

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI

Original Application No. 04 of 2022 (SZ)

IN THE MATTER OF:

Jaganathasamy

Tiruppur District

...Applicant(s)

Versus

The Member Secretary,

Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board and Others

...Respondent(s)

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Through
Dr. D. Shanmuganathan
Standing Counsel of TN
National Green Tribunal
Southern Zone

**Before The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal
Southern Zone
Original Application No 04 of 2022 (SZ)
&
I.A.No 150 of 2022(SZ)**

Jaganathasamy
Tiruppur District

Applicants(s)

Versus

1. The Member Secretary,
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board.
No.76, Mount Road,
Chennai.
2. Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution
Corporation,
6th Floor, TANTRANSKO Building.
No.14, Anna Salai, Chennai
3. The District Collector,
Collectorate office, Tiruppur
4. Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution
Corporation
Coimbatore-641 012
5. Tamil Nadu Generation and
Distribution Corporation
Udumalpet, Tiruppur - 642 154
6. Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,
Tiruppur South,
Tiruppur-641 664
7. Tamil Nadu Generation and
Distribution Corporation
20, KVA Substation,
Udumalpet, Tiruppur - 642 154


**ADDITIONAL DIRECTOR
DEPT. OF GEOLOGY AND MINING
GUINDY, CHENNAI - 600 032.**


**COMMISSIONER
COMMISSIONERATE OF GEOLOGY AND MINING
GUINDY, CHENNAI - 600 032.**

8. The Proprietor Ms. Akshairaj
Blue Metals,
No. 531/2, Myvadi illage,
Madathukulam Taluk,
Tiruppur -642 203

Respondent(s)

Report filed by the Commissioner of Geology and Mining

I Pooja Kulkarni, I.A.S., D/o. Martand Kulkarni, Hindu aged about 45 years functioning as the Commissioner of Geology and Mining, Chennai - 600 032 do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows.

I am the Commissioner of Geology and Mining and as such I am well acquainted with the facts of the case from the available records. I file this report before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (SZ) in compliance with the orders passed in O.A.No 04 of 2022 dated 09.10.2023.

2) It is submitted that, the National Green Tribunal (SZ) in its order dated 09.10.2023 directed the Commissioner of Geology and Mining to file a report which could address the issue of rectifying the lacuna in the present procedure or system and to establish a system to monitor the movement of every load transported by installing GPS or other modern systems.

3) It is further submitted that, the Commissionerate of Geology and Mining is under the process of implementing the Differential Global Positioning System (DGPS), the Mineral Management System (MMS) for Minor Minerals, the E-Permit, Vehicle Tracking System, and Drone Survey.


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4) It is further submitted that, the Differential Global Positioning System (DGPS) is a technique used to fix the boundary of the quarry/mining lease areas in the State to ascertain whether the lessees are operating the quarries within the lease granted area or any deviation from the permitted area. In this regard, 23 agencies have been empaneled by the Commissioner of Geology and Mining for fixing the lease boundaries of existing and proposed mines and quarries by erecting boundary pillars using geo-coordinates. The DGPS survey of quarries is being carried out all over the State.

5) It is further submitted that, the Commissionerate is in the process of developing an online based service i.e., Mineral Management System (MMS) for minor minerals. On introduction of Mineral Management System, the process of grant of mineral concession for minor minerals from the stage of application up to the level of granting the lease will be online. The issue of transport permits will be simplified through E-Permit application. The Commissionerate is in the process of execution of the MMS application services which is integrated with 16 services which have been taken up for administering the mineral concession such as registration, processing of application and others in consonance with the Tamil Nadu Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 1959 for enabling the e-administration of the minerals. The development of the modules has been entrusted to Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency (TNeGA) and in the first phase, the development of the software for processing the application, issuance of bulk permit and payment of


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Royalty, Seigniorage fee and other charges through online has been taken for implementation, and will go live shortly.

6) It is further submitted that, as a part of Mineral Management System, a software for E-Permit system for issuance of transport permits electronically is being developed. E-permit application aims to generate online bulk permit and dispatch slips to transport the minerals. The bulk permits and transport permits with security features will be printed out at the quarry pit mouth itself by the lessee on assessment of proper weight of the mineral through weigh bridge installed at the quarry pit mouth. For this purpose, the Commissionerate has engaged a software developer for development of online application for e-permit system. The introduction of e-permit system with weigh bridge at the quarry sites will help to control illegal transportation of minerals and also to assess the quantity of minerals quarried and transported from the lease premises.

7) It is further submitted that Vehicle Tracking System is an announcement that has been made on the floor of the Assembly for the year 2022-23 that "in order to control the illicit transportation of minerals, the vehicles transporting the minerals from mines and quarries will be monitored directly through online by installing GPS instruments". Hence, this will be made mandatory at the expense of the lessees and the lorry owners. GPS installed Vehicle Tracking System is a continuation of the e-Permit system. All the vehicles transporting minerals are to be registered with the Department of Geology and Mining and to install AIS-140 standard or higher standard of GPS instrument. All the GPS mounted vehicles


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transporting minerals will be tracked to curtail illegal transportation. The software for the Vehicle Tracking System is being developed and it will be integrated with e-permit system shortly. In this connection, necessary instructions have been issued to all District Collectors and the District Officers of Department of Geology and Mining to register the vehicles mounted with the GPS instrument with the Standard of AIS-140 through on-line for those who are engaged in mineral transportation.

8) It is further submitted that the Commissionerate is under the implementing stage of the Drone Survey which aims to keep a vigil on excess mining in the leased out areas and mining of minerals outside the leased boundaries. Drone technology will be deployed for assessing the excess quantum of minerals removed for recovering the cost of minerals from the lessees and invoking penal provisions against the defaulters. In this regard, Government has already sanctioned an amount of Rs.50 lakh during the year 2020-2021. In the first phase drone technology was implemented in Theni District through the Aero Space Research Center, MIT Campus, Anna University. In order to implement the Drone Technology for surveying the quarries and mines existing all over the State twice in a year, the Government have sanctioned an amount of 25.0 Crore. In this regard, EOI notification has been issued by the Commissioner of Geology and Mining, inviting application from competent agencies/organization for empanelment on 31.10.2022. The Commissioner of Geology and Mining has received applications from various applicants for conducting Drone Survey in the


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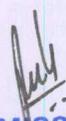

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State. The agencies / applicants have completed the Proof of Concept Test and the selection of agencies are under process through Aero Space Research Center, MIT Campus, Anna University. The existing quarries and mines in the State are already being surveyed with DGPS to fix the boundaries of the lease areas and erection of boundary pillars with geo-coordinates, wherein these datas are absolutely necessary for drone survey. Based on the integration of the above details, the Drone technology will be implemented shortly through the empaneled agencies.

It is further submitted that the Commissionerate is taking earnest steps for implementing modern technologies in the mineral administration in order to curtail illegal mining and transportation of minerals.

Therefore, in view of the above, the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (SZ), Chennai may accept this report and thus render justice.

Solemnly affirmed at Chennai this the 17th day of November, 2023 and signed her name in my presence.


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Before me

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