category B2 of Item No .1(a) “mining of Minerals” of the schedule to the EIA notification, 2006 for the Proposed quarry operation of Gravel Laterite & Pebbles quarry Project over an extent of 2.25 ha in Patta Land bearing S.F.Nos.261/4(p), 262/3B & 262/4 OF C.N. palayam village, Cuddalore Taluk, Cuddalore District, Tamil Nadu vide proposal No.SIA/TN/MIN/221237/2021 date : 30.03.2023
4. It is respectfully submitted that; already the above proposal was rejected by the SEAC committee in its **366th State Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC) meeting** held on 30.03.2023 and the rejection letter was communicated to the project proponent vide this office letter dated 22.06.2023 and the said proposal was closed and recorded.



**Member Secretary**  
**STATE LEVEL ENVIRONMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY - TN**  
Panagal Maligai, No.1, Jeenis Road,  
Saidapet, Chennai - 15

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5. It is respectfully submitted that; as per EIA Notification, 2006, the following were stated:

*“7. Stages in the Prior Environmental Clearance (EC) Process for New Projects: -*

*7(i) The environmental clearance process for new projects will comprise of a maximum of four stages, all of which may not apply to particular cases as set forth below in this notification. These four stages in sequential order are: -*

- *Stage (1) Screening (Only for Category ‘B’ projects and activities)*
- *Stage (2) Scoping*
- *Stage (3) Public Consultation*
- *Stage (4) Appraisal”*

Hence the above process is followed for each and every proposal submitted for appraisal as per EIA Notification, 2006.

6. It is respectfully submitted that; there is no provision for review of proposal since the project proponent has not re-submitted the proposal to SEIAA-TN for appraisal. However, SEIAA-TN & SEAC will abide to the orders of the Hon’ble National Green Tribunal (SZ). When the project proponent resubmits the proposal along with Hon’ble NGT order, the proposal will be placed before the SEAC for reappraisal.

Therefore, humbly prayed that this Hon’ble Tribunal may be pleased to record and pass orders as this Hon’ble Tribunal may deem to fit and proper in light of the facts and circumstances of this case and thus render justice.

Solemnly affirmed at Chennai on  
this 12<sup>th</sup> day of March 2024 &  
Signed his name in my presence

}

**FIRST & SECOND  
RESPONDENT**

**BEFORE ME**



**MEMBER SECRETARY  
SEIAA-TN**

(Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, and Section 3, Sub-section (ii)  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

New Delhi 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2006

**Notification**

S.O. 1533 Whereas, a draft notification **under sub-rule (3) of Rule 5 of the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986 for imposing** certain restrictions and prohibitions on new projects or activities, or on the expansion or modernization of existing projects or activities based on their potential environmental impacts as indicated in the Schedule to the notification, being undertaken in any part of India<sup>1</sup>, unless prior environmental clearance has been accorded in accordance with the objectives of National Environment Policy **as approved by the Union Cabinet on 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2006** and the procedure specified in the notification, by the Central Government or the State or Union territory Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), to be constituted by the Central Government in consultation with the State Government or the Union territory Administration concerned under sub-section (3) of section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for the purpose of this notification, was published in the Gazette of India ,Extraordinary, Part II, section 3, sub-section (ii) vide number S.O. 1324 (E) dated the 15<sup>th</sup> September ,2005 inviting objections and suggestions from all persons likely to be affected thereby within a period of sixty days from the date on which copies of Gazette containing the said notification were made available to the public;

And whereas, copies of the said notification were made available to the public on 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2005;

And whereas, all objections and suggestions received in response to the above mentioned draft notification have been duly considered by the Central Government;

Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) and clause (v) of sub-section (2) of section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, read with clause (d) of sub-rule (3) of rule 5 of the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986 and in supersession of the notification number S.O. 60 (E) dated the 27<sup>th</sup> January, 1994, except in respect of things done or omitted to be done before such supersession, the Central Government hereby directs that on and from the date of its publication the required construction of new projects or activities or the expansion or modernization of existing projects or activities listed in the Schedule to this notification entailing capacity addition with change in process and or technology shall be undertaken in any part of India only after the prior environmental clearance from the Central Government or as the case may be, by the State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority, duly constituted by the Central Government under sub-section (3) of section 3 of the said Act, in accordance with the procedure specified hereinafter in this notification.

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<sup>1</sup>Includes the territorial waters

## **7. Stages in the Prior Environmental Clearance (EC) Process for New Projects:-**

**7(i)** The environmental clearance process for new projects will comprise of a maximum of four stages, all of which may not apply to particular cases as set forth below in this notification. These four stages in sequential order are:-

- Stage (1) Screening (Only for Category 'B' projects and activities)
- Stage (2) Scoping
- Stage (3) Public Consultation
- Stage (4) Appraisal

### **I. Stage (1) - Screening:**

In case of Category 'B' projects or activities, this stage will entail the scrutiny of an application seeking prior environmental clearance made in Form 1 by the concerned State level Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC) for determining whether or not the project or activity requires further environmental studies for preparation of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for its appraisal prior to the grant of environmental clearance depending up on the nature and location specificity of the project . The projects requiring an Environmental Impact Assessment report shall be termed Category 'B1' and remaining projects shall be termed Category 'B2' and will not require an Environment Impact Assessment report. For categorization of projects into B1 or B2 except item 8 (b), the Ministry of Environment and Forests shall issue appropriate guidelines from time to time.

### **II. Stage (2) - Scoping:**

(i) "Scoping": refers to the process by which the Expert Appraisal Committee in the case of Category 'A' projects or activities, and State level Expert Appraisal Committee in the case of Category 'B1' projects or activities, including applications for expansion and/or modernization and/or change in product mix of existing projects or activities, determine detailed and comprehensive Terms Of Reference (TOR) addressing all relevant environmental concerns for the preparation of an Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Report in respect of the project or activity for which prior environmental clearance is sought. The Expert Appraisal Committee or State level Expert Appraisal Committee concerned shall determine the Terms of Reference on the basis of the information furnished in the prescribed application Form1/Form 1A including Terms of Reference proposed by the applicant, a site visit by a sub- group of Expert Appraisal Committee or State level Expert Appraisal Committee concerned only if considered necessary by the Expert Appraisal Committee or State Level Expert Appraisal Committee concerned, Terms of Reference suggested by the applicant if furnished and other information that may be available with the Expert Appraisal Committee or State Level Expert Appraisal Committee concerned. All projects and activities listed as Category 'B' in Item 8 of the Schedule (Construction/Township/Commercial Complexes /Housing) shall not require Scoping and will be appraised on the basis of Form 1/ Form 1A and the conceptual plan.

(ii) The Terms of Reference (TOR) shall be conveyed to the applicant by the Expert Appraisal Committee or State Level Expert Appraisal Committee as concerned within sixty days of the receipt of Form 1. In the case of Category A Hydroelectric projects Item 1(c) (i) of the Schedule the Terms of Reference shall be conveyed along with the clearance for pre-construction activities .If the Terms of Reference are not finalized and conveyed to the applicant within sixty days of the receipt of Form 1, the Terms of Reference suggested by the applicant shall be deemed as the final Terms of Reference approved for the EIA studies. The approved Terms of

Reference shall be displayed on the website of the Ministry of Environment and Forests and the concerned State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority.

(iii) Applications for prior environmental clearance may be rejected by the regulatory authority concerned on the recommendation of the EAC or SEAC concerned at this stage itself. In case of such rejection, the decision together with reasons for the same shall be communicated to the applicant in writing within sixty days of the receipt of the application.

### III. Stage (3) - Public Consultation:

(i) "Public Consultation" refers to the process by which the concerns of local affected persons and others who have plausible stake in the environmental impacts of the project or activity are ascertained with a view to taking into account all the material concerns in the project or activity design as appropriate. All Category 'A' and Category B1 projects or activities shall undertake Public Consultation, except the following:-

- (a) modernization of irrigation projects (item 1(c) (ii) of the Schedule).
- (b) all projects or activities located within industrial estates or parks (item 7(c) of the Schedule) approved by the concerned authorities, and which are not disallowed in such approvals.
- (c) expansion of Roads and Highways (item 7 (f) of the Schedule) which do not involve any further acquisition of land.
- (d) all Building /Construction projects/Area Development projects and Townships (item 8).
- (e) all Category 'B2' projects and activities.
- (f) all projects or activities concerning national defence and security or involving other strategic considerations as determined by the Central Government.

(ii) The Public Consultation shall ordinarily have two components comprising of:-

(a) a public hearing at the site or in its close proximity- district wise, to be carried out in the manner prescribed in Appendix IV, for ascertaining concerns of local affected persons;

(b) obtain responses in writing from other concerned persons having a plausible stake in the environmental aspects of the project or activity.

(iii) the public hearing at, or in close proximity to, the site(s) in all cases shall be conducted by the State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) or the Union territory Pollution Control Committee (UTPCC) concerned in the specified manner and forward the proceedings to the regulatory authority concerned within 45(forty five ) of a request to the effect from the applicant.

(iv) in case the State Pollution Control Board or the Union territory Pollution Control Committee concerned does not undertake and complete the public hearing within the specified period, and/or does not convey the proceedings of the public hearing within the prescribed period

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directly to the regulatory authority concerned as above, the regulatory authority shall engage another public agency or authority which is not subordinate to the regulatory authority, to complete the process within a further period of forty five days,.

(v) If the public agency or authority nominated under the sub paragraph (iii) above reports to the regulatory authority concerned that owing to the local situation, it is not possible to conduct the public hearing in a manner which will enable the views of the concerned local persons to be freely expressed, it shall report the facts in detail to the concerned regulatory authority, which may, after due consideration of the report and other reliable information that it may have, decide that the public consultation in the case need not include the public hearing.

(vi) For obtaining responses in writing from other concerned persons having a plausible stake in the environmental aspects of the project or activity, the concerned regulatory authority and the State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) or the Union territory Pollution Control Committee (UTPCC) shall invite responses from such concerned persons by placing on their website the Summary EIA report prepared in the format given in Appendix IIIA by the applicant along with a copy of the application in the prescribed form , within seven days of the receipt of a written request for arranging the public hearing . Confidential information including non-disclosable or legally privileged information involving Intellectual Property Right, source specified in the application shall not be placed on the web site. The regulatory authority concerned may also use other appropriate media for ensuring wide publicity about the project or activity. The regulatory authority shall, however, make available on a written request from any concerned person the Draft EIA report for inspection at a notified place during normal office hours till the date of the public hearing. All the responses received as part of this public consultation process shall be forwarded to the applicant through the quickest available means.

(vii) After completion of the public consultation, the applicant shall address all the material environmental concerns expressed during this process, and make appropriate changes in the draft EIA and EMP. The final EIA report, so prepared, shall be submitted by the applicant to the concerned regulatory authority for appraisal. The applicant may alternatively submit a supplementary report to draft EIA and EMP addressing all the concerns expressed during the public consultation.

#### **IV. Stage (4) - Appraisal:**

(i) Appraisal means the detailed scrutiny by the Expert Appraisal Committee or State Level Expert Appraisal Committee of the application and other documents like the Final EIA report, outcome of the public consultations including public hearing proceedings, submitted by the applicant to the regulatory authority concerned for grant of environmental clearance. This appraisal shall be made by Expert Appraisal Committee or State Level Expert Appraisal Committee concerned in a transparent manner in a proceeding to which the applicant shall be invited for furnishing necessary clarifications in person or through an authorized representative. On conclusion of this proceeding, the Expert Appraisal Committee or State Level Expert Appraisal Committee concerned shall make categorical recommendations to the regulatory authority concerned either for grant of prior environmental clearance on stipulated terms and conditions, or rejection of the application for prior environmental clearance, together with reasons for the same.

(ii) The appraisal of all projects or activities which are not required to undergo public consultation, or submit an Environment Impact Assessment report, shall be carried out on the basis of the prescribed application Form 1 and Form 1A as applicable, any other relevant

validated information available and the site visit wherever the same is considered as necessary by the Expert Appraisal Committee or State Level Expert Appraisal Committee concerned.

(iii) The appraisal of an application shall be completed by the Expert Appraisal Committee or State Level Expert Appraisal Committee concerned within sixty days of the receipt of the final Environment Impact Assessment report and other documents or the receipt of Form 1 and Form 1 A, where public consultation is not necessary and the recommendations of the Expert Appraisal Committee or State Level Expert Appraisal Committee shall be placed before the competent authority for a final decision within the next fifteen days. The prescribed procedure for appraisal is given in Appendix V ;

**7(ii). Prior Environmental Clearance (EC) process for Expansion or Modernization or Change of product mix in existing projects:**

All applications seeking prior environmental clearance for expansion with increase in the production capacity beyond the capacity for which prior environmental clearance has been granted under this notification or with increase in either lease area or production capacity in the case of mining projects or for the modernization of an existing unit with increase in the total production capacity beyond the threshold limit prescribed in the Schedule to this notification through change in process and or technology or involving a change in the product –mix shall be made in Form I and they shall be considered by the concerned Expert Appraisal Committee or State Level Expert Appraisal Committee within sixty days, who will decide on the due diligence necessary including preparation of EIA and public consultations and the application shall be appraised accordingly for grant of environmental clearance.

**8. Grant or Rejection of Prior Environmental Clearance (EC):**

(i) The regulatory authority shall consider the recommendations of the EAC or SEAC concerned and convey its decision to the applicant within forty five days of the receipt of the recommendations of the Expert Appraisal Committee or State Level Expert Appraisal Committee concerned or in other words within one hundred and five days of the receipt of the final Environment Impact Assessment Report, and where Environment Impact Assessment is not required, within one hundred and five days of the receipt of the complete application with requisite documents, except as provided below.

(ii) The regulatory authority shall normally accept the recommendations of the Expert Appraisal Committee or State Level Expert Appraisal Committee concerned. In cases where it disagrees with the recommendations of the Expert Appraisal Committee or State Level Expert Appraisal Committee concerned, the regulatory authority shall request reconsideration by the Expert Appraisal Committee or State Level Expert Appraisal Committee concerned within forty five days of the receipt of the recommendations of the Expert Appraisal Committee or State Level Expert Appraisal Committee concerned while stating the reasons for the disagreement. An intimation of this decision shall be simultaneously conveyed to the applicant. The Expert Appraisal Committee or State Level Expert Appraisal Committee concerned, in turn, shall consider the observations of the regulatory authority and furnish its views on the same within a further period of sixty days. The decision of the regulatory authority after considering the views of the Expert Appraisal Committee or State Level Expert Appraisal Committee concerned shall be final and conveyed to the applicant by the regulatory authority concerned within the next thirty days.

(iii) In the event that the decision of the regulatory authority is not communicated to the applicant within the period specified in sub-paragraphs (i) or (ii) above, as applicable, the