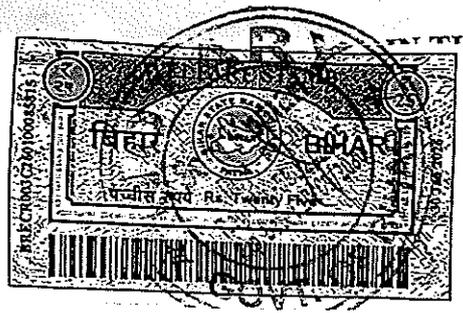


THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL,
EASTERN ZONE BENCH, KOLKATA

Original Application No.103/2025/EZ



IN THE MATTER OF:

Mahendra Prakash Soren

...Applicant

Versus

State of Jharkhand & Ors.

...Respondent (s)

Index

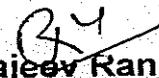
S. No.	Particular	Page No.
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Shri/Smt. Mahendra Prakash Soren
 who is identified by...
 Advocate/Reply...
 affirm & declare...
 Date 13/04/25
 SI. No. 118
 Solely K. Kumar

New Delhi
Dated

Respondent No. 15

Filed by
Through


Rajeov Ranjan Shukta
 Regional Director
 Central Ground Water Board
 Govt. of India, Ministry of Jal Shakti
 Mid-Eastern Region, Patna

GIGI.C. GEORGE
 Advocate
 Standing Counsel (UOI)
 NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
 Email: gicgicgeorge.adv42@yahoo.in
 M-9810625315



**IN THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL,
EASTERN ZONE BENCH, KOLKATA
Original Application No.103/2025/EZ**

IN THE MATTER OF:

Mahendra Prakash Soren

...Applicant

Versus

State of Jharkhand & Ors.

...Respondent (s)

**REPLY BY WAY OF AFFIDAVIT ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT NO.
15 I.E. CENTRAL GROUND WATER AUTHORITY IN COMPLIANCE.**

It Most Respectfully Showeth:-

1. That the present reply is being filed by Respondent No. 15 i.e. **Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA)** through Regional Director, Sh. Rajeev Ranjan Shukla having office at 6th & 7th Floor, Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Bhawan, Frazer Road, Dak Bunglow Chouraha, Patna - 800001 (Bihar) who is authorized and competent to file the same on behalf of the answering respondent no. 15.
2. That I am in my aforementioned official capacity, well conversant with the facts and circumstances of the present case on the basis of the documents and records available in the department. As such, I am competent and authorized to swear this counter affidavit on behalf of Respondent No.15 Central Ground Water Authority (hereinafter referred to as "answering respondent").
3. That it is respectfully submitted that the Applicant has filed the present Original Application before this Hon'ble Court, raising certain allegations



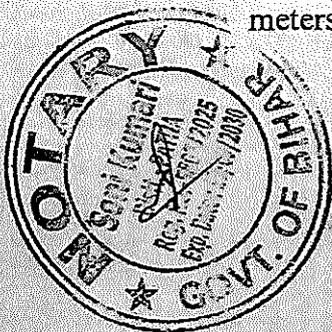
against Respondent Nos. 7 to 13, who are stated to be engaged in stone crushing and stone mining activities in P.S. Hiranpur, District Pakur, Jharkhand. The Application further highlights concerns regarding the alleged depletion of groundwater levels attributable to drilling and blasting activities carried out by Respondent Nos. 7 to 13.

PARA-WISE REPLY

4. That upon examination of the records of stone crushing and stone mining units of Respondent Nos. 7 to 13, it is found that none of the said respondents have obtained a No Objection Certificate (NOC) for ground water withdrawal from the Central Ground Water Authority, **except M/s New Four Star Stone Works (Respondent No. 11). A copy of the said NOC is annexed hereto for ready reference as Annexure-I.**
5. That letters have been issued to the concerned units for directing them to obtain the requisite NOC from CGWA **without delay**, in case ground water is being used for operational activities, in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Jal Shakti vide Notification S.O. 3289(E) dated 24.09.2020, as amended on 29.03.2023. **A copy of the said direction letters/orders is annexed hereto for ready reference as Annexure-II.**
6. That with respect to the allegation that drilling and blasting activities by Respondent Nos. 7 to 13 have reduced the ground water level and damaged the natural hydrological system, the same is examined in light of the existing reports of the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB).

Aquifer-I: Alluvium, Laterite, and weathered Basalt, occurring up to 30 meters' depth, developed through open wells and shallow borewells.

Aquifer-II: Fractured/Jointed/Vesicular Basalt, extending up to 181 meters' depth, with major water-bearing fractures between 40-140 meters.



7. That as per data from National Hydrograph Network Stations (May 2021 to May 2025), the depth to ground water level ranges:

- **Pre-monsoon:** 5.8 to 9.65 meters below ground level (mbgl)
- **Post-monsoon:** 3.15 to 6.05 meters below ground level (mbgl)

The data indicates that the shallow aquifer system is responsive to rainfall and recharge. The analysis of ground water quality shows that the water is generally **potable**.

8. That the Dynamic Ground Water Resources Assessment jointly carried out by CGWB and the State Ground Water Directorate for the years 2020, 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025 categorizes Pakur Block under the "Safe Category", with the stage of ground water extraction being less than 30%.

9. That in view of the above submissions, it is respectfully prayed that this Hon'ble Tribunal may be pleased to take the present reply affidavit on record, and pass such further orders as this Hon'ble Tribunal may deem fit and proper in the facts and circumstances of the case.


Rajeev Ranjan Shukla
 Regional Director
 Central Ground Water Board
 Govt. of India, Ministry of Jal Shakti
 Mid-Eastern Region, Patna

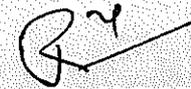
Verification

I, Rajeev Ranjan Shukla, do hereby verify on 13th February 2026 at New Delhi the contents of the above paragraphs which are true to my own knowledge and/or are in the nature of legal submissions which I believe to be true and no material has been suppressed herewith.



I identify the signature/L.T.L. who has signed in my presence


 ADVOCATE


Rajeev Ranjan Shukla
 Regional Director
 Central Ground Water Board
 Govt. of India, Ministry of Jal Shakti
 Mid-Eastern Region, Patna

6

A-1

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भारत सरकार
जल शक्ति मंत्रालय
जल संसाधन विभाग,
केंद्रीय भूमि जल प्राधिकरण
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES,
RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
CENTRAL GROUND WATER AUTHORITY



भूजल निकासी हेतु छूट पत्र
EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE FOR GROUND WATER ABSTRACTION

PROJECT NAME NEW FOUR STAR STONE WORKS
PROJECT ADDRESS At Mauza-Sivlidanga, P S - Sivlidanga, District-Pakur PIN CODE 816107
STATE JHARKHAND DISTRICT PAKUR TOWN/BLOCK PAKUR
COMMUNICATION ADDRESS New Four Star Stone Works, At.-Sivlidanga, P.O.: Hiranpur, District: Pakur
ADDRESS OF CGWB REGIONAL OFFICE 6th & 7th Floor, Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Bhawan, Frazer Road, Dak Banglow, Patna-800011, Bihar.

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 1. EXEMPTED LETTER NO. EXM/IND/JH/2025/10271/N | 2. DATE OF ISSUANCE 21/07/2025 |
| 3. APPLICATION NO. IND/JH/2025/10271 | 4. APPLICATION TYPE Industry |
| 5. PROJECT STATUS Existing Project | 6. VALID FROM 21/07/2025 |
| 7. AREA TYPE CATEGORY Safe (GWRE- 0) | |
| 8. VALID UP TO Till adherence to provision(s) under which this exemption has been obtained (subject to compliance to related conditions) or till any further orders issued by this authority, whichever is earlier. | |

9.50 0 0 0 9.50 0

10. Details of Ground Water Abstraction / Dewatering Structures

EXISTING 1					PROPOSED 0					TOTAL 1				
DW	DCB	BW	TW	PU	DW	DCB	BW	TW	PU	DW	DCB	BW	TW	PU
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

*DW-Dug Well; DCB-Dug-cum-Bore Well; BW-Bore Well; TW-Tube Well; Pu Pumps;

12. EXEMPTION CATEGORY

- This is to certify that as per information furnished by the applicant, the ground water withdrawal comes under Exemption category as per S.O. 3289(E) dated 24/09/2020 by Department Of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, guidelines to regulate and control ground water extraction in India, 2020.
- This exemption letter is being issued under relevant provision(s) of extant guidelines.
- The firm shall install digital water flow meter on all ground water abstraction structures and maintain the logbook.
- This certificate is system generated and based on information provided by the applicant. CGWA has not verified the claim made by applicant. Any false information furnished/violation by the applicant, shall invite legal action against him/her as per S.O. 3289(E) dated 24/09/2020.
- If, at any stage, it is established that this exemption letter has been obtained on the basis of false/ fake document(s), the exemption letter shall be deemed cancelled and extant penal provisions shall be applied on the firm

- यह प्रमाणित किया जाता है कि आवेदक द्वारा दी गई जानकारी के अनुसार, भूजल निकासी एस.ओ. के अनुसार छूट श्रेणी के अंतर्गत आती है। जल संसाधन, नदी विकास और गंगा संरक्षण विभाग द्वारा 3289(ई) दिनांक 24/09/2020, भारत में भूजल निष्कर्षण को विनियमित और नियंत्रित करने के लिए दिशानिर्देश, 2020।
- यह इम्प्लेमेंटेशन (छूट) पत्र वर्तमान दिशानिर्देशों के प्रासंगिक प्रावधानों के तहत जारी किया जा रहा है।
- फर्म सभी भूजल निष्कर्षण संरचनाओं पर डिजिटल जल प्रवाह मीटर स्थापित करेगी और लॉगबुक बनाए रखेगी।
- यह प्रमाण पत्र सिस्टम जनरेटेड है और आवेदक द्वारा प्रदान की गई जानकारी पर आधारित है। CGWA ने आवेदक द्वारा किए गए दावे का सत्यापन नहीं किया है। आवेदक द्वारा दी गई कोई भी गलत सूचना / उत्तपन, एसओ 3289 (ई) दिनांक 24/09/2020 के अनुसार उसके खिलाफ कानूनी कार्रवाई को आमंत्रित करेगा।
- यदि किसी भी स्तर पर यह स्थापित हो जाता है कि यह इम्प्लेमेंटेशन (छूट) पत्र गलत / नकली दस्तावेज के आधार पर प्राप्त किया गया है, तो इम्प्लेमेंटेशन (छूट) पत्र निरस्त माना जाएगा और फर्म पर मौजूदा दंडात्मक प्रावधान लागू किए जाएंगे।

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Term and conditions:

- i. All disputes are subject to Delhi Jurisdiction.
- ii. Any complaint in regard to the rates will not be entertained.

7

742

Member-Secretary
CGWA, New Delhi

केंद्रीय भूमि जल प्राधिकरण, जल शक्ति मंत्रालय, सीएसएमआरएस परिसर, ओलोफ पाल्म मार्ग, हाज खास, नई दिल्ली-110016 / Central Ground Water
Authority, Ministry of Jal Shakti, CSMRS Campus, Olof Palme Marg, Hauz Khas, New Delhi-110016

Phone: (011) 23383561

Website: cgwa-noc.gov.in

पानी बचाएँ जीवन बचाएँ

SAVE WATER-SAVE LIFE

Government of India
Ministry of Jal Shakti
Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation
CENTRAL GROUND WATER AUTHORITY
Central Ground Water Board, Mid-Eastern Region
Lok Nayak Jaiprakash Bhavan
Dak Bunglow Chouraha, Patna 800001
rdmer-cgwb@nic.in

File No. CGWB/MER/NGT-EZ/OA 103/2025- 223

Dated: 11 DEC 2025

To,

M/S Jai Guru Stone Works
Through Pradip Tebriwal
Village- Mansinghpur, PS- Hiranpur
District- Pakur, Jharkhand 816107

Reference: Original Application No. 103 of 2025 titled as Mahendra Prakash Soren Vs State of Jharkhand & Ors

Sir,

This is in reference to the aforementioned Original Application filed before the Hon'ble NGT (EZ), wherein significant issues relating to violations of environmental laws by Respondent Nos. 7 to 13, stone crushing and stone mining units operating in PS Hiranpur, District Pakur, Jharkhand, have been raised.

The petition also raises concerns regarding the depletion of groundwater levels allegedly caused by drilling and blasting activities undertaken by Respondent Nos. 7 to 13.

As per the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Jal Shakti vide S.O. 3289(E) dated 24.09.2020, as amended on 29.03.2023, "All new/existing industries, industries seeking expansion, infrastructure projects and mining projects abstracting ground water, unless specifically exempted under Para 1.0 below, are required to obtain a No Objection Certificate from the Central Ground Water Authority or the concerned State/UT Ground Water Authority, as the case may be."

In view of the above, you are hereby directed to furnish the details of the water source being utilized for the operational activities of your project at the earliest.

In case groundwater is being used, it is advised that the requisite NOC for groundwater withdrawal from the Central Ground Water Authority be obtained without delay. Failure to do so will necessitate appropriate action in accordance with the prevailing guidelines.

Yours' Sincerely



(Rajeev Ranjan Shukla)
Regional Director

Copy for information to:

1. Collector/Deputy Commissioner/District Magistrate Pakur, Jharkhand
2. ✓ Member Secretary, Central Ground Water Authority, Ministry of Jal Shakti, CSMRS Campus, Olof Palme Marg, Hauz Khas, New Delhi-110016
3. Member Secretary, Jharkhand State Pollution Control Board, Township Administration Building, HEC Complex, Dhurwa, Ranchi 834004

Government of India
 Ministry of Jal Shakti
 Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation
 CENTRAL GROUND WATER AUTHORITY
 Central Ground Water Board, Mid-Eastern Region
 Lok Nayak Jaiprakash Bhavan
 Dak Bunglow Chouraha, Patna 800001
rdmer-cgwb@nic.in

File No. CGWB/MER/NGT-EZ/OA 103/2025-224

Dated: 11 DEC 2025

To,

M/S Four Star Stone Works
 Through Ahidur Rahman
 Village- Pratappur & Mansinghpur
 PS and District- Pakur, Jharkhand – 816107

Reference: Original Application No. 103 of 2025 titled as Mahendra Prakash Soren Vs State of Jharkhand & Ors

Sir,

This is in reference to the aforementioned Original Application filed before the Hon'ble NGT (EZ), wherein significant issues relating to violations of environmental laws by Respondent Nos. 7 to 13, stone crushing and stone mining units operating in PS Hiranpur, District Pakur, Jharkhand, have been raised.

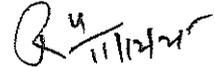
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Yours' Sincerely


 (Rajeev Ranjan Shukla)
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Government of India
Ministry of Jal Shakti
Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation
CENTRAL GROUND WATER AUTHORITY
Central Ground Water Board, Mid-Eastern Region
Lok Nayak Jaiprakash Bhavan
Dak Bunglow Chouraha, Patna 800001
rdmer-cgwb@nic.in

File No. CGWB/MER/NGT-EZ/OA 103/2025-2 22

Dated: 11 DEC 2025

To,

M/s Dada Bhai Stone Works
Through Partner - Md. Maniruzzamam
Village- Bishanpur, PS Hiranpur,
District Pakur, Jharkhand 816107

Reference: Original Application No. 103 of 2025 titled as Mahendra Prakash Soren
Vs State of Jharkhand & Ors.

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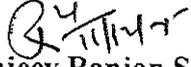
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(Rajeve Ranjan Shukla)
Regional Director

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H

Government of India
Ministry of Jal Shakti
Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation
CENTRAL GROUND WATER AUTHORITY
Central Ground Water Board, Mid-Eastern Region
Lok Nayak Jaiprakash Bhavan
Dak Bungalow Chouraha, Patna 800001
rdmer-cgwb@nic.in

File No. CGWB/MER/NGT-EZ/OA 103/2025- 221

Dated: 11 DEC 2025

To,

M/S Noorujjaman shekh
Through Proprietor Md. Noorujjaman shekh
Village- Mansinghpur, PS- Hiranpur
Dist-Pakur, State-Jharkhand 816107

Reference: Original Application No. 103 of 2025 titled as Mahendra Prakash Soren Vs State of Jharkhand & Ors

Sir,

This is in reference to the aforementioned Original Application filed before the Hon'ble NGT (EZ), wherein significant issues relating to violations of environmental laws by Respondent Nos. 7 to 13, stone crushing and stone mining units operating in PS Hiranpur, District Pakur, Jharkhand, have been raised.

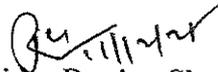
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Yours' Sincerely


(Rajeev Ranjan Shukla)
Regional Director

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3. Member Secretary, Jharkhand State Pollution Control Board, Township Administration Building, HEC Complex, Dhurwa, Ranchi 834004

Government of India
 Ministry of Jal Shakti
 Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation
 CENTRAL GROUND WATER AUTHORITY
 Central Ground Water Board, Mid-Eastern Region
 Lok Nayak Jaiprakash Bhavan
 Dak Bungalow Chouraha, Patna 800001
rdmer-cgwb@nic.in

File No. CGWB/MER/NGT-EZ/OA 103/2025-220

Dated: 11 DEC 2025

To,

M/S NJP Stone Works (Stone Crusher)
 Through MD Noorujjaman Shekh
 Village- Siulidanga, PS- Hiranpur
 District- Pakur, Jharkhand – 816107

Reference: Original Application No. 103 of 2025 titled as Mahendra Prakash Soren Vs State of Jharkhand & Ors

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The petition also raises concerns regarding the depletion of groundwater levels allegedly caused by drilling and blasting activities undertaken by Respondent Nos. 7 to 13.

As per the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Jal Shakti vide S.O. 3289(E) dated 24.09.2020, as amended on 29.03.2023, "*All new/existing industries, industries seeking expansion, infrastructure projects and mining projects abstracting ground water, unless specifically exempted under Para 1.0 below, are required to obtain a No Objection Certificate from the Central Ground Water Authority or the concerned State/UT Ground Water Authority, as the case may be.*"

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 (Rajeev Ranjan Shukla)
 Regional Director

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 CENTRAL GROUND WATER AUTHORITY
 Central Ground Water Board, Mid-Eastern Region
 Lok Nayak Jaiprakash Bhavan
 Dak Bunglow Chouraha, Patna 800001
rdmer-cgwb@nic.in

File No. CGWB/MER/NGT-EZ/OA 103/2025-2/19

Dated: 1 DEC 2025

To,

M/S Pakur Black Rock Stone works
 Through Akibul Shaikh
 Village Ganeshpur, PS Hiranpur
 District Pakur, Jharkhand Pin Code 816107

Reference: Original Application No. 103 of 2025 titled as Mahendra Prakash Soren
 Vs State of Jharkhand & Ors

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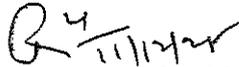
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Copy for information to:

1. Collector/Deputy Commissioner/District Magistrate Pakur, Jharkhand
2. ✓ Member Secretary, Central Ground Water Authority, Ministry of Jal Shakti, CSMRS Campus, Olof Palme Marg, Hauz Khas, New Delhi-110016
3. Member Secretary, Jharkhand State Pollution Control Board, Township Administration Building, HEC Complex, Dhurwa, Ranchi 834004