

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI

Appeal No. 48 of 2025 (SZ)

M/s. Rajamalai Metals,

Represented by its partner Varun Ponnusamy,

No.3/350H, Jeya complex,

Main road, Padlur village,

Perambalur District 621 109

Ph. 90424 04030

Email: rajamalaimetals3@gmail.com

...Appellant

Vs

State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA),

Rep. by its Member Secretary,

No. 327, 9th floor, CMRL MetroS,

Anna Salai, Nandanam,

Chennai 600 035

Email: seiaamstn@gmail.com

Phone No. 044-24359973

...Respondent

INDEX

S.NO	DESCRIPTION	Pg. NO
1.	Counter Affidavit filed on behalf of the 1 st Respondent	1-3
2.	Annexure – I – 587 th SEAC Minutes of Meeting	4-5
3.	Annexure – II – 859 th SEIAA Minutes of Meeting	6-8
4.	Annexure – III – Rejection letter	9-10

Dated at Chennai on this the 22nd Day of June, 2026



COUNSEL FOR 1st RESPONDENT

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI
Appeal No. 48 of 2025 (SZ)**

M/s. Rajamalai Metals,
Represented by its partner Varun Ponnusamy
No. 3/350H, Jeya Complex,
Main Road, Padlur Village,
Perambalur District-621109
Mob. 9042404030
E-mail-Rajamalaimetals3@gmail.com

... Appellant

Vs

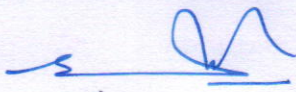
1.State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA),
Rep. by its Member Secretary,
No.327 Metros, 9th Floor, Anna Salai,
Nandanam, Chennai- 600 035
Email: seiaamstn@gmail.com
Phone No. 044-24359973

... Respondents

**COUNTER AFFIDAVIT FILED ON BEHALF OF SEIAA – TAMIL NADU,
THE 1st RESPONDENT**

I, A.R. Rahul Nadh, I.A.S., aged about 38 years, working as Member Secretary, State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Tamil Nadu (SEIAA-TN) having office at No.327 Metros, 9th Floor, Anna Salai, Nandanam, Chennai- 600 035 do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows:

1. I am filing this counter affidavit on behalf of the 1st Respondent herein and as such I am well acquainted with the facts and the circumstances of the case from the records available in this office.
2. I state that I have perused the appeal and deny the averments and allegations stated therein except those that are specifically admitted hereunder and put the Appellant to strict proof of the same.


1/4
Member Secretary
STATE LEVEL ENVIRONMENT IMPACT
ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY - TAMIL NADU
No. 327, Metros, 9th Floor,
Anna Salai, Nandanam, Chennai-600 035.

3. It is respectfully submitted that the project proponent M/s. Rajamalai Metals, had applied to SEIAA-TN for Grant of Term of Reference for the Proposed Rough stone Quarry lease over an extent of 1.40.0 Ha at S.F. Nos. 10/1 (Block 4), Padalur (East), Alathur Taluk, Perambalur District, Tamil Nadu vide online application no. SIA/TN/MIN/542584/2025, Dated: 25/06/2025. This project is covered under Category "B1" of Item 1(a) "Mining of Minerals" of the Schedule to the EIA Notification, 2006 as amended.
4. It is respectfully submitted that the proposal was placed in the 587th meeting of SEAC-I held on 07.07.2025 and the Project Proponent made a presentation through his consultant during the meeting. Based on the presentation and documents submitted, *"Based on the presentation made by the project proponent, The Committee decided **not to recommend** the Terms of Reference (ToR) proposal due to the following factors:*
1. *The mining plan has been badly drafted as it has been superimposed on an already mined area which has been mined to a depth of 71 metres. The Committee is unable to understand how an already fully mined quarry can once again be proposed together with a portion being a fresh proposal.*
 2. *There also appears to be an ill-motive in proposing such a site. Hence, the Commissioner Geology and Mining may be informed of such poorly drafted mining plans that has resulted in a full-fledged tender and participation by the tenderers even when most of the area has already been mined.*
 3. *No particulars were made available by the AD mines explaining the deeply quarried areas.*
 4. *Also, the entire area is dotted by heavily mined quarries that have been mined in an unscientific manner.*
 5. *Further, there has been environmental degradation due to unscientific mining and such cannot be given post facto approval even in an indirect manner.*
 6. *While going through the online KML satellite image, it is evident that the*

deep quarries have happened only in the past five years. This is the subject of a deeper enquiry by the Department and hence cannot be processed any further.

Given these findings and the lack of application of mind by the District authorities related Mining department, the Committee rejects this proposal as it found the site unsuitable for the proposed activities and rejected the ToR proposal to prioritize environmental safety."

5. It is respectfully submitted that the proposal was subsequently placed in the 859th meeting held on 24.07.2025.

"The Authority, after detailed deliberations, decided to accept the decision of SEAC-1 and reject the proposal. Hence, the file is closed and recorded."

6. It is submitted that the reasons and issues raised by both the SEAC and SEIAA to reject the proposal is genuine and exposes an apprehended illegality

in the mining plan itself and thus had rightly rejected the proposal for the

reasons as stated in the impugned order.

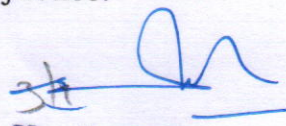
7. It is respectfully submitted that the rejection of TOR was issued on 02/08/2025.

It is therefore prayed that this Hon'ble Tribunal may be pleased to record and pass orders as this Hon'ble Tribunal may deem to fit and proper in light of the facts and circumstances of this case and thus render justice.

Solemnly affirmed in Chennai

On this the 12th of January 2026

signed his name in my presence


Member Secretary
STATE LEVEL ENVIRONMENT IMPACT
ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY - TAMIL NADU
 No. 327, Metros, 9th Floor,
 Anna Salai, Chennai-600 035.

D. Arvind
(Ms. 317/2003)
(No. 104, Law chambers
Highcourt, Madras)
 Advocate, Chennai

Institutions - CSIR-Central Institute of Mining & Fuel Research / Dhanbad, NIRM/Bangalore, Division of Geotechnical Engineering-IIT-Madras, NIT-Dept of Mining Engg, Surathkal, and Anna University Chennai-CEG Campus.

4. The proponent shall furnish photographs of adequate fencing, green belt along the periphery including replantation of existing trees & safety distance between the adjacent quarries & water bodies nearby provided as per the approved mining plan.
5. The Proponent shall carry out Bio diversity study and the same shall be included in EIA Report.
6. The PP shall prepare the EMP for the entire life of mine and also furnish the sworn affidavit stating to abide the EMP for the entire life of mine.
7. The PP shall prepare a conceptual working plan accommodating the remedial actions such as inclusion of haul road accessibility keeping the benches intact, based on the studies carried out to assess the slope stability of the working benches to be constructed and existing quarry wall apart from the proposed mining methodology.

Agenda No: 587-03

File No: 12359/2025

Proposed Rough stone Quarry lease over an extent of 1.40.0 Ha at S.F. Nos. 10/1 (Block 4), Padalur (East), Alathur Taluk, Perambalur District, Tamil Nadu, By M/s. Rajamalai Metals, - For Terms of Reference. (SIA/TN/MIN/542584/2025, Dated: 25/06/2025)

The proposal was placed in the 587th SEAC -I Meeting held on 07.07.2025. The details of the project furnished by the proponent are given on the website (parivesh.nic.in).

The SEAC-I noted the following:

1. The Project Proponent, M/s. Rajamalai Metals has applied for Terms of Reference for the Proposed Rough stone Quarry lease over an extent of 1.40.0 Ha at S.F. Nos. 10/1 (Block 4), Padalur (East), Alathur Taluk, Perambalur District, Tamil Nadu.
2. The project/activity is covered under Category "B1" of Item 1(a) "Mining of

mineral" of the Schedule to the EIA Notification, 2006.

3. The lease period is 5 years. The mining plan is for a period of 5 years, and the production should not exceed 1,59,950 cu.m of rough stone and, with an ultimate mining depth of 81m (RL 187m – RL 106m) (61m AGL + 20m BGL) XY-AB = 76m (56m AGL + 20m BGL) XY-CD = 41m AGL. The annual peak production is 41,500 cu.m of rough stone

Committee's Decision:

Based on the presentation made by the project proponent, The Committee decided not to recommend the Terms of Reference (ToR) proposal due to the following factors:

1. The mining plan has been badly drafted as it has been superimposed on an already mined area which has been mined to a depth of 71 metres. The Committee is unable to understand how an already fully mined quarry can once again be proposed together with a portion being a fresh proposal.
2. There also appears to be an ill-motive in proposing such a site. Hence, the Commissioner Geology and Mining may be informed of such poorly drafted mining plans that has resulted in a full-fledged tender and participation by the tenderers even when most of the area has already been mined.
3. No particulars were made available by the AD mines explaining the deeply quarried areas.
4. Also, the entire area is dotted by heavily mined quarries that have been mined in an unscientific manner.
5. Further, there has been environmental degradation due to unscientific mining and such cannot be given post facto approval even in an indirect manner.
6. While going through the online KML satellite image, it is evident that the deep quarries have happened only in the past five years. This is the subject of a deeper enquiry by the Department and hence cannot be processed any further.

Given these findings and the lack of application of mind by the District authorities related Mining department, the Committee rejects this proposal as it found the site unsuitable for the proposed activities and rejected the ToR proposal to prioritize environmental safety.

MINUTES

859th MEETING

**STATE LEVEL ENVIRONMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT
AUTHORITY-TAMIL NADU**

Date:24.07.2025.

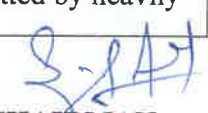
	214/3D1A, 214/3D1B, Alathiyur Village, Sendurai Taluk and Ariyalur District by M/s. THE INDIA CEMENTS LIMITED - For Terms of Reference. (SIA/TN/MIN/29432/2018)		
3.	Proposed Rough stone Quarry lease over an extent of 1.40.0 Ha at S.F. Nos. 10/1 (Block 4), Padalur (East), Alathur Taluk, Perambalur District, Tamil Nadu, By M/s. Rajamalai Metals, - For Terms of Reference. (SIA/TN/MIN/542584/2025)	12359	The Authority noted that the subject was placed in the 587th meeting of SEAC-I held on 07.07.2025. Based on the presentation made by the project proponent, The SEAC-I decided not to recommend the Terms of Reference (ToR) proposal due to the following factors: 1. The mining plan has been badly drafted as it has been superimposed on an already mined area which has been mined to a depth of 71 metres. The Committee is unable to understand how an already fully mined quarry can once again be proposed together with a portion being a fresh proposal. 2. There also appears to be an ill-motive in proposing such a site. Hence, the Commissioner Geology and Mining may be informed of such poorly drafted mining plans that has resulted in a full-fledged tender and participation by the tenderers even when most of the area has already been mined. 3. No particulars were made available by the AD mines explaining the deeply quarried areas. 4. Also, the entire area is dotted by heavily



MEMBER SECRETARY

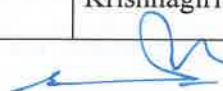


MEMBER



CHAIRMAN
SEIAA-TN

			mined quarries that have been mined in an unscientific manner. 5. Further, there has been environmental degradation due to unscientific mining and such cannot be given post facto approval even in an indirect manner. 6. While going through the online KML satellite image, it is evident that the deep quarries have happened only in the past five years. This is the subject of a deeper enquiry by the Department and hence cannot be processed any further. Given these findings and the lack of application of mind by the District authorities related Mining department, the Committee rejects this proposal as it found the site unsuitable for the proposed activities and rejected the ToR proposal to prioritize environmental safety. The Authority, after detailed deliberations, decided to accept the decision of SEAC-1 and reject the proposal. Hence, the file is closed and recorded. Further, any appeal against this rejection shall lie with the National Green Tribunal, if preferred, within a period of 30 days as prescribed under Section 16 of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010.
4.	Proposed Rough Stone Quarry over an extent of 2.00.0 Ha in S.F. No. 738 (Part-2) of Thandarai Village, Denkanikottai Taluk, Krishnagiri District, Tamil Nadu	12360	The Authority noted that the subject was placed in the 587 th meeting of SEAC-I held on 07.07.2025. The SEAC-I has furnished its recommendations for granting Terms of Reference subject to the conditions stated



MEMBER SECRETARY



MEMBER



CHAIRMAN
SEIAA-TN



सत्यमेव जयते

File No: 12359
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Issued by the State Environment Impact Assessment
Authority(SEIAA), TAMIL NADU)



Dated 02/08/2025



To,

Thiru.V.Kamalasekar
M/s. Rajamalai Metals
No. 3/350H, Jeya Complex, Main Road, Padlur Village, Perambalur District, TAMIL NADU-621109
rajamalaimetals3@gmail.com

Sub: Rejection of Terms of Reference (ToR) to the proposed Project under the EIA Notification 2006-and as amended thereof -regarding.

- Ref:1. Application for Terms of Reference Dated: 25.06.2025
2. Online Proposal No. SIA/TN/MIN/542584/2025, Dated: 25/06/2025
3. Minutes of the 587th SEAC -I Meeting held on 07.07.2025
4. Minutes of the 859th SEIAA meeting held on 24.07.2025

Sir,

This is in reference to your application submitted to SEIAA-TN vide proposal number SIA/TN/MIN/542584/2025 for Proposed Rough stone Quarry lease over an extent of 1.40.0 Ha at S.F. Nos. 10/1 (Block 4), Padalur (East), Alathur Taluk, Perambalur District, Tamil Nadu - **Rejection of Terms of Reference (ToR)** to the project under the provision of the EIA Notification 2006-and as amended thereof

The particulars of the proposal are as below :

(i) TOR Identification No.	TO25B0108TN5770304N
(ii) File No.	12359
(iii) Clearance Type	Fresh ToR
(iv) Category	B1
(v) Project/Activity Included Schedule No.	1(a) Mining of minerals
(vi) Name of Project	PADALUR(EAST)VILLAGE, Rough Stone Quarry Belongs to M/s. Rajamalai Metals.
(vii) Name of Company/Organization	RAJAMALAI METALS
(viii) Location of Project (District, State)	PERAMBALUR, TAMIL NADU
(ix) Issuing Authority	SEIAA
(x) Applicability of General Conditions	no

SEAC REMARKS:

The proposal was placed in the 587th SEAC -I Meeting held on 07.07.2025. The details of the project furnished by the proponent are given on the website (parivesh.nic.in).

The SEAC-1 noted the following:

1. The Project Proponent, M/s. Rajamalai Metals has applied for Terms of Reference for the Proposed Rough stone Quarry lease over an extent of 1.40.0 Ha at S.F. Nos. 10/1 (Block 4), Padalur (East), Alathur Taluk, Perambalur District, Tamil Nadu.
 2. The project/activity is covered under Category "B1" of Item 1(a) "Mining of mineral" of the Schedule to the EIA Notification, 2006.
 3. The lease period is 5 years. The mining plan is for a period of 5 years, and the production should not exceed 1,59,950 cu.m of rough stone and, with an ultimate mining depth of 81m (RL 187m – RL 106m) (61m AGL + 20m BGL) XY-AB = 76m (56m AGL + 20m BGL) XY-CD = 41m AGL. The annual peak production is 41,500 cu.m of rough stone
- Committee's Decision:

Based on the presentation made by the project proponent, The Committee decided not to recommend the Terms of Reference (ToR) proposal due to the following factors:

1. The mining plan has been badly drafted as it has been superimposed on an already mined area which has been mined to a depth of 71 metres. The Committee is unable to understand how an already fully mined quarry can once again be proposed together with a portion being a fresh proposal.
 2. There also appears to be an ill-motive in proposing such a site. Hence, the Commissioner Geology and Mining may be informed of such poorly drafted mining plans that has resulted in a full-fledged tender and participation by the tenderers even when most of the area has already been mined.
 3. No particulars were made available by the AD mines explaining the deeply quarried areas.
 4. Also, the entire area is dotted by heavily mined quarries that have been mined in an unscientific manner.
 5. Further, there has been environmental degradation due to unscientific mining and such cannot be given post facto approval even in an indirect manner.
 6. While going through the online KML satellite image, it is evident that the deep quarries have happened only in the past five years. This is the subject of a deeper enquiry by the Department and hence cannot be processed any further.
- Given these findings and the lack of application of mind by the District authorities related Mining department, the Committee rejects this proposal as it found the site unsuitable for the proposed activities and **rejected the ToR proposal** to prioritize environmental safety.

SEIAA REMARKS:

The Authority noted that the subject was placed in the 587th meeting of SEAC-I held on 07.07.2025.

The Authority, after detailed deliberations, **decided to accept the decision of SEAC-1 and reject the proposal. Hence, the file is closed and recorded.**

Further, any appeal against this rejection shall lie with the National Green Tribunal, if preferred, within a period of 30 days as prescribed under Section 16 of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010.

Additional Terms of Reference

N/A

Annexure 1

Send Approval Copy To (In case of multiple use comma as separator)

Signature Not Verified

Digitally Signed by : A R Rahul Nadh IAS
Member Secretary, SEIAA

Date: 02/08/2025

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE
NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI**

Appeal No. 48 of 2025 (SZ)

M/s. Rajamalai Metals,

Represented by its partner Varun Ponnusamy,

No.3/350H, Jeya complex,

Main road, Padlur village,

Perambalur District 621 109

Ph. 90424 04030

Email: rajamalaimetals3@gmail.com

...Appellant

Vs

**State Level Environment Impact Assessment
Authority (SEIAA),**

Rep. by its Member Secretary,

And Another

...Respondent

COUNTER AFFIDAVIT OF 1st RESPONDENT

COUNSEL FOR 1st RESPONDENTS

S. SAI SATHYAJITH