

**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**

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Adv. S. B. vaidya



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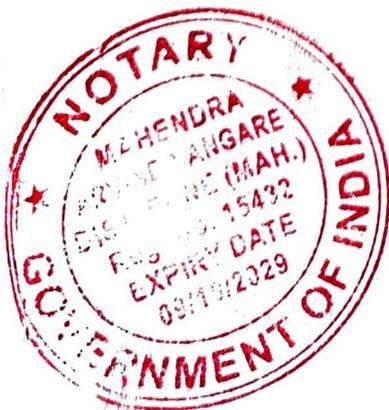
- Respondents

(H.O.F.F) M.S. Nagpur and Others

**Affidavit in Reply on behalf of Respondent Nos. 3.**

I, Jitendra Dudi, age 34 years, working as District Collector Pune, Dist. Pune hereby solemnly affirm as a Respondent Nos. 3 as under :-

1. I say that, in the present O.A. cognizance has been taken by the Hon'ble Tribunals on a news item 'Forest Department Struggling to regain 14000 Hectors of Land in Pune' appearing in the Hindustan Times dated 28.08.2024. The issue raised appears to be that about 14000 hectors of reserve forest land still remains with the revenue department and reclamation of the said land includes several challenges like litigation, existing encroachments and lease proposals etc.
2. 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.



3. I Say that, it appears that from the record that, the year 1902 to 1907 the Forest Department handed over the reserve forest lands of apporx. an area of 95183 Hecter R to the revenue department for management. Then after it appears that, in view of the scheme namely Grow More Food issued by the Government, most of the reserve forest lands of an area approximately 11349 Hecter R have been allotted to the farmers for cultivation.
4. I say that, in the year 2016 the State Government decided that the reserved forest in possession of the Revenue Department should be returned back to the Forest Department. Accordingly The State Government issued GR in that respect on 02.12.2016. It is stated in the said GR that, if any reserve forest land cannot be handed over to the forest department by the revenue department then the list be prepared of the said lands along with the reasons and submit detailed proposal before the Government. Further regarding the reserve forest lands which have been allotted earlier for various purposes and the encroached forest lands separate proposal should be submitted under Forest (conservation) Rules, 1980 for Regularization. The state Government given time bound program for carrying out the said activity.
5. I say that, in view of the said GR, the Collector Office has started to collect the information from all the Talukas in which the Forest lands were allotted. The Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case WP No.1164/2023 of Ashok kumar 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. It is submitted that, considering the both above aspects, the Revenue Department initiated process of collecting details to submit proposal to the Government in view of the GR dated 02.12.2016.



- 6. I say that, as on today approx. area of 2,294 Hector R of reserve forest lands are remained with the revenue department in Pune District. The revenue Department will ascertain the status of the said lands and will proceed further regarding to return back the same to the Forest Department.
- 7. I say that, in view of the above appropriate order may be passed.

Respondent no. 3

**VERIFICATION**

I, Shri. Jitendra Dudi, age 34 years, working as District Collector Pune, Dist. Pune do hereby solemnly affirm 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  
This 23<sup>th</sup> day of April 2025



*Jitendra*  
Jitendra Dudi  
District Collector Pune

Settled and drafted by

(Adv. S. B. Vaidya-Pandit)

**BEFORE ME**

*Mahendra A. Nangare*

MAHENDRA ARVIND NANGARE  
NOTARY, GOVT. OF INDIA  
PUNE DIST. MAHARASHTRA  
Regd. No. 15432 Exp. Dt. 09/10/2029

**NOTED AND REGISTERED**  
**AT SR. NO. 760/2025**  
**DATE 23 APR 2025**

