

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI (SZ)  
APPEAL NO.30 OF 2024**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

M/s. Srimex Mines & Minerals,  
Hyderabad.

...Applicant(s)

- Vs-

MoEF & CC, Rep. by its Secretary,  
New Delhi and ors.

...Respondent(s)

**COUNTER AFFIDAVIT FILED BY DISTRICT FOREST  
OFFICER-R3**

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Place: Chennai

Date: 06.02.2025

Mrs. H. Yasmeen Ali,  
Standing counsel for 4<sup>nd</sup> Respondent

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI

(Under Section 18(1) r/w S. 16 (i) of National Green Tribunal Act, 2010)

Appeal No. 30 of 2024 (SZ)

Between :

M/s. Srimex Mines & Minerals,  
Represented by its proprietor, Sri B. Janga Reddy,  
H.No. 9-7-199, Street No.2, Maruthi Nagar,  
Opp: Santosh Nagar Colony, Champapet,  
Hyderabad – 500059,  
Email:- [aartimundhra13@gmail.com](mailto:aartimundhra13@gmail.com)  
Phone: 965125089

...Applicant / Appellant

AND

- The Ministry of Environment,  
Forest and Climate Change**  
Rep. by its Secretary,  
Indira Paravaran Bhavan  
Jorbagh Road New Delhi – 110 003  
Email – [mefcc@gov.in](mailto:mefcc@gov.in)  
Ph.No.- +91-11-2301196
  - State Environmental Impact Assessment, Authority (SEIAA)**  
Rep. by its Member Secretary  
305, Maithrivihar,  
Ameerpet, Hyderabad  
Email id – Not known  
Ph.No . – Not known
  - The District Forest Officer,  
Office of the District Forest Officer**  
Rangareddy, Telangana.  
Email: [dforangareddy@gmail.com](mailto:dforangareddy@gmail.com)  
Ph.No.: 9440810107
- ... Respondents/Respondents



ATTESTOR  
Forest Range Officer  
Hyderabad, Central.




DEPONENT

District Forest Officer  
Ranga Reddy

**COUNTER AFFIDAVIT FILED BY THE RESPONDENT No. 3**

I, D. Sudhakar Reddy, S/o. D. Satyanarayana Reddy, aged about 57 years, Occ: District Forest Officer, Ranga Reddy District, do hereby solemnly affirm and state on oath as follows :

1. I am the Respondent No. 3 herein, and as such, well acquainted with the facts of the case. I have gone through the contents of the affidavit filed in support of Appeal and deny all the allegations made therein except those which are specifically admitted herein.
2. It is submitted that the averments made in paras 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 require no specific reply by this respondent.
3. In reply to para no. 6 it is respectfully submitted the petitioner stated that, he met the District Forest Officer, Rangareddy during April, 2023 and as per the advice of the District Forest Officer, Rangareddy he approached the Forest Range Officer. The contention of the petitioner meeting the Forest Range Officer as per advice of the District Forest Officer, Rangareddy is doubted as the period mentioned by the petitioner is almost 2 year back.

  
ATTESTOR  
Forest Range Officer  
Hyderabad, Central.

  
DEPONENT


District Forest Officer  
Ranga Reddy

4. It is submitted that, the averments made in para 7 to 16, the Petitioner has made allegation on the Forest Range Officer and the District Forest Officer, Rangareddy vide Rc. No. 704/2021/S6, Dt. 25.11.2024 has called a detailed report in the matter. The Forest Range Officer, Amangal vide Rc.No. Mine/AMGL/2024, Dt. 26.11.2024 has submitted the following fact in the report

- He has not submitted any report regarding verification and inspection of land bearing Sy. No. 22 situated at Cheepununthala village, Talakondapally Mandal Rangareddy District to owner of the Srimex.
- The Owner of the M/s. Srimex Mines & Minerals had requested him to take the letter from the District Forest Officer, Rangareddy as he was in District Forest Officer office on that day. Though it was not concerned with him, on the request of Proprietor M/s. Srimex Mines & Minerals he had taken the letter from District Forest Officer Office and informed over photo to M/s. Srimex Mines & Minerals, but he could not meet on 18.05.2023
- On 20.05.2023 M/s. Srimex Mines & Minerals proprietor came to his office and he had handed over the letter duly taking the acknowledgement. After works the proprietor M/s. Srimex Mines & Minerals has not given any letter to him. He had given the letter to proprietor of M/s. Srimex Mines & Minerals on 20.05.2023 only. But Petitioner has mentioned in affidavit that on 03.06.2023 or 04.06.2023 he has given letter is not correct. The FRO, Amangal further stated that, the Petitioner has willfully mentioned the wrong

dates.

  
ATTESTOR  
Forest Range Officer  
Hyderabad, Central.

  
DEPONENT  
District Forest Officer  
Ranga Reddy

Based on the above Forest Range Officer, Amangal report, the factual report was submitted to the Standing Counsel, NGT vide this office reference No. 704/2021/S6, Dt. 27.11.2024.

5. It is submitted the averments made in para 17,18,19 and 20, no remarks as the contents are connected with SEIAA
6. I respectfully submit that the local people of Cheepununthala Village have made a complaint to the Principal Chief Conservation of Forests, Head of Forest Forces, alleging that the petitioner herein is carrying out illegal mining operations in forest area. Against the said complaint, the District Forest Officer, Vigilance-II inspected the area and submitted a report to the Prl. Chief Conservation of Forests, Head of Forest Forces, vide Rc.No.1877/2021/Vig-1, dated 05.08.2022 stating that as per the records available and on the field inspection of mining area, it was found that the petitioner has encroached the land to an extent of about 6 acres of (2.488 Ha) of Padkal RF land, and hence, the allegation made against the petitioner is proved. I further submit that the Forest Divisional Officer, Amangal submitted a report vide in Rc.No.278/2021/S4, Dt.29.04.2023 stating that the Inspector of Survey and Land Records has submitted his report stating that as per the field survey with reference to the Village Map of Padakal Village and Cheepununthala Village, forest pillars in Sy.No.274 of Padakal Village is Reserve Forest Area and the Sy.No.22 of

  
ATTESTOR  
Forest Range Officer  
Hyderabad, Central.

  
DEPONENT

District Forest Officer  
Ranga Reddy

Cheepununthala Village is a Government land, the Mining lease area is in Sy.No.22 of Cheepununthala Village, which is Government land of Talakondapally Mandal. As there are two contradictory reports by the District Forest Office, Vigilance-II O/o Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Forces, and Assistant Director, Survey and Land records, Rangareddy District, the Regional Joint Director / Deputy Director, Survey Land Records, was requested to fix up a date for conducting Joint inspection of the Padkal Reserve Forest of Amangal Range of Amangal Division to settle the issue for taking further action.

7. Further it is to submit boundary between Padkhal and Cheepununthala villages is to be fixed by the Regional Joint Director/Regional Deputy Director, so that it can be confirmed whether mining is done in Sy.No.22 of Cheepununthala village or in Forest area of Padkhal village in the name of Revenue land in Sy.No.22 of Cheepununthala village.

8. I respectfully submit that the land in Sy.No. 22 of Cheepununthala Village was allotted to petitioner for mining operations is adjacent to the Padkal Reserve Forest Block and the distance between the boundary of Reserve Forest Block and mining area is minimum 13 Mtrs to maximum 70 Mtrs. I submit that as per the guidelines issued in Memo No.906/P/2014-2, dated 23.07.2022 by the 2<sup>nd</sup> respondent, the minimum distance shall be maintained from mining areas to the nearest habitation, nearest water body and Reserve Forest is as follows.

  
ATTESTOR  
Forest Range Officer  
Hyderabad, Central.

  
DEPONENT

District Forest Officer  
Ranga Reddy

1. Nearest Human Habitation : 200 Mts.
2. Nearest Water body : 50 Mts.
3. Reserve Forest : 50 Mts.

9. I respectfully submit that the petitioner is conducting mining operations illegally without maintaining the minimum distance as specified in the Memo No. 906/P/2014-2, dated 23.07.2022, and as such, it is not entitled for renewal of lease.

For the reasons stated above, it is prayed that the Hon'ble Green Tribunal (SZ) Sitting at Chennai may be pleased to dismiss the writ petition with costs as devoid of merits, in the interest of justice.

Sworn and signed before me

On this the 5<sup>th</sup> day of Feb, 2025

At Hyderabad.

  
DEPONENT

Before me

District Forest Officer  
Ranga Reddy

  
ATTESTOR  
Forester  
Hyderabad, Central.

**VERIFICATION STATEMENT**

I, D. Sudhakar Reddy, S/o. D. Satyanarayana Reddy, aged about 57 years, Occ: District Forest Officer, Ranga Reddy District, do hereby verify and declare that the contents stated in the above counter-affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, and based on records. Hence, verified on this the 5<sup>th</sup> day of Feb, 2025, at Hyderabad.

  
**DEPONENT**

District Forest Officer  
Ranga Reddy