

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
WESTERN ZONE BENCH, PUNE
ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 199 OF 2024

National Green Tribunal (Suo motu)

- Applicant

V/S

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(H.O.F.F) M.S. Nagpur and Others

- Respondents

Memo

Sr. No.	Exhibit	Particulars	Page No.
1.	--	Memo of Affidavit in Reply	17-20
2.	R-1	Copy of the Government Resolution Dt.18/11/1902	21-32
3.	R-2	Copy of the Government Resolution Dt.02/12/2016	33-35
4.	R-3	Copy of the Interim Order Dt.03/02/2025	36-40

mpt
28/02/2025 Advocate

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Affidavit in Reply on behalf of Respondent No. 1

I, Shri. Mahadev Namdev Mohite, age 47 years, working as Deputy Conservator of Forests, Pune Forest Division, Pune hereby solemnly affirm on behalf of Respondent No. 1 as under :-

1. I state and submit that I crave leave of this Hon'ble Tribunal to further add or amend the affidavit and / or file additional affidavit, if necessary. I say that, I have been authorized to file this affidavit in reply on behalf of the Respondent No. 1.
2. I state that, as per the G.R. Dt.17/11/1902 the State Government had asked the Forest Department to hand over a portion of the reserved forest to the Revenue Department for the purpose of management. Hereto annexed as **Annexure R-1**



is a copy of the GR. As per the GR the Pune Forest Division handed over 36707 Ha. of reserved forest to the Revenue Department in the Pune Division in view of a G.R. Dt.17/11/1902 issued by the State Government. The portion of the reserved forest was not handed over to the Revenue Department for the purpose of allotment to private persons for commercial use, agricultural use etc.

3. I state that, the Revenue Departments allotted certain portions of the reserved forest in their possession to private persons for various purposes. The Revenue Department even allotted some portions for military purposes which are in possession of the Defence Estates Department. Then some portion of the reserved forest in their possession was also encroached upon by Anti Social Elements. Therefore, the State Government then decided that the reserved forest in possession of the Revenue Department should be returned back to the Forest Department. The State Government then issued GR and Circulars in that respect. Hereto annexed as **Annexure R-2** is a G.R. Dt.02/12/2016 issued by the State Government.
4. I state that in view of the GRs and Circulars issued by the State Government 22076.26 Ha. of reserved forest has been taken back by the Forest Department from the Revenue Department. However, an area of 14631.03 Ha. is still in possession of the Revenue Department. That area could not be taken over by the Forest Department as some portions of that area have been allotted by the Revenue Officers to agriculturists, ex-army men, etc. and some portions are under encroachments and litigation has been going on in respect of those portions in the Civil Courts and Revenue Courts. In some areas permanent buildings and slums have been set up and it has become very difficult to obtain possession of such portions due to integration.
5. I state that the concerned authorities should be directed either to obtain possession of those portions or to regularize the possession as per the provisions

of the Forest Conservation Act 1980. I further state that the concerned authorities should also be directed to obtain possession of the encroached portion and should hand over that portion to the Forest Department.

6. The Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case WP No.1164/2023 of Ashokkumar Sharma V/s Union of India has directed that no steps will be taken by the Union of India or any of the States, which will lead to reduction of the Forest land unless a compensatory land is provided for the purpose of afforestation. Hereto annexed as **Annexure R-3** is a copy of the Interim Order Dt. 03/02/2025. *Blally*

Deponent

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VERIFICATION

I, Shri. Mahadev Namdev Mohite, age 47 years, working as Deputy Conservator of Forests, Pune Forest Division, Pune hereby solemnly affirm on behalf of the State of Maharashtra Forest Department do hereby solemnly declares that what is stated in aforesaid paragraphs is true and correct to my knowledge and I believe the same to be true and correct.

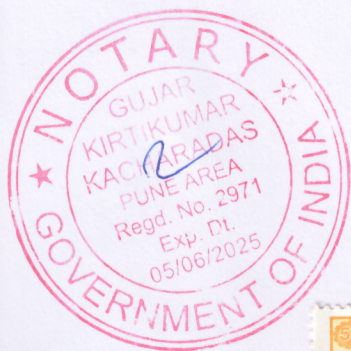
Solemnly declared at *Pune*

This 27th day Feb 2025

Mahadev N. Mohite,
Deputy Conservator of Forests,
Pune Forest Division, Pune

BEFORE ME

Gujar 27-02-2025
K. K. GUJAR
NOTARY, GOVT. OF INDIA



NOTED AND REGISTERED AT
SERIAL NUMBER *21/2025*



ANNEXURE-R-3

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Forests.
Poona.
Classification of forests in the Poona District.

No. 5030.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

24/07
13634

Bombay Castle, 17th November 1902.

- Letter* from the Deputy Conservator of Forests in charge Central Circle, No. 2383, dated 30th July 1898.
- Memorandum* from the Commissioner, C. D., No. R.—3516, dated 20th August 1898.
- Government memorandum* to the Commissioner, C. D., No. 6133, dated 26th September 1898.
- Government memorandum* to the Commissioner, C. D., No. 8542, dated 12th October 1898.
- Letter* from the Collector of Poona, No. 4828, dated 31st May 1901.
- Letter* from the Divisional Forest Officer, Poona, No. 1665, dated 30th January 1902.
- Letter* from the Conservator of Forests, C. C., No. 4068, dated 25th February 1902.
- Memorandum* from the Commissioner, C. D., No. R.—1302, dated 1st April 1902.
- Letter* from the Collector of Poona, No. 5791, dated 24th June 1902.
- Memorandum* from the Commissioner, C. D., No. R.—3305, dated 1st August 1902.
- Government memorandum* to the Commissioner, C. D., No. 6556, dated 1st September 1902.
- Memorandum* from the Commissioner, C. D., No. R.—3702, dated 8th September 1902.

Resolution.—After a careful consideration of the proposals put forward by both the Revenue and the Forest Officers, Government have decided to accept the classification of the Poona forests made by Mr. Sheppard as modified by Mr. Cappel in his remarks on statement No. 1 accompanying Mr. Wilkins' report No. 1665, dated 30th January 1902, and instructions should now be issued to give effect to this classification. The Collector should take every precaution by enforcing the responsibility of the village officers and in other ways to prevent the cutting of trees and shrubs on the extensive pasture lands now to be handed over to the Revenue Department.

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Under Secretary to Government.

- To
- 3 The Commissioner, C. D. (with the statements and maps),
- 3 The Collector of Poona,
- 3 The Conservator of Forests, C. C.,
- 3 The Accountant General.

* Printed as accompaniments to this Resolution.
† Not printed.

Rev 2243-1

2 COPY

No. _____ of 1902.

Copy forwarded for information and guidance to

Conservator of Forests,
Poona District, Poona.

not in

*Note - 163 no. copy of the resolution is in the office of the
(vide R.S. no 4157 A/02)*

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Accompaniments to Government Resolution, Revenue Department, No. 8030, dated 17th November 1902.

No. 2857, dated 30th July 1898.

To—The Commissioner, C. D.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit herewith a series of lists and maps containing the redistribution of the forest lands of the Poona District called for by Government in their Resolution, paragraph 9 (d), No. 1668, dated 8th March 1898, in the Revenue Department. The work has been done by Mr. Osmaston, Working Plans Forest Officer of the Central Circle, and formerly Divisional Forest Officer, Poona, and has been carefully revised by Mr. Shuttleworth, the Conservator.

2. Mr. Lamb, the Collector, who is apparently like myself without the necessary local knowledge to criticise the scheme in detail, accepts provisionally the classification made by Mr. Osmaston and I would suggest that the proposals should be sanctioned.

I have, &c.,

W. A. TALBOT,
Deputy Conservator of Forests, C. G.

No. R.—3516, dated 20th August 1898.

Forwarded to Government.

2. It is not clear from Resolution No. 1668 of the 8th March 1898 whether it is intended that proposals for the revised classification of forests should be submitted to Government for orders. On a recent reference on the subject from the Satara District, the Commissioner decided that the classification should be carried out by the Collector in consultation with the Forest Department, doubtful points alone being reported for orders, and he still thinks this is the most suitable course which can be followed in a matter in which principles have been clearly laid down for the guidance of local officers. The sanction of Government or even of the Commissioner on questions in which principles are not involved would only be a matter of form. The Commissioner would be obliged by being informed whether this view may be acted upon.

3. In the present case the five classes into which it is proposed to divide the forests of the Poona District, viz, (a) forests proper, (b) fuel reserves, (c) fodder reserves, (d) pastures and (e) mixed fuel and fodder reserves are strictly those indicated in the Government Resolution quoted above; and the actual distribution of the forests between these classes seems from the papers to be unexceptionable. Mr. Shuttleworth's memoranda No. 1709* of 28th Jan. and No. 919 of 18th May 1898 show that he has correctly understood the orders and intentions of Government. Mr. Lamb is himself satisfied on this point judging from his memorandum No. 4820* of the 16th May last, although the conference suggested in his subsequent communication* of the 20th idem does not appear to have taken place.

TRUE COPY

J. R. SPENCE,
Commissioner, C. D.

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(2) that Commissariat kurans* shall be made over to the Collector, who can preserve any tree-growth that he may find in them.

(3) that except in the case of the ghát slopes, care must be taken not to classify as "mixed fuel and fodder reserves" land adjoining pasture reserves, unless by previously ordered, there are at least 20 useful trees per acre;

(4) that any land already effectively fenced in with wire by the Forest Department may remain in that Department's charge;

(5) that the Purandhar range should be very carefully examined, as Government do not at present feel sure that any lands comprised in it can be suitably considered mixed fuel and fodder reserves;

(6) that land classed as pasture reserve and previously broken up into small survey numbers may under the general control of the Commissioner be given out for cultivation.

5. The present instructions should be considered to apply *mutatis mutandis* to any proposals that may be submitted for the Sátara District.

H. S. LAWRENCE,

Under Secretary to Government.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

No. 6542, dated 12th October 1898.

The undersigned presents compliments to the Commissioner, C. D., and with reference to Government memorandum No. 6153, dated 26th September 1893, is directed to state that the principles laid down in the memorandum should be made generally applicable, so far as may be, to all districts of the Central Division except Kháadesh, the classification of which was fully approved by Government. The Honourable Mr. Spence is requested to communicate to the Collectors and officials of the Forest Department such instructions as he considers requisite. The report on the forest classification of the Nárik District, which is still due, should be submitted without avoidable delay.

(Signed) H. S. LAWRENCE,

Under Secretary to Government.

No. 4928, dated 31st May 1901.

To—The Commissioner, C. D.

Sir,

I have the honour to return herewith the accompaniments of your letter No. E.—4197*, dated October 5th, 1898, forwarding for further action Government memorandum No. 6153 of September 26th, 1893, and to report as follows.

2. My predecessor Mr. Sheppard personally examined thoroughly the forest lands of the Indápur, Bhimnadi and Dhond ranges, and examined with the assistance of Mr. Sale the forests of Purandhar and Haveli. Mr. Sale has examined also the forests of Sirur, Mr. Crofton those of Mával. The remaining Western Ranges of Junar, Khed, Ambegaon and Mulsbi have been tested with less completeness by both the Collector and his Assistants.

3. Commencing with the forests of the eastern half of the district, examination of Indápur range disclosed that forest area is that taluka could be easily divided into three classes (1) lands (invariably cultivable black soil) in which there was a good babul growth; (2) lands (mostly poor black and red soil) in which there was a very inferior babul scrub; and (3) soil and rock in which there was no growth at all. When making his proposals in accordance with Government Resolution No. 1668, dated 8th March 1898, Revenue Department, Mr. Osmani placed in the B class (fuel reserves) those lands only which contained the good soil

* Not printed.

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fairly good bābul and relegated to the D (pasture) class all the remainder. This classification was entirely in accord with the Government wishes on the subject. The subsequent addition of a fifth class of mixed fuel and fodder reserves has merely resulted in the proposed withdrawal from the head of pasture of blocks of the poorest scrub mixed with large patches of absolutely bare land. In visiting these lands Mr. Sheppard was much struck by the extreme poverty of such scrubs as existed in the most favoured portions and by the impossibility of obtaining any considerable area or block in which the scrub covered area formed even a fair proportion of the whole. On the other hand he could find no lands classed by Mr. Osmaston as B which had not been properly included in that class.

4. For Indāpur, therefore, Mr. Osmaston's first proposals are recommended for acceptance without alteration, the figures being—

	Acres.
A—Forest proper	Nil
B—Fuel reserves	12,881
C—Fodder reserves	4,595
D—Pasture	43,500

5. Government are aware that class C is comprised entirely of lands which have been effectively fenced with wire and so fall into a class by themselves. On their unfenced merits they would be pasture (or D).


6. The Bhimthadi range though immediately adjoining that of Indāpur was found to contain better natural forests, a fair proportion of its hills being covered with good scrub and some of the hills well wooded with fair bābul. On the other hand the proportion of good black soil numbers growing the best bābul was considerably less.

7. Some errors were noticed in the detailed classification and Mr. Sheppard found nothing to justify the retention in any class but D pasture of as much as 4,611 acres. These lands have accordingly been proposed for transfer to the D class.

8. The chief changes proposed occur in Supe, Undarādi and Katphal villages. None of the lands of these villages now transferred to pasture contained more than a miserable scrub and some were absolutely bare. Similarly in Rāvangaon the pooriness of the forest which lies interspersed with cultivation, partly on the top and sides of a low range of hills and partly on a plain below them, clearly indicated a transfer to D in the case of all except four lowlying numbers well wooded with bābul which are now entered in class B as a small forest reserve. In Khadki the bulk of the forest is suitable for A, but it runs right down to the very gates of the village and the seven numbers which adjoin the village are absolutely bare. These have therefore been separated from the rest and classed as D.

9. The Dhond range contains much B class forest and most of its A lands (as detailed in Mr. Osmaston's lists) are full of promise. In one instance, however, Mr. Sheppard recommends a change of classification, viz, in the case of the forests of Dalinob, Beri-Aunde, Bhagatgaon, Yeot and Bhaulgaon. These lands comprise the northern face of the narrow spur of the ghats which divides the Dhond Peta from the Purandhar Taluka. They also include a ranging width of the level ground underlying the hill. The length of the forest from Dalinob to the point where it meets the pasture lands of the Bhimthadi range is ten miles. Its area is 2,580 acres 29 guntas, i. e., roughly 4 square miles. It may be urged in favour of its retention as forest proper that it is a continuous hill side and a spur of the ghats, but against that must be noted that except for extremely rare cactus bushes it contains no forest growth whatever, that immediately over the hill top there are hot grazing lands and cultivation and that it forms in fact merely a very long narrow strip of sacred ground between lands over which the Forest Department has no control. It is a perpetual source of irritation to the people on either side and does not show the slightest prospect of yielding to the efforts of forest conservancy. It was formerly the usual grazing ground for the cattle of the adjoining villages. In anticipation of the approval of Government the lands have been transferred from class A to class D in the accompanying lists.

10. Another block of forest, viz, that of Pātas (part) and Girim was a cause of some doubt to Mr. Sheppard. It consists of hilly ground covered varyingly with good small forest, good scrub and very poor scrub and intermingled as to be practically invisible. No change is, therefore, proposed in its classification.

YRL


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11. In Purandhar Taluka the changes proposed, mainly transfers from class A to class D, occur for the most part in the villages to the north and east of the range. In Heggann the land transferred to D has been classed as A apparently because it was thought suitable for plantation purposes, but it contains a quite inappreciable number of trees and the seedlings planted out have never succeeded in establishing themselves. The change proposed in the other villages such as Jejori, Wálhā and Gulunche are due to the extreme poverty of the forests and the apparent hopelessness of effective conservancy.

12. In Sirur no change is proposed, Mr. Sale having reported that the classification effected by Mr. Osmaato is in complete accordance with the wishes of Government. Similarly in Haveli the only changes that occur are in the classification of the Commissariat kurans which Government have directed should be taken over by the Collector.

13. In Málal 15 forest numbers which contain no forest have been wrongly included in the A and C classes and are now transferred to D as also are four Commissariat kurans. The total number of villages in which changes occur is 12. The classification of the rest is believed to be quite correct.

14. The remaining Ranges Mulshi, Ambegaon, Junnar and Kbed contain much good forest and their classification has not been subjected to so rigid a scrutiny as has that of the more eastern portions of the district. The changes proposed are few and call for no remark.

15. The figures of the final classification as now proposed are as follows:—

Eastern Sub-division.

Name of Range	Total forest area of range.	A.	B.	C and E.	D.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Iodápur ...	60,976	Nil.	12,881	4,595	43,500
	61,020	...	12,346	31,072	17,002
Bhimthadi ...	35,699	2,601	6,377	Nil.	26,721
	35,699	3,730	9,859	Nil.	22,110
Dhood ...	38,289	10,827	17,253	Nil.	8,159
	36,269	13,405	17,253	Nil.	5,605
Sirur ...	21,004	5,373	6,516	Nil.	11,115
	21,004	5,373	6,516	Nil.	11,115
Purandhar ...	24,359	12,632	1,452	Nil.	10,275
	24,359	17,232	1,537	567	5,023
<i>Eastern Sub-division Totals.</i>					
1. Totals after revision by Collector ...		31,433	44,479	4,595	87,510
2. Former totals as proposed by Forest Department ...		33,743	45,111	31,641	58,506
Difference ...		- 2,310	- 6,632	- 27,046	+ 29,004

Note.—The Roman figures show the revised classification and the Italic old Forest Department classification.

The increases in class D (pasture) are as follows:—

	Acres.
Iodápur ...	26,498
Bhimthadi ...	4,611
Dhood ...	2,551
Sirur ...	Nil.
Purandhar ...	6,254

The difference between the total area as shown in Italic and in Roman is due to the fact that the Italic figures do not take account of areas disforested since the forests were classified by Messrs. Wilkie and Bagoell in 1894.

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Western Sub-division.

Name of Range.	Total forest area of range.	A.	B.	C.	D.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Haveli	39,186	20,194	992	446	17,554
Mulabi	39,186	25,680	1,321	1,641	9,693
	26,828	25,880	Nil.	80	268
	25,928	25,680	Nil.	80	268
Māral	64,463	49,503	65	Nil.	1,905
	54,463	50,503	55	1,171	2,727
Junnar	61,692	45,784	1,021	Nil.	14,887
	61,692	46,602	1,021	Nil.	14,069
Khed	58,729	43,187	891	813	8,518
	53,729	43,487	521	833	8,518
Ambegaon	41,079	40,862	Nil.	Nil.	217
	41,079	40,862	Nil.	Nil.	217
Totals after revision by Collector		225,410	2,969	1,358	46,349
Totals as proposed by Forest Department		223,564	3,283	3,792	35,492
Difference		-1,154	-320	-2,374	+10,857

The increases in class D (pasture) are—

	Acres.
Haveli	7,861
Māral	2,173
Junnar	818

16. The revision of the classification has involved the preparation of entirely fresh lists of the forest numbers. These have been prepared in duplicate, one copy being herewith submitted in lieu of the old lists which were returned by Government for revision and the other kept for record in this office. All numbers, the old classification of which has been changed, will be recognized by the letter marked against them in *italic* in the remark column. The red letter signifies the class from which the numbers have been transferred. It is intended that the lists herewith submitted should be retained by the Forest Department for their information and guidance when the approval of Government to the changes made has been expressed.

17. The preceding paragraphs were drafted by Mr. Sheppard, but the report could not be submitted as it was necessary to correspond with Mr. Sheppard after his departure in connection with clerical and other alterations in the report and statements before their final submission.

I have, &c.,

J. McNEILL,
Acting Collector, Poona.

TRUE COPY

No. 1665, dated 30th January 1902.

To—The Conservator of Forests, C. C.

Sir,

I have the honour to return the accompanying correspondence and its accompaniments on the subject of the classification of the forests of the Poona Division in accordance with the orders contained in Government Resolution No. 1888, dated 8th March 1898, Revenue Department, received under your letter No. 993, dated 12th June last, for any remarks I may wish to make.

Conservator of Forests,
Western Forest Division, Poona.

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2. I have been carefully through all the proposals made by the Collector and have examined every village map by map and survey number by survey number, and beg now to submit two statements (No. I showing the points with full reasons for each where I find it necessary to differ with the proposals and No. II exhibiting in a tabulated form the differences between the Collector's proposals and those I have submitted).

3. In the table given below will be found a comparison between the Collector's and my classification for each range:—

Range.	Total forest area.	Collector's proposals.				Divisional Forest Officer's proposals.			
		Forest proper.		Fuel reserves.		Fodder reserves.		Pastures.	
		A.	B.	C.	D.	A.	B.	C.	D.
Haveli	39,183 35	20,174 20	946 34	277 30	17,784 21	28,684 26	1,821 5	277 30	1,900 11
Halsi	26,028 4	26,579 17	.....	80 6	302 21	26,918 38	.....	.....	19 8
Mava	64,462 38	49,568 5	61 33	.....	4,562 3	61,892 6	64 33	71 27	2,441 12
Eped	53,728 391	45,517 351	589 33	583 20	8,517 31	46,387 101	890 16	668 22	2,592 25
Ambejona	41,079 251	40,661 111	.....	.....	217 14	40,882 111	.....	.....	217 23
Deogar	61,691 33	45,753 24	1,021 15	.....	14,846 31	48,083 14	1,003 14	.....	12,657
Sirur	21,004 0	6,373 1	5,615 37	.....	9,111 2	5,667 11	7,516 3	.....	7,923 21
Paradizar	24,369 3	12,632 22	14,431 29	.....	10,284 22	19,568 37	260 6	.....	4,530 0
Bhimthadi	85,698 31	2,601 0	6,377 6	.....	26,724 23	3,518 14	7,956 7	.....	221 10
Dhond	16,569 83	10,827 15	17,258 4	.....	9,125 11	13,460 11	17,253 4	.....	2,526 13
Indapur	69,558 16	.....	12,881 4	4,594 23	47,057 21	16,046 12	16,123 3	4,591 26	24,797 13
Total	453,076 281	256,554 311	47,862 10	5,785 3	143,072 24	299,964 291	60,377 15	6,532 13	97,110 31

4. In submitting my proposals I have been guided by the following principles laid down in paragraph 3 (d) of Government Resolution No. 1668, dated 8th March 1899, Revenue Department:—

(1) Forest proper.

- Evergreen forests on the western boundary of the district.
- The inner belt which contains a fair number of teak and other trees.
- Slopes of hills "where a covering of bushes of any class furnishes grounds for conservation."
- Other areas containing at least 20 useful trees to the acre.

(2) Fuel reserves.

- Bábul reserves on the bank of rivers and sides of the Railway lines.

(3) Fodder reserves.

- Wire fenced areas in the eastern parts of the Decan.

(4) Pastures.

- Bare areas which do not meet the requirements of (c) and (d).

5. In the Indapur, Bimthadi, Dhond, Sirur and the eastern parts of the Khed and Junnar ranges a considerable portion of the lands classed as pastures consists of good and soil, which could, under the system of re-afforestation in combination with the cultivation of cereal crops advocated in the plan submitted by me under this office No. 173, dated 4th May 1901, be converted into forest proper or fuel reserves. Likewise in many of the areas classed as forest proper and fuel reserves in the above ranges there are stretches of good soil which could be similarly dealt with. Should the plan referred to above be approved by Government many thousands of acres could be brought under systematic treatment for regeneration annually without any cost to Government, while at the same time the demands of the people for more lands for cultivation would be met. I have even hopes that the areas annually cleared in our organized Bábul forests may be regenerated in the same way. The adoption of such a scheme would save Government between Rs. 4,000 and Rs. 5,000 which sum has now to be expended annually on ploughing, weeding and sowing operations.

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6. Government Resolutions Nos. 7359 and 8166, dated 18th October 1901 and 11st November 1901, respectively, dispose of the objections raised by me in respect of the forest areas used by the Commissariat Department, which were classified as pastures under the Collector's proposals.

7. Respecting paragraph 9 of the Collector's report, I would ask special reference to the remarks I have made regarding the five villages mentioned, the forests of which it is proposed to place under (D) pastures. You know these forests and I took the opportunity of pointing out to you not long ago the promising state of the growth in them. It is most important that hill slopes such as these should continue under our protection so that vegetation on them may not only be scrupulously preserved but gradually increased. I would in fact suggest that these lands be wire-fenced and strictly closed against grazing so as to improve and increase the growth of grass in them. In the interest of cultivation—more especially well-irrigation—it is highly necessary that every endeavour should be made to arrest the flow of rain water falling on them, and what can more economically do this than a covering of trees, brush-wood and grass? A good thick growth of grass will do more towards this than anything else.

I have, &c.,

A. D. WILKINS,
Divisional Forest Officer, Poona.

No. 4068, dated 26th February 1902.

To—The Commissioner, C. D.

Sir,

I have the honour to return the papers received with you No. 2.—2202, dated 5th June 1901, regarding the tentative classification of the forests of the Poona Division.

2. I had charge of these forests for several years as Divisional Forest Officer, but as that was as long ago as 1890, I referred the Collector's proposals to the Divisional Forest Officer for report. Mr. Wilkins has been most careful through them and has submitted a most excellent detailed report which I append for your information and I would request especially your careful perusal of statement I accompanying it.

3. The Collector treats the forest area in two sub-divisions, and I propose to follow him. He had however adopted an administrative and not a natural classification in placing the Purandhar range in the eastern sub-division. The forests of Purandhar are almost entirely situated on the slopes of the Hill Sanitarium and in the broken ground round its foot and have absolutely nothing in common with the average forests of the eastern sub-division.

4. I class the ranges therefore as follows:—

Western Sub-division.

- (1) Junnar.
- (2) Amtegunn.
- (3) Kbed.
- (4) Bhal.
- (5) Mulshi.
- (6) Haveli.
- (7) Purandhar.

Eastern Sub-division.

- (1) Siror.
- (2) Iodapur.
- (3) Dhond.
- (4) Bhisabadi.

Asst. Conservator of Forest,
Poona Forest Division, Poona.

5. I do not understand that Government desire a wholesale relegation of lands to pasture with a view to their disforestation; this would be merely undoing hurriedly what has cost so much labour and money to achieve. The spirit of the orders is rather that the Forest Department under present conditions are unable to take in hand for immediate reboisement all the bare lands included in the demarcation and Government desire that a selection be made and the balance be placed under less rigid protection under the Revenue officers until their term of reboisement arrives. The Collector's proposals are not at all on these lines, he has placed practically every acre of bare land in pasture.

Western Sub-division.

6. In this sub-division it will be noted that fuel and fodder reserves are quite the exception. With the exception of Poona and Junnar, the proposed pasture area nowhere

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nothing but thoroughly ploughing them will make it possible for seedlings to survive their first few years and gather strength to force their roots through the caked soil and subsoil. I feel of course to homogenous regeneration. A certain number of plants more or less according to local conditions will always find a soft place and effect a lodgement (and have already done so).

14. Full ploughing however is an expensive operation and with the small sum actually available for plantation operations, but slow progress can be hoped for.

15. We have started a central nursery near Poosa where it is proposed to force forward tree plants under irrigation before planting them out in forest. The experiment is in its infancy, but has already given encouraging results and should it in any way fulfil expectations, it will be possible to annually plant up 50 acres each year in each range of the Circle.

16. Further Mr. Wilkins has elaborated a scheme (now before Government) under which lands are to be given out for three years cultivation and tree seeds are to be sown with the third crop and the land resumed and placed under strict closure. In this way very large areas can be planted up annually at very small expense.

17. I give below showing the compared proposals for this sub-division:—

Range.	Total forest area.	Collector's proposals.				Divisional Forest Officer's proposals.			
		Forest proper.	Fuel reserves.	Fodder reserves.	Pasture.	Forest proper.	Fuel reserves.	Fodder reserves.	Pasture.
		A.	B.	C.	D.	A.	B.	C.	D.
	A. g.	A. g.	A. g.	A. g.	A. g.	A. g.	A. g.	A. g.	A. g.
Sircar	21,004 9	6,373 1	6,515 37	...	9,115 2	5,657 11	7,518 8	...	7,925 21
Indapur	59,858 16	.....	13,881 4	4,594 28	42,062 24	15,046 12	14,150 3	4,804 9	34,727 13
Dhond	36,259 33	10,821 18	17,253 4	...	8,189 11	13,460 11	17,253 4	...	5,556 15
Bhimchadi	35,898 31	2,601 0	6,377 8	...	26,720 23	3,518 14	7,956 7	...	24,224 12

18. The Collector has based his proposals on a classification drawn up by Mr. Osmaston. I have recently been able to discuss this with Mr. Osmaston himself. He assures me that the proposal referred to was a purely mechanical classification of lands on certain hard and fast rules followed out to the letter. The Collector's proposals are further based on personal inspection and the reports of his Assistants. Too much weight however must not be attached to this. All these officers have had their own work to do and their inspections can only have been of the most cursory nature, and such inspections are apt to be most deceptive. For instance Mr. Sheppard describes the range of hills in Dhond (paragraph 9) as follows:— "except for extremely rare cactus (i. e. euphorbia not 'prickly pear') bushes it contains no forest growth whatever". Mr. Wilkins after careful inspection is able to record (see his statement I) that in the ravines and valleys, i. e., the places where the earliest growth always appears khair, bar, bivar and even nim are coming on nicely.

19. I would invite a careful perusal of Mr. Wilkins' statement I. Under Indapur he gives for village after village notes recorded in his diary showing that considerable areas even of those classed as bare and relegated to pasture by the Collector (though not clothed with trees) are in fact well covered with young growth. In the other ranges it is the same though to a less extent.

20. As the Collector has specially mentioned certain villages of Dhond in the body of his report, I must point out that here we have exactly the conditions I have described in connection with the hill slopes of the western sub-division. Here as there removal of protection means denudation even of the "cactus bushes" and of consequently of the soil and with it of the grass and grazu.

21. It is clear in fact that the Collector's proposals include in pasture all but the tree clothed area; in other words, the existing tree-growth will have to be protected but any explanation becomes unnecessary and impossible.

22. I feel strongly tempted to ask Government to reconsider their orders and to allow the whole area to remain in charge of the Forest Department who I confidently believe will almost at once be in a position to deal with it, but until we have been able to show that our proposed measures of reboisement are effective, it will be better to make a more moderate

THIRUPATI

18/11/1911
 Collector, Forest Department

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claim. I suggest therefore that Mr. Wilkins' very moderate proposals for the eastern sub-division be accepted which will place just about half the bare area in the charge of the Forest Department. But in doing so I trust that Government will instruct the Collector to take every precaution by enforcing the responsibility of village officers and in other ways to prevent the further denudation of the pasture areas while they are in the charge of the Revenue Department.

I have, &c.,

R. C. WROUGHTON,
Conservator of Forests, C. C.

No. K.—1392, dated 1st April 1902.

Forwarded to the Collector of Poona who is requested to kindly state whether on reading Mr. Wilkins' statement No. 1 he finds reason in any case to think that Mr. Wilkins' proposed classification is right and should be preferred to that recommended by Mr. McNeill.

A. D. YOUNGHUSBAND,
Commissioner, C. D.

No. 6791, dated 24th June 1902.

To—The Commissioner, C. D.

Sir,

I have the honour to return your memorandum No. 1392, dated 1st April 1902, with accompaniments.

2. The proposals put forward by the Divisional Forest Officer and the Conservator are in effect rather a re-opening of the question of policy, which has already been decided by Government, than a criticism of Mr. Sheppard's classification, no less than 45,892 acres of the 143,072 acres classed as pasture being objected to and claimed for forest. I anticipate that Government will insist upon the carrying out of their intention that lands which cannot be properly classed as forest and which cannot be effectively managed by the Forest Department are to be definitely classed as pasture, and that this wholesale reversal of a classification arrived at after great expenditure of time and labour both by Mr. Osmaston and Mr. Sheppard will not be accepted. Mr. Sheppard generally followed Mr. Osmaston's proposals, and where changes were made this was done for special reasons and in large part after personal inspection. In the Eastern Division inspection was particularly thorough and in no case was land classed under pasture which had not been so classed by Mr. Osmaston unless it had been seen by Mr. Sheppard or by one of his Assistants.

3. I have, however, taken an opportunity of consulting Mr. Sheppard on the detailed proposals embodied in the Divisional Forest Officer's "statement No. 1", and have very briefly noted the results of our joint scrutiny in the last column of the statement. The Divisional Forest Officer's general idea seems to be that all the hill slopes should be under forest, though their reboisement or preservation under forest management is manifestly impossible, and though the attempt would merely cripple the administration of real forest land. Most of the reasons for retention which are put forward are so obviously weak that it has not been thought necessary to criticize them in detail and many are really arguments for exclusion. The Divisional Forest Officer's personal knowledge of the land refers in many cases to inspections made from 6 to 8 years ago.

4. As regards the Commissariat grass lands which are not in charge of the Commissariat Department, these were classed as pastures on the understanding that Government wished them to be so managed; but forest management would probably be better in this case, and I would recommend that they should remain with the Department.

5. The Forest Officer's scheme for planting bare cultivable lands by means of a system of short agricultural leases (Conservator's paragraph 16 and Divisional

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Forest Officer's paragraph 5) has been commented on in this office No. 213, dated 9th-11th January 1902. The scheme appears to me to be suggested by a desire to retain such land under departmental control and (apart from its merits, which are problematical) to have no real bearing upon the principles of classification to which effect has now to be given. It is obvious that pasture land can at any time if necessary be transferred to forest charge for the purpose of such experiment; but the Forest Department may be expected to show results in the first instance on their own land, and the Divisional Forest Officer admits that "in many of the areas classed as forest proper and forest reserves there are stretches of good soil which can be thus dealt with." When these are exhausted it will be time to consider whether the system should be extended to pasture. When the management of forests proper attains greater efficiency and when there is prospect of effective reboisement by wire-fencing or otherwise outside them, the question of including lands now classed as pasture can at any time be considered. As matters now stand there seems to me to be no reason why Mr. Sheppard's classification should not be accepted with the small modifications noted.

I have, &c.,

E. L. CAPPEL,
Collector of Taxes.

No. B.—3305, dated 1st August 1902.

Forwarded to Government with reference to their memorandum No. 4153, dated the 26th September 1898.

2. Government Resolution No. 5009 of the 21st ultimo shows that the arrangements hitherto in force in respect of what are known as Commissariat Kurans should continue, namely, that these areas should remain in charge of the Forest Department, but should be handed over temporarily every year to the Military authorities for removal of the grass. This is also Mr. Cappel's suggestion and no further question remains so far as these lands are concerned.

3. As regards the other classes of forest, it will be seen that Mr. Sheppard accepted Mr. Osmaston's first scheme with the following additions to the pasture area:—

Acres.

5,000 in the Purandhar Range.

4,600 in the Bhimthadi Range.

✓ 2,500 in the Dhood Range.

800 in the Junnar Range.

15 Forest numbers in the Maval Range.

4. The papers having been referred to the Conservator for his remarks, he consulted the present Divisional Forest Officer, Mr. Wilkins, who proposed the reduction of the pasture area from 1,43,072 to 97,180 acres. Mr. Wroughton demurs to the transfer to the Revenue Department of any pasture land at all, although he is willing to abide by Mr. Wilkins' proposals as embodied in his statement No. 1.

5. Mr. Cappel in consultation with Mr. Sheppard has accepted a few of these proposals. In the main however they involve, as pointed out by Mr. Cappel, a re-opening of questions of principle already settled. The Commissioner would recommend that Mr. Sheppard's classification with the modifications indicated by Mr. Cappel in statement No. 1 may be sanctioned. The directions given in clauses 3, 4 and 5 of the Government memorandum of the 28th September 1898 have been attended to as far as possible and the classification seems suitable from the revenue as well as the forest point of view.

6. Mr. Wilkins' scheme for the plantation of bare forest lands by means of a system of short agricultural leases has already been disposed of by Government Resolution No. 4610 of the 7th ultimo. The orders given in clause 6 of the Government memorandum referred to that parts of pasture lands may be given out for cultivation under the general control of the Commissioner will be attended to when the lands have been transferred to the Revenue Department.

A. D. YOUNGHUSBAND,
Commissioner, D.

COPY

महसूल विभागाच्या ताब्यात असलेल्या वनजमिनी वन विभागास परत करण्याबाबत तसेच वनजमिनीची नोंद अभिलेखात अद्यावत करण्याची कालमर्यादा ठरविण्याबाबत...

महाराष्ट्र शासन

महसूल व वन विभाग

शासन परिपत्रक क्रमांक :- एस-१०/२०१६/प्र.क्र.४१३/फ-३

मादाम कामा मार्ग, हुतात्मा राजगुरु चौक,

मंत्रालय, मुंबई ४०० ०३२,

दिनांक : ०२ डिसेंबर, २०१६.

वाचा :-

- १) शासन परिपत्रक क्र.एलएनडी-१०७६/२१८६-जी-१, दिनांक १४.०४.१९७६
- २) शासन निर्णय क्र.एस-१०/२००७/प्र.क्र.१७२/फ-३, दिनांक ०९.१०.२००७.
- ३) शासन ज्ञापन क्र.एस-१०/२०१६/प्र.क्र.४१३/फ-३, दिनांक ०४.०८.२०१६.

शासन परिपत्रक :

राज्यातील वन विभागाच्या एकूण क्षेत्रापैकी काही क्षेत्र महसूल विभागाच्या ताब्यात आहे. महसूल विभागाच्या ताब्यात असलेल्या वनक्षेत्रात काही ठिकाणी अतिक्रमण झाल्याचे निर्देशनास आले आहे. महसूल विभागाच्या ताब्यातील वनक्षेत्रापैकी काही क्षेत्राचे विविध प्रयोजनासाठी वाटप ही करण्यात आलेले आहे. महसूल विभागाच्या ताब्यात असलेल्या वनक्षेत्रावर झालेले अतिक्रमण दूर करून सदर वनक्षेत्र वन विभागाच्या ताब्यात देण्यासाठी याआधी शासनामार्फत वारंवार सूचना देण्यात आलेल्या आहेत. तथापि, अद्याप ही याबाबत अपेक्षित कार्यवाही पूर्ण झालेली नाही.

२. वनजमिनीचे संरक्षण तथा योग्य व्यवस्थापन करण्यासाठी महसूल विभागाच्या ताब्यात असलेली वन जमीन महसूल विभागाने तात्काळ वन विभागाकडे वर्ग करणे आवश्यक आहे. सबब, सर्व जिल्हाधिकारी यांनी वन विभागाशी समन्वय राखून त्यांच्या अधिनस्त असलेल्या वन जमिनीपैकी महसूल विभागामार्फत यापूर्वी वाटप करण्यात आलेले क्षेत्र वगळून उर्वरित क्षेत्रापैकी अतिक्रमण विरहित क्षेत्र वन विभागाच्या ताब्यात देण्याची कार्यवाही विनाविलंब पूर्ण करावी.

३. महसूल विभागाच्या ताब्यातील जी वनजमीन वन विभागास वर्ग करणे काही कारणास्तव शक्य नसेल, अशा जमिनीची यादी तयार करून कारणमिमांसेसह शासनास अहवाल सादर करण्यात यावा. तसेच महसूल विभागाने विविध प्रयोजनासाठी पूर्वी वाटप केलेले वनक्षेत्र व अतिक्रमीत वनक्षेत्र नियमित करण्यासाठी त्याबाबतचा वन (संवर्धन) अधिनियम, १९८० अंतर्गत प्रस्ताव शासनास तात्काळ सादर करण्यात यावा.

४. महसूल विभागाच्या ताब्यात असलेल्या वनक्षेत्रापैकी अतिक्रमण विरहित वनक्षेत्र वन विभागास परत करण्यासाठी खालीलप्रमाणे कालमर्यादा ठरवून देण्यात येत आहे :-

अ.क्र.	करावयाची कार्यवाही	संबंधित प्राधिकरण	कालमर्यादा
१	महसूल विभागाच्या ताब्यात असलेली वन जमिनीची यादी तयार करणे. दोन्ही विभागाने संयुक्तरित्या ताळमेळ घालून अंतीम यादी तयार करणे.	संबंधित जिल्हाधिकारी,	३१.१२.२०१६

शासन परिपत्रक क्रमांक : एस-१०/२०१६/प्र.क्र.४१३/फ-३

२	संबंधित जिल्हाधिकारी यांनी त्यांच्या ताब्यात असलेल्या वन जमिनीपैकी अतिक्रमण विरहित क्षेत्र वन विभागाच्या ताब्यात देण्याबाबतचे आवश्यक आदेश पारित करणे.	संबंधित जिल्हाधिकारी,	१५.०१.२०१७
३	वन विभागाने जमिनीचा प्रत्यक्ष ताबा घेणे.	संबंधित जिल्हाधिकारी, उप वनसंरक्षक	३१.०१.२०१७
४	महसूली अभिलेख गाव नमुना नंबर (७/१२) अद्यावत करणे.	संबंधित जिल्हाधिकारी,	२८.०२.२०१७

५. भारतीय वन अधिनियम, १९२७ च्या कलम ४ आणि कलम २० अंतर्गत राखीव वन अथवा कलम २९ अंतर्गत संरक्षित वन म्हणून अधिसूचित झाल्यानंतर तातडीने सदर क्षेत्राच्या गाव नमुना नंबर ७/१२ उतान्यावर त्याबाबतच्या नोंदी घेण्यात याव्यात. आजतागायत भारतीय वन अधिनियम, १९२७ च्या कलम ४/२०/२९ अंतर्गत अधिसूचित ज्या क्षेत्राबाबत गाव न. नं. ७/१२ सदरी "राखीव वन / संरक्षित वन" अशा नोंदी घेण्यात आलेल्या नाहीत, अशा क्षेत्राची यादी संबंधित उप वनसंरक्षक / विभागीय वन अधिकारी यांनी तयार करून संबंधित जिल्हाधिकारी यांच्याकडे दिनांक ३१.१२.२०१६ पर्यंत सादर करावी व त्यानुषंगाने संबंधित जिल्हाधिकारी यांनी अशा प्रकरणात आपल्या स्तरावरून खात्री करून दिनांक ३१.०१.२०१७ पर्यंत सदर क्षेत्राच्या गाव न. नं. ७/१२ उतान्यावर योग्य त्या नोंदी घेण्याची कार्यवाही संबंधित महसूल अधिकाऱ्यामार्फत पूर्ण करून घ्यावी.

६. उपरोक्त कार्यवाही या परिपत्रकान्वये दिलेल्या कालमर्यादेत पूर्ण होईल, हे संबंधित विभागीय आयुक्त यांनी सुनिश्चित करून घ्यावे. याबाबत प्रगतीचा आढावा मा.मुख्य सचिव यांचे द्वारे विभागीय आयुक्त / जिल्हाधिकारी यांच्याशी व्हिडीओ कॉन्फरन्स (VC) द्वारे होणाऱ्या बैठकीही अंतर्गत घेतला जाईल.

सदरचे परिपत्रक महसूल विभागाच्या सहमतीने निर्गमित करण्यात येत आहे.

सदर शासन परिपत्रक महाराष्ट्र शासनाच्या www.maharashtra.gov.in या संकेतस्थळावर उपलब्ध करण्यात आला असून त्याचा संकेतांक २०१६१२०२१८४५४१८५१९ असा आहे. हे शासन परिपत्रक डिजीटल स्वाक्षरीने साक्षांकित करून काढण्यात येत आहे.

महाराष्ट्राचे राज्यपाल यांच्या आदेशानुसार व नावाने,

Vikas S
Kharage

Digitally signed by Vikas S Kharage
DN: cn=Vikas S Kharage, o=Government Of Maharashtra,
ou=Revenue And Forest Department,
postalCode=400032, st=Maharashtra,
2.5.4.20=957372c3f3a12761ae9e3a40abf3
6ec83d68bdec816d0b3bef158f491cb,
cn=Vikas S Kharage
Date: 2016.12.02 18:47:27 +05'30'

(विकास खारगे)
सचिव (वने)

प्रत :-

- १) प्रधान सचिव, (महसूल), महसूल व वन विभाग, मंत्रालय, मुंबई-३२.
- २) प्रधान मुख्य वनसंरक्षक (वन बल प्रमुख), महाराष्ट्र राज्य, नागपूर.
- ३) प्रधान मुख्य वनसंरक्षक (वन्यजीव), महाराष्ट्र राज्य, नागपूर.
- ४) अपर प्रधान मुख्य वनसंरक्षक (संधारण) महाराष्ट्र राज्य, नागपूर.
- ५) विभागीय आयुक्त (सर्व).

- ६) मुख्य वनसंरक्षक (प्रादेशिक / वन्यजीव) (सर्व).
- ७) मुख्य वनसंरक्षक (भूमी अभिलेख कक्ष), नागपुर.
- ८) जिल्हाधिकारी, (सर्व)
- ९) उप वनसंरक्षक / विभागीय वन अधिकारी (सर्व).

ITEM NO.32

COURT NO.2

SECTION PIL-W

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Writ Petition(s)(Civil) No(s). 1164/2023

**ASHOK KUMAR SHARMA, INDIAN FOREST SERVICE
(RETD) & ORS.**

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA & ANR.

Respondent(s)

IA No. 133296/2024 - APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION
 IA No. 134865/2024 - APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION
 IA No. 134867/2024 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS
 IA No. 115428/2024 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS
 IA No. 10020/2024 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS
 IA No. 133300/2024 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS
 IA No. 133298/2024 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.
 IA No. 207035/2024 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.
 IA No. 115430/2024 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.
 IA No. 133301/2024 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.
 IA No. 133297/2024 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION
 IA No. 157284/2024 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION
 IA No. 134866/2024 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION
 IA No. 108937/2024 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION
 IA No. 166299/2024 - INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT
 IA No. 209063/2024 - INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT
 IA No. 108949/2024 - PERMISSION TO APPEAR AND ARGUE IN PERSON
 IA No. 240922/2023 - STAY APPLICATION
 IA No. 214764/2023 - STAY APPLICATION

WITH

W.P.(C) No. 1336/2023 (PIL-W)

(IA FOR STAY APPLICATION ON IA 247593/2023

FOR PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES ON IA 10426/2024

FOR APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS ON IA 22042/2024

FOR PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES ON IA 44469/2024

FOR impleading party ON IA 209243/2024

FOR INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT ON IA 209243/2024

IA No. 22042/2024 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS

IA No. 209243/2024 - INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT

IA No. 10426/2024 - PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL

DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES

IA No. 44469/2024 - PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL

DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES

IA No. 247593/2023 - STAY APPLICATION

W.P.(C) No. 1375/2023 (PIL-W)
 (FOR impleading party ON IA 217032/2024
 FOR INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT ON IA 217032/2024
 IA No. 217032/2024 - INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT

W.P.(C) No. 42/2024 (PIL-W)
 (IA No. 14901/2024 - GRANT OF INTERIM RELIEF

W.P.(C) No. 85/2024 (PIL-W)
 (FOR EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T. ON IA 30155/2024
 IA No. 30155/2024 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.

W.P.(C) No. 152/2024 (PIL-W)
 (FOR STAY APPLICATION ON IA 55916/2024
 IA No. 55916/2024 - STAY APPLICATION)

Date : 03-02-2025 These matters were called on for hearing today.

CORAM :

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE B.R. GAVAI
 HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE K. VINOD CHANDRAN

For Petitioner(s) :

Mr. Gopal Sankaranarayanan, Sr. Adv.
 Mr. Satyajit Sarna, Adv.
 Mr. Prashant Padmanabhan, AOR
 Mr. Sudev Juneja, Adv.
 Mr. Vishal Sinha, Adv.

Mr. Prashanto Chandra Sen, Sr. Adv.
 Mr. Kaushik Choudhury, AOR
 Ms. Shibani Ghosh, Adv.
 Mr. Saksham Garg, Adv.
 Mr. Jyotirmoy Chatterjee, Adv.

Ms. Anitha Shenoy, Sr. Adv.
 Ms. Srishti Agnihotri, AOR
 Ms. Ayushma Awasthi, Adv.
 Ms. Himanshi Gupta, Adv.
 Ms. Sanjana Grace Thomas, Adv.
 Ms. Shreepurna Dasgupta, Adv.

Mr. Shyam Divan, Sr. Adv.
 Ms. Madhusmita Bora, AOR
 Mr. Dipankar Singh, Adv.

Mr. Prashant Bhushan, AOR
 Ms. Neha Rathi, Adv.
 Mr. Kamal Kishore, Adv.
 Ms. Kajal Giri, Adv.

Mr. Balraj Singh Malik, Adv.

Mrs. Tannu, Adv.
 Ms. Bano Deswal, Adv.
 Mr. R. C. Kaushik, AOR

For Respondent(s) :

Ms. Aishwarya Bhati, A.S.G.
 Mr. Gurmeet Singh Makker, AOR
 Ms. Ruchi Kohli, Adv.
 Ms. Bani Dixit, Adv.
 Mr. Rajat Nair, Adv.
 Mr. Sridhar Pottaraju, Adv.
 Mr. Kanu Agarwal, Adv.

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 Ms. Bani Dikshit, Adv.
 Bani Dkshit, Adv.
 Rajat Nair, Adv.
 Mr. Rajat Nair, Adv.
 Mr. Sridhar Potaraju, Adv.
 Sridhar Potaraju, Adv.
 Mr. Kanu Agrawal, Adv.
 Kanu Agrawal, Adv.
 Umesh Babu Chourasia, Adv.
 Dr. N. Visakamurthy, AOR

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 Ms. Eliza Bar, Adv.

Mr. Debojit Borkakati, AOR

Mr. Pukhrambam Ramesh Kumar, AOR
 Mr. Karun Sharma, Adv.
 Ms. Anupama Ngangom, Adv.
 Ms. Rajkumari Divyasana, Adv.

Mr. Tejaswi Kumar Pradhan, AOR
 Mr. Pranab Samantray, Adv.
 Mr. Manoranjan Paikaray, Adv.

Mr. Prakash Ranjan Nayak, AOR
 Mr. Debasis Jena, Adv.

Mr. Abhishek Atrey, AOR
 Dr. Abhishek Atrey, Adv.
 Ms. Ishita Bist, Adv.
 Ms. Ambika Atrey, Adv.
 Ms. Jyoti Verma, Adv.
 Mr. Navneet Gupta, Adv.

Mr. Nishe Rajen Shonker, AOR
 Mrs. Anu K Joy, Adv.

Mr. Alim Anvar, Adv.
Mr. Santhosh K, Adv.

Applicant-in-person

Mr. Naveen Kumar, AOR
Ms. Aprajita Bhardwaj, Adv.
Mr. Shourajeet Chakravarty, Adv.
Mr. Nitesh Bhandari, Adv.
Ms. Stuti Bisht, Adv.
Mr. Prabhat Kumar Rai, Adv.
Mr. Maitreya, Adv.
Mr. Aditya Goyal, Adv.
Mr. Ujjawal Kumar Rai, Adv.
Ms. Esha Kumar, Adv.
Ms. Nidhi Singh, Adv.
Mr. Utkarsh Chandra, Adv.

Mr. P.P. Hegde, Sr. Adv.
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Mr. Atul Shankar Vinod, AOR
Mr. Dileep Pillai, Adv.
Mr. Kannan Gopal Vinod, Adv.

Ms. K. Enatoli Sema, Adv.
Ms. Limayinla Jamir, Adv.
Mr. Amit Kumar Singh, Adv.
Ms. Chubalemla Chang, Adv.
Mr. Prang Newmai, Adv.

**UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following
O R D E R**

1. Issue notice in I.A. NOS.115428/2024, 28902/2025 & 22042/2024.
2. Ms. Aishwarya Bhati, learned Additional Solicitor General of India states that replies to these applications would be filed within a period of three weeks from today.
3. She further states that a Status Report would also be placed before this Court by the next date of hearing.
4. We make it clear that until further orders, no steps will be taken by the Union of India or any of the States, which will lead to reduction of the forest land unless a compensatory land is

provided either by the State Government or the Union of India for the purpose of afforestation.

5. List on 04.03.2025, high up on the Board.

(NARENDRA PRASAD)
DEPUTY REGISTRAR

(ANJU KAPOOR)
COURT MASTER

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN
TRIBUNAL, WESTERN ZONE, PUNE

Original Application No.199 of 2024

In the matter of :

News item titled “ Forest Dept. Struggling to

Regain

Applicant

Versus

Principle Chief Conservator of Forests.

& others

Respondents

Reply Affidavit of Respondent No.1

DATED 28th February,2025

D.M.GUPTA

ADVOCATE FOR RESPONDENT
NO.1

3,LAXMAN APARTMENT

25/26, OLD TOPKHAHANA,

S'NAGAR, PUNE – 411 005

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