

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL**

**SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI**

**Appeal No. 41 of 2025 (SZ)**

Thiru. J. Napoleon,  
S/o. Jesurajan,  
No.41, Bharatha Street,  
Kottar, Nagercoil, Agatheeswaram,  
Kanniyakumari District 629 002  
Ph. 98844 225653  
Email: tmnaveen@gmail.com

**...Appellant**

Vs

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

Rep. by its Member Secretary,  
No. 327, 9<sup>th</sup> floor, CMRL MetroS,  
Anna Salai, Nandanam,  
Chennai 600 035  
Email: [seiaamstn@gmail.com](mailto:seiaamstn@gmail.com)  
Phone No. 044-24359973

**...Respondent**

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Dated at chennai on this the 25th Day of December, 2025



COUNSEL FOR 1<sup>st</sup> RESPONDENT

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

**Appeal No.41 of 2025 (SZ)**

Thiru. Napoleon J,  
S/o Jesurajan,  
No.41, Bharatha Street,  
Kottar, Nagerkoil, Agatheeswaram,  
Kanniyakumari District-629002  
Mob- 9884422653  
Email-tmnaveen@gmail.com

**... Appellant**

**Vs**

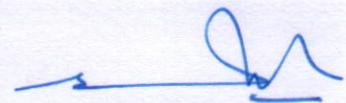
1. **State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA),**  
Through the Member Secretary,  
9<sup>th</sup> Floor, MetroS(CMRL Building),  
Nandanam, Chennai-600035,  
Email: [seiaamstn@gmail.com](mailto:seiaamstn@gmail.com)  
Phone No. 044-24359973

**... Respondents**

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

I, A.R. Rahul Nadh, I.A.S., aged about 37 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.



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

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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.
3. It is respectfully submitted that the project proponent, Thiru. J. Neppoleon has applied for Environmental Clearance for the Proposed Rough Stone quarry lease over an extent of 1.88.0 Ha in S.F. No: 832/2,3,5,6,7,8,9,10, (Patta Land) of Azhzgiapandipuram Village of Thovalai Taluk of Kanniyakumari District Tamil Nadu for the project/activity which is covered under Category "B2" of Item 1(a) "Mining of Minerals Projects" of the Schedule to the EIA Notification, 2006 as amended vide online proposal number SIA/TN/MIN/495155/2024, Dated:04.09.2024.
4. It is respectfully submitted that the proposal was placed for appraisal in the 504<sup>th</sup> meeting of SEAC held on 18.10.2024. During the meeting SEAC observed the following

*"SEAC noted the following environmentally sensitive features:*

1. *The proposed site is located at a distance of about 300m from the Azhzgiapandipuram village. Gnalam village is at a distance of about 450m.*
2. *The proposed quarry is very close to the **Kanyakumari Wild life Sanctuary**. The ESZ for Kanyakumari Wild life Sanctuary ranges from 0km to 3km.*
3. *A government primary school is located at a distance of 470m.*
4. *River Pazhaiyar is flowing at a distance of 64m from the boundary of the lease.*
5. *Pazhaiyar dam and anaicut are located at a distance of 320m from the proposed quarry.*
6. *There are many building structures and houses around the proposed site and notable among them are an OHT at a distance of 230m and a temple at a distance of 220m.*

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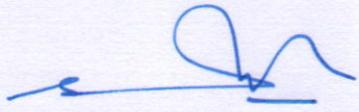


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Besides the above, the SEAC also deliberated on the following features:

1. *The proposed quarry is located on the sloping face of the hillock and the hillock forms an important aspect in the ecology of the entire area.*
2. *Similarly, the risk and accident proneness of the mining activity are extremely high in the proposed site. The mining activity will also result in the formation of a void immediately after the completion of 'quarry' operations.*
3. *Transportation to and from the mining site through fragile narrow High Range roads on the sloping hillock will lead to environmental harm around the sensitive surroundings.*
4. *Further, there is a thick vegetation at the foot of the hillock that will be adversely impacted by the proposed activity.*
5. *In the case of this quarry, there is every reason to suspect the risk potential in the context of extreme events due to Climate Change and proximity to hazard zones. The ravages of extreme events due to Climate Change have been conspicuously present in the hilly regions of western ghats over the past few years, particularly in the High Range region. Hence, the greatest of caution has to be exercised while deciding about the fate of steep inclines (or) sloping faces.*
6. *Further, the SEAC have also taken a note on "Precautionary Principle" which involves the anticipation of environmental harm and taking measures to avoid it or to choose the least environmentally harmful activity. It is based on scientific uncertainty. Environmental protection should not only aim at protecting health, property and economic interest but also protect the environment for its own sake.*
7. *In this regard, the SEAC have also considered the recent judgment in IA No.1000 of 2003 dated 3rd June 2022 Hon<sup>ble</sup> Supreme Court of India which has underlined the necessity for following the Precautionary Principle. The judgment states that a situation may arise where there may be irreparable damage to environment after an activity is allowed to go ahead and if it is stopped, there may be irreparable damage to economic interest. The Hon<sup>ble</sup> Court held that*

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*in case of a doubt, protection of environment would have precedence over economic interest. It was further held that precautionary principle requires anticipatory action to be taken to prevent harm and that harm can be prevented even on reasonable suspicion. Further, the Hon'ble Court emphasized in the said judgment that "it is not always necessary that there should be direct evidence of harm to the environment."*

*SEAC, therefore, decided not to recommend Environmental Clearance for this project, considering the fragile environment settings around the proposed quarry site."*

5. It is respectfully submitted that subsequently, the subject was placed in the 768<sup>th</sup> authority meeting held on 28.10.2024. "Accepting the decision of SEAC to not to recommend Environmental Clearance for the project for the reasons stated above, the **SEIAA decided to reject the project proposal and to close and record the file.**"

6. It is respectfully submitted that the project proponent has submitted a fresh application for same area via the PARIVESH portal, vide proposal ID SIA/TN/MIN/530858/2025, dated 26.03.2025. proposal was placed before SEAC-II in 569<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 22.05.2025. In this context, SEAC has forwarded the proposal to SEIAA for appropriate decision on whether the application may be reconsidered or not.

7. It is respectfully submitted that the project was placed in the 837<sup>th</sup> SEIAA meeting held on 12.06.2025 after detailed deliberation SEIAA decided to refer back to SEAC for reconsideration.

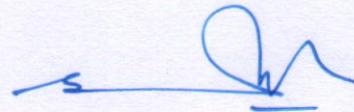
8. It is respectfully submitted that the proposal was placed in the 585<sup>th</sup> SEAC-II meeting held on 03.07.2025 where the project proponent presented the following:



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S.No	SEAC Query	PP Reply
1	<p>The proposed site is located at a distance of about 300m from the Azhziapandipuram village. Gnalam village is at a distance of about 450m.</p>	<p>There is no habitation or village within a 300-meter radius of the proposed site. The Project Proponent (PP) has already fenced the perimeter to prevent unauthorized access and has installed appropriate signage to ensure both worker safety and environmental protection.</p> <p>The google image with demarcation of habitation distance from project site is shown in slide No.32.</p>



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2	A government primary school is located at a distance of 470m	<p>Material transport will be scheduled during off-peak hours to avoid heavy traffic near schools and villages.</p> <p>Additionally, access roads will be maintained regularly to ensure safe transportation and to minimize dust generation and road damage.as Traffic Study Report has been submitted Enclosed as Annexures – II and the details are shown in Slide No.12</p>
3	River Pazhaiyar is flowing at a distance of 64m from the boundary of the lease.	<p>The Hydrogeology Study Report has been submitted enclosed as Annexures –III and summary details are shown in Slide No.10&amp; 11</p>

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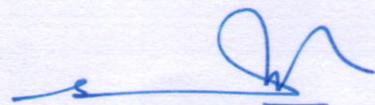


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4	<p>Pazhaiyar dam and anaicut are located at a distance of 320m from the proposed quarry.</p>	<p>The Hydrogeology Study Report Has been submitted enclosed as Annexures -III. and summary details are shown in Slide No.10 &amp; 11</p>
5	<p>There are many building structures and houses around the proposed site and notable among them are an OHT at a distance of 230m and a temple at a distance of 220m.</p>	<p>I hereby submit the enumeration study of structures, buildings, institutions, temples, water tanks, and other structures located within a 500-meter radius of the proposed quarry site. The details are enclosed as Annexure-IV.</p> <p>The google image with demarcation of habitation distance from project site is shown in slide No.32.</p> <p>I will ensure that no damage is caused to any of these</p>

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		<p>structures during the quarrying operations.</p>
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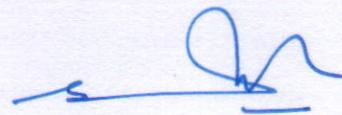


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6	<p>The proposed quarry is very close to the Kanyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary. The ESZ for Kanyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary ranges from 0km to 3km.</p>	<p>The Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) extends from 0 to 3.0 kms around the boundary of the Kanyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary.</p> <p>The proposed lease area is located 1.54 kilometres from the ESZ boundary.</p> <p>Therefore, the proposed project may not require clearance under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 (NBWL).</p> <p>Kindly considered the proposed project.</p> <p>A map showing the Kanyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary boundary and the lease area is enclosed as Annexure-V. Slide No.81</p>
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*Based on the presentation and documents furnished by the project proponent, SEAC decided to recommend the proposal for the annual peak production of not exceeding 34,775m<sup>3</sup> of rough stone subject to the following specific conditions and it shall be valid for the project life including production value as laid down in the mining plan approved and renewed by competent authority, from time to time, subject to a maximum of thirty years, whichever is earlier, vide MoEF&CC Notification S.O, 1807(E) dated 12.04.2022."*

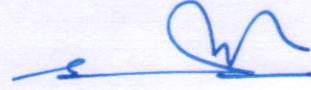
9. It is respectfully submitted that the proposal was placed in the 856<sup>th</sup> Authority meeting. *"During deliberation the Authority noted that the proposed area is surrounded by fully lush green landscape and mining activity in this area will cause severe negative impact on the green landscape. Hence the Authority decided to reject the proposal"*
10. It is respectfully submitted that in this regard the rejection letter in this regard dated 25.07.2025 was uploaded.
11. It is submitted that therefore the rejection of the appellant is only due to the environmental concerns in the proposed area and as such the rejection is in accordance with the established principles of law. It is further submitted that the mere fact of the project satisfying the threshold legal requirements and distance criteria is not a bar for this respondent expert body to analyse the impact of the project.
12. It is further submitted that the proposed project constitutes a higher risk to the local and surrounding environment and that is the sole reason for the rejection of the case of the appellant. It is submitted that similar projects have been allowed by this Respondent in terms of the mineral and the quantity and therefore the present rejection is only due to the overwhelming environmental factors that are involved.

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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.



**Member Secretary**  
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Before me,

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

Advocate, Chennai

Solemnly affirmed in Chennai

On this the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of October 2025

signed his name in my presence

	State Government.
8.	The project proponent shall abide by all the commitments and recommendations made in the EIA/EMP report, commitment made during Public Hearing and also that during their presentation to the Expert Appraisal Committee.
9.	No further expansion or modifications in the plant shall be carried out without prior approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)/SEIAA-TN.
10.	Concealing factual data or submission of false/fabricated data may result in revocation of this environmental clearance and attract action under the provisions of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
11.	The Ministry/SEIAA-TN may revoke or suspend the clearance, if implementation of any of the above conditions is not satisfactory.
12.	The Ministry/SEIAA-TN reserves the right to stipulate additional conditions if found necessary. The Company in a time bound manner shall implement these conditions.
13.	The Regional Office of this Ministry shall monitor compliance of the stipulated conditions. The project authorities should extend full cooperation to the officer (s) of the Regional Office by furnishing the requisite data / information/monitoring reports.
14.	The above conditions shall be enforced, inter-alia under the provisions of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016 and the Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991 along with their amendments and Rules and any other orders passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India / High Courts and any other Court of Law relating to the subject matter.
15.	The proponent shall abide by all the commitments and recommendations made in the EIA/EMP report and also that during presentation to the SEAC. All the commitments made on the issues raised during public hearing shall also be implemented in letter and spirit.
16.	Compensation of the land acquired for the project shall be settled as per the R&R Policy. Adequate facility of drinking water, plantation and other social amenities should be provided to established R&R villages.
17.	Persons of nearby villages shall be given training on livelihood and skill development to make them employable with its proper records.
18.	The illumination and sound at night at project sites disturb the villages in respect of both human and animal population. Consequent sleeping disorders and stress may affect the health in the villages located close to mining operations. Habitations have a right for darkness and minimal noise levels at night. PPs must ensure that the biological clock of the villages is not disturbed; by orienting the floodlights/ masks away from the villagers and keeping the noise levels well within the prescribed limits for day light/night hours

### 3.2. Agenda Item No 2:

#### 3.2.1. Details of the proposal

<b>Rough Stone by neppoleon j located at KANNIYAKUMARI,TAMIL NADU</b>			
<b>Proposal For</b>		Mining EC Under 5 Ha	
<b>Proposal No</b>	<b>File No</b>	<b>Submission Date</b>	<b>Activity (Schedule Item)</b>
<a href="#">SIA/TN/MIN/495155/2024</a>	11234	18/10/2024	Mining of minerals (1(a))

### 3.2.2. Project Salient Features

null

### 3.2.3. Deliberations by the committee in previous meetings

N/A

### 3.2.4. Deliberations by the SEAC in current meetings

#### The SEAC noted the following:

1. The project proponent, **J. Neppoleon** has applied seeking Environmental Clearance for EIA study for the proposed rough stone quarry lease over an extent of 1.88.0 Ha in S.F. No: 832/2,3,5,6,7,8,9,10, (Patta Land) of Azhziapandipuram Village of Thovalai Taluk of Kanniyakumari District Tamil Nadu.
2. The project/activity is covered under Category “B2” of Item 1(a) “Mining of Minerals Projects” of the Schedule to the EIA Notification, 2006, as amended.

On perusal of the KML file and the documents furnished by the Project Proponent, the SEAC noted the following environmentally sensitive features:

1. The proposed site is located at a distance of about 300m from the Azhziapandipuram village. Gnamam village is at a distance of about 450m.
2. The proposed quarry is very close to the **Kanyakumari Wild life Sanctuary**. The **ESZ for Kanyakumari Wild life Sanctuary** ranges from **0km to 3km**.
3. A **government primary school** is located at a distance of 470m.
4. **River Pazhaiyar** is flowing at a distance of 64m from the boundary of the lease.
5. Pazhaiyar dam and **anaicut** are located at a distance of 320m from the proposed quarry.
6. There are many building structures and houses around the proposed site and notable among them are an OHT at a distance of 230m and a temple at a distance of 220m.

Besides the above, the SEAC also deliberated on the following features:

1. The proposed quarry is located on the sloping face of the hillock and the hillock forms an important aspect in the ecology of the entire area.
2. Similarly, the risk and accident proneness of the mining activity are extremely high in the proposed site. The mining activity will also result in the formation of a void immediately after the completion of ‘quarry’ operations.
3. Transportation to and from the mining site through fragile narrow High Range roads on the sloping hillock will lead to environmental harm around the sensitive surroundings.
4. Further, there is a thick vegetation at the foot of the hillock that will be adversely impacted by the proposed activity.
5. In the case of this quarry, there is every reason to suspect the risk potential in the context of extreme events due to Climate Change and proximity to hazard zones. The ravages of extreme events due to Climate Change have been conspicuously present in the hilly regions of western ghats over the past few years, particularly in the High Range region. Hence, the greatest of caution has to be exercised while deciding about the fate of steep inclines (or) sloping faces.

6. Further, the SEAC have also taken a note on “Precautionary Principle” which involves the anticipation of environmental harm and taking measures to avoid it or to choose the least environmentally harmful activity. It is based on scientific uncertainty. **Environmental protection should not only aim at protecting health, property and economic interest but also protect the environment for its own sake.**

7. In this regard, the SEAC have also considered the recent judgment in IA No.1000 of 2003 dated 3rd June 2022 Hon“ble Supreme Court of India which has underlined the necessity for following the Precautionary Principle. The judgment states that a situation may arise where there may be irreparable damage to environment after an activity is allowed to go ahead and if it is stopped, there may be irreparable damage to economic interest. The Hon“ble Court held that in case of a doubt, **protection of environment would have precedence over economic interest.** It was further held that precautionary principle requires anticipatory action to be taken to prevent harm and that harm can be prevented even on reasonable suspicion. Further, the Hon’ble Court emphasized in the said judgment that “**it is not always necessary that there should be direct evidence of harm to the environment.**”

SEAC, therefore, decided **not to recommend Environmental Clearance** for this project, considering the fragile environment settings around the proposed quarry site.

### 3.2.5. Recommendation of SEAC

Not Recommended

### 3.3. Agenda Item No 3:

#### 3.3.1. Details of the proposal

<b>Proposed expansion of educational institution buildings with software park located at Saravanampatti Village, Coimbatore North Taluk, Coimbatore District. by KGISL TRUST located at COIMBATORE, TAMIL NADU</b>			
<b>Proposal For</b>		Fresh EC	
<b>Proposal No</b>	<b>File No</b>	<b>Submission Date</b>	<b>Activity (Schedule Item)</b>
<a href="#">SIA/TN/INFRA2/495881/2024</a>	11257	17/10/2024	Building / Construction (8(a))

#### 3.3.2. Project Salient Features

Category of Project	B2
Proposal Number	SIA/TN/INFRA2/495881/2024
Name of the Proponent	M/s. KGISL Trust

**Nearest Railway station & Airport:**

Chettipalayam Railway Station – 5.4km – West

Coimbatore Airport – 13.5km – North West

**Nearest School / College:**

Government Primary School, Chinnakuyili – 1.5km – North

**Details of Water bodies:**

Odai – 2.0km – South East

**Archaeological places/ Dams/ Reservoirs:**

Noyyal River – 9.0km – North West

Walayar Dam – 26.0km – South West

Kodumanal Archeological Excavation Site – 52.5km – North East

**Interstate Boundary:**

Kerala State Boundary – 23.5km – South West

**Seismicity:**

Moderate Risk Zone – III

**Changes in Quantity:****Geological Resources M<sup>3</sup> (RoM) – Rough stone = 581000****Gravel = 33,200****Minable Resources M<sup>3</sup> (RoM) –****Rough stone = 1,56,980****Gravel = 23850**Annual Peak Production in M<sup>3</sup> –**Rough stone = 25,600****Gravel = 11250****1,35,892 Liters of HSD for the entire life****3.12.5. Recommendation of SEAC**

Recommended

**3.13. Agenda Item No 13:****3.13.1. Details of the proposal**

Rough Stone Quarry by neppoleon j located at KANNIYAKUMARI,TAMIL NADU			
Proposal For		Mining EC Under 5 Ha	
Proposal No	File No	Submission Date	Activity (Schedule Item)
<a href="#">SIA/TN/MIN/530858/2025</a>	12004	28/05/2025	Mining of minerals (1(a))

## 3.13.2. Project Salient Features

File No.	12004		Category	B2
	530858			1(a)
Sl. No	Salient Features of the Proposal			
1.	Name of the Owner/Firm	:	J.Neppoleon, S/o.Sri.S.Jesuraja No.41, Bharathar Street, Kottar Post, Nagercoil -629002, Kanniyakumari District.	
2.	Type of quarrying (Ordinary Stone/Sand/Granite/Limestone)	:	Rough Stone Quarry	
3.	S.F Nos. of the quarry site	:	832/2,3,5,6,7,8,9,10	
4.	Village in which situated	:	Azhziapandipuram Village	
5.	Taluk in which situated	:	Thovalai Taluk	
6.	District in which situated	:	Kanniyakumari District	
7.	Extent of quarry (in ha.)	:	1.88.0 Ha	
8.	Latitude & Longitude of all corners of the quarry site	:	08° 18' 18.06"N to 08° 18' 18.06"N 77° 25' 48.41"E to 77° 25' 52.97"E	
9.	Topo Sheet No.	:	58H/7,8,11,12	
10.	Type of mining	:	Open cast Semi mechanized method	
11.	Details of Environmental Setting.	:	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>River/ Canal:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pazhayar River -0.07m (SSW)</li> <li>• Ulakkai Aruviyaar River - 0.73Km (NNW),</li> <li>• Anandanar Channel - 1.26Km (W)</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Dam/ Reservoir:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pallikondan Anicut (~320m Nw)</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Water Body / Lake/ Ponds:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Azhagiapadiapuram Big Pond- ~1.59 K</li> </ul>	

			<p style="text-align: center;">m (E),</p> <p><b>Reserved/ Protected Forests:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Asambu RF-1.86Km (NNW),</li> <li>• Vellimalai RF-9.97Km (ENE),</li> <li>• Thadagamalai RF: ~3.47Km (SE),</li> <li>• Poigaimalai RF: ~8.3Km (E),</li> <li>• Mahendragiri RF~9.77 ENE</li> </ul> <p><b>National Parks/ Wildlife Sanctuaries:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kanniyakumari WLS ESZ Boundary ~1.24 (N)</li> <li>• Kanniyakumari WLS Boundary is located at ~1.54 (N).</li> <li>• Kalakkad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve Boundary -11.36 Km (NE)</li> </ul> <p>The project area Attract in 'HACA'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Archeological places: ---</li> </ul>	
12.	NBWL Clearance/ Conservation Measures		Not Applicable	
13.	Details of Previous History	:	Not Applicable	
14.	CCR If Applicable	:	Not Applicable	
15.	Life of Project	:	10 Years	
	Lease Period	:	10 Years	
	Mining Plan Period	:	10 Years	
16.	Mining Plan Details	:	<b>Scheme of Mining Plan</b>	<b>Life of mine (or) as per approved mining plan</b>
	Geological Resources m <sup>3</sup>	:	Rough Stone	8,55,360m <sup>3</sup>
	Minable Resources m <sup>3</sup>	:	Rough Stone	3,26,260m <sup>3</sup>
	Annual Peak Production in m <sup>3</sup>	:	Rough Stone	34775m <sup>3</sup>
	Maximum Depth in meters	:	Depth	20m AGL
17.	Depth of water table	:	55m BGL	

18.	Man Power requirement per day:	:	10 Nos
19.	Water requirement: 1. Drinking & Domestic 2. Dust Suppression 3. Green belt	:	<b>4.2 KLD</b> 1.2 KLD 1.8 KLD 1.2 KLD
20.	Power requirement	:	48,942 Liters of HSD
21.	Precise area communication approved by the Assistant Director, Department of Geology and Mining.	:	Rc.No.245/G&M/2021 dated 11.03.2024
22.	Mining Plan approved by Assistant Director, Department of Geology and Mining.	:	Rc.No.245/G&M/2021 dated 05.07.2024
23.	500m cluster letter issued by the Assistant Director, Department of Geology and Mining.	:	<u>Rc.No.245/G&amp;M/2021 dated 22.07.2024</u>
24.	VAO Certificate Regarding Structures within 300m Radius	:	Letter Dated: 12.11.2022
25.	Project Cost (excluding EMP cost)	:	Rs.1,17,63,782/-
26.	EMP cost (in Rs. Lakhs).	:	Capital Cost – Rs.11,99,000/- Recurring Cost – Rs.2,96,000/- per annum
27.	CER cost (in Rs. Lakhs).	:	Rs.5,00,000/-
28.	SEAC Recommendation.	:	Recommended
29.	Recommended Quantities	:	<b>Validity</b>
		:	<b>Life of the project or 30 years, whichever is earlier</b> <b>Rough Stone</b>

		:	<b>Annual Max Ro M in m<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>34,775m<sup>3</sup></b>
		:		
30.	Standard Conditions	:	Annexure A	

### 3.13.3. Deliberations by the committee in previous meetings

**Date of SEAC 1 :22/05/2025**

**Deliberations of SEAC 1 :****The SEAC-II noted the following:**

1. The project proponent, **J. Neppoleon** has applied seeking Environmental Clearance for EIA study for the proposed rough stone quarry lease over an extent of 1.88.0 Ha in S.F. No: 832/2,3,5,6,7,8,9,10, (Patta Land) of Azhziapandipuram Village of Thovalai Taluk of Kanniyakumari District Tamil Nadu.
2. The project/activity is covered under Category “B2” of Item 1(a) “Mining of Minerals Projects” of the Schedule to the EIA Notification, 2006, as amended.
3. Earlier, the proposal was placed in the **504<sup>th</sup> meeting of SEAC held on 18.10.2024**. The following are the discussion of SEAC,

**On perusal of the KML file and the documents furnished by the Project Proponent, the SEAC-II noted the following environmentally sensitive features:**

1. **The proposed site is located at a distance of about 300m from the Azhziapandipuram village. Gnam village is at a distance of about 450m.**
2. **The proposed quarry is very close to the Kanyakumari Wild life Sanctuary. The ESZ for Kanyakumari Wild life Sanctuary ranges from 0km to 3km.**
3. **A government primary school is located at a distance of 470m.**
4. **River Pazhaiyar is flowing at a distance of 64m from the boundary of the lease.**
5. **Pazhaiyar dam and anaicut are located at a distance of 320m from the proposed quarry.**
6. **There are many building structures and houses around the proposed site and notable among them are an OHT at a distance of 230m and a temple at a distance of 220m.**

**Besides the above, the SEAC-II also deliberated on the following features:**

1. The proposed quarry is located on the sloping face of the hillock and the hillock forms an important aspect in the ecology of the entire area.
2. Similarly, the risk and accident proneness of the mining activity are extremely high in the proposed site. The mining activity will also result in the formation of a void immediately after the completion of ‘quarry’ operations.
3. Transportation to and from the mining site through fragile narrow High Range roads on the sloping hillock will lead to environmental harm around the sensitive surroundings.
4. Further, there is a thick vegetation at the foot of the hillock that will be adversely impacted by the proposed activity.
5. In the case of this quarry, there is every reason to suspect the risk potential in the context of extreme events due to Climate Change and proximity to hazard zones. The ravages of extreme events due to Climate Change have been conspicuously present in the hilly regions of western ghats over the past few years, particularly in the High Range region. Hence, the greatest of caution has to be exercised while deciding about the fate of steep inclines (or) sloping faces.
6. Further, the SEAC have also taken a note on “Precautionary Principle” which involves the anticipation of environmental harm and taking measures to avoid it or to choose the least environmentally harmful activity. It is based on scientific uncertainty. **Environmental protection should not only aim at protecting health, property and economic interest but also protect the environment for its own sake.**
7. In this regard, the SEAC have also considered the recent judgment in IA No.1000 of 2003 dated

3rd June 2022 Hon"ble Supreme Court of India which has underlined the necessity for following the Precautionary Principle. The judgment states that a situation may arise where there may be irreparable damage to environment after an activity is allowed to go ahead and if it is stopped, there may be irreparable damage to economic interest. The Hon"ble Court held that in case of a doubt, **protection of environment would have precedence over economic interest**. It was further held that precautionary principle requires anticipatory action to be taken to prevent harm and that harm can be prevented even on reasonable suspicion. Further, the Hon'ble Court emphasized in the said judgment that **"it is not always necessary that there should be direct evidence of harm to the environment."**SEAC, therefore, decided **not to recommend Environmental Clearance** for this project, considering the fragile environment settings around the proposed quarry site.

8. Accepting the decision of SEAC to not to recommend Environmental Clearance for the project for the reasons stated above, the **SEIAA decided to reject the project proposal and to close and record the file.**

**The proposal was placed before SEAC-II in the meeting held on 22.05.2025. SEAC-II noted that the proposed project had not been recommended earlier on the aforementioned grounds. However, the Project Proponent has now submitted a fresh application for the same area via the PARIVESH portal, vide proposal ID SIA/TN/MIN/530858/2025, dated 26.03.2025. In this context, SEAC has forwarded the proposal to SEIAA for appropriate decision on whether the application may be reconsidered or not.**

**Date of SEIAA 2 :12/06/2025**

**Deliberations of SEIAA 2 :**

The Authority noted that the subject was placed in the 569<sup>th</sup> meeting of SEAC-II held on 22.05.2025. SEAC –II has forwarded the proposal to SEIAA for appropriate decision on whether the application may be reconsidered or not. After detailed discussions, the authority decided to refer the proposal back to SEAC-II for re-examination in light of the new facts presented by the Project Proponent.

### 3.13.4. Deliberations by the SEAC in current meetings

**The SEAC-II noted the following:**

1. The project proponent, J. Neppoleon has applied seeking Environmental Clearance for EIA study for the proposed rough stone quarry lease over an extent of 1.88.0 Ha in S.F. No: 832/2,3,5,6,7,8,9,10, (Patta Land) of Azhziapandipuram Village of Thovalai Taluk of Kanniyakumari District Tamil Nadu.
2. The project/activity is covered under Category "B2" of Item 1(a) "Mining of Minerals Projects" of the Schedule to the EIA Notification, 2006, as amended.
3. **Earlier, the proposal was placed in the 569<sup>th</sup> SEAC-II held on 22.05.2025. The Committee has noted the following:**

Earlier, the proposal was placed in the **504<sup>th</sup> meeting of SEAC held on 18.10.2024**. On perusal of the KML file and the documents furnished by the Project Proponent, the SEAC-II noted the following environmentally sensitive features:

- i. The proposed site is located at a distance of about 300m from the Azhziapandipuram village. Gnam village is at a distance of about 450m.
- ii. The proposed quarry is very close to the Kanyakumari Wild life Sanctuary. The ESZ for Kanyakumari Wild life Sanctuary ranges from 0km to 3km.
- iii. A government primary school is located at a distance of 470m.
- iv. River Pazhaiyar is flowing at a distance of 64m from the boundary of the lease.
- v. Pazhaiyar dam and anaicut are located at a distance of 320m from the proposed quarry.
- vi. There are many building structures and houses around the proposed site and notable among them are an OHT at a distance of 230m and a temple at a distance of 220m.

Besides the above, the SEAC-II also deliberated on the following features:

- a. The proposed quarry is located on the sloping face of the hillock and the hillock forms an important aspect in the ecology of the entire area.
- b. Similarly, the risk and accident proneness of the mining activity are extremely high in the proposed site. The mining activity will also result in the formation of a void immediately after the completion of 'quarry' operations.
- c. Transportation to and from the mining site through fragile narrow High Range roads on the sloping hillock will lead to environmental harm around the sensitive surroundings.
- d. Further, there is a thick vegetation at the foot of the hillock that will be adversely impacted by the proposed activity.
- e. In the case of this quarry, there is every reason to suspect the risk potential in the context of extreme events due to Climate Change and proximity to hazard zones. The ravages of extreme events due to Climate Change have been conspicuously present in the hilly regions of western ghats over the past few years, particularly in the High Range region. Hence, the greatest of caution has to be exercised while deciding about the fate of steep inclines (or) sloping faces.
- f. Further, the SEAC have also taken a note on "Precautionary Principle" which involves the anticipation of environmental harm and taking measures to avoid it or to choose the least environmentally harmful activity. It is based on scientific uncertainty. **Environmental protection should not only aim at protecting health, property and economic interest but also protect the environment for its own sake.**
- g. In this regard, the SEAC have also considered the recent judgment in IA No.1000 of 2003 dated 3rd June 2022 Hon"ble Supreme Court of India which has underlined the necessity for following the Precautionary Principle. The judgment states that a situation may arise where there may be irreparable damage to environment after an activity is allowed to go ahead and if it is stopped, there may be irreparable damage to economic interest. The Hon"ble Court held that in case of a doubt, **protection of environment would have precedence over economic interest.** It was further held that precautionary principle requires anticipatory action to be taken to prevent harm and that harm can be prevented even on reasonable suspicion. Further, the Hon'ble Court emphasized in the said judgment that **"it is not always necessary that there should be direct evidence of harm to the environment."**SEAC, therefore, decided **not to recommend**

**Environmental Clearance** for this project, considering the fragile environment settings around the proposed quarry site.

- h. Accepting the decision of SEAC to not to recommend Environmental Clearance for the project for the reasons stated above, the **SEIAA decided to reject the project proposal and to close and record the file.**
4. **The proposal was placed before SEAC-II in the meeting held on 22.05.2025. SEAC-II noted that the proposed project had not been recommended earlier on the aforementioned grounds. However, the Project Proponent has now submitted a fresh application for the same area via the PARIVESH portal, vide proposal ID SIA/TN/MIN/530858/2025, dated 26.03.2025. In this context, SEAC has forwarded the proposal to SEIAA for appropriate decision on whether the application may be reconsidered or not.**
5. Subsequently, the subject was placed in the 837<sup>th</sup> Authority meeting held on 12.06.2025. The Authority noted that the subject was placed in the 569<sup>th</sup> meeting of SEAC-II held on 22.05.2025. SEAC –II has forwarded the proposal to SEIAA for appropriate decision on whether the application may be reconsidered or not. After detailed discussions, the authority decided to refer the proposal back to SEAC-II for re-examination in light of the new facts presented by the Project Proponent.

Now, the proposal was placed in 585<sup>th</sup> Meeting of SEAC-II held on 03.07.2025. The PP has presented the following

S.No	SEAC Query	PP Reply
1	The proposed site is located at a distance of about 300m from the Azhziapandipuram village. Gnalam village is at a distance of about 450m.	There is no habitation or village within a 300-meter radius of the proposed site. The Project Proponent (PP) has already fenced the perimeter to prevent unauthorized access and has installed appropriate signage to ensure both worker safety and environmental protection. The google image with demarcation of habitation distance from project site is shown in <u>slide No.32</u> .
2	A government primary school is located at a distance of 470m	Material transport will be scheduled during off-peak hours to avoid heavy traffic near schools and villages. Additionally, access roads will be maintained regularly to ensure safe transportation and to minimize dust generation and road damage.as <b>Traffic Study Report has been submitted Enclosed as Annexures – II and the details are shown in <u>Slide No.12</u></b>

3	River Pazhaiyar is flowing at a distance of 64m from the boundary of the lease.	The Hydrogeology Study Report has been submitted <b>enclosed as Annexures –III</b> and summary details are shown in <u>Slide No.10 &amp; 11</u>
4	Pazhaiyar dam and anaicut are located at a distance of 320m from the proposed quarry.	The Hydrogeology Study Report Has been submitted <b>enclosed as Annexures –III.</b> and summary details are shown in <u>Slide No.10 &amp; 11</u>
5	There are many building structures and houses around the proposed site and notable among them are an OHT at a distance of 230m and a temple at a distance of 220m.	I hereby submit the enumeration study of structures, buildings, institutions, temples, water tanks, and other structures located within a 500-meter radius of the proposed quarry site. The details are enclosed as <b>Annexure-IV</b> . The google image with demarcation of habitation distance from project site is shown in <u>slide No.32</u> . I will ensure that no damage is caused to any of these structures during the quarrying operations.
6	The proposed quarry is very close to the Kanyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary. The ESZ for Kanyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary ranges from 0km to 3km.	The Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) extends from 0 to 3.0 kilometers around the boundary of the Kanyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary. The proposed lease area is located 1.54 kilometers from the ESZ boundary. Therefore, the proposed project may not require clearance under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 (NBWL). Kindly consider the proposed project. A map showing the Kanyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary boundary and the lease area is enclosed as <u>Annexure-V. Slide No.81</u>

Based on the presentation and documents furnished by the project proponent, SEAC decided to recommend the proposal for the **annual peak production of not exceeding 34,775m<sup>3</sup> of rough stone** subject to the following specific conditions and **it shall be valid for the project life including production value as laid down in the mining plan approved and renewed by competent authority, from time to time, subject to a maximum of thirty years, whichever is earlier, vide MoEF&CC Notification S.O, 1807(E) dated 12.04.2022.**

Recommended

## 3.13.6. Details of Environment Conditions

## 3.13.6.1. Specific

## SEAC conditions - Site specific

1. The PP shall mark the DGPS reference pillars painted with blue & white colour indicating the safety barrier of 7.5 m to be left within the lease boundary and protective bunds and shall also erect fencing all around the boundary of the proposed area with gates for entry/exit before the commencement of the operation and shall furnish the photographs/map showing the same before obtaining the CTO from TNPCB.
2. The PP shall carry out the required number of plantations as committed in the EMP without deviation before obtaining the CTO from the TNPCB.
3. The PP should strictly maintain the bench formation of 5m x 5m and the mine design parameters as per the approved mining plan.
4. The PP shall only carry out only the NONEL-based (or) Electronic Detonator based blasting operation along with statutory competent persons and should not carry out deep hole blasting.
5. As accepted by the Project Proponent the CER cost is Rs. 5 Lakhs and the amount shall be spent towards GOVT High School **Azhagiapandipuram** Village, Kanniyakumari District for the activities as self-committed before obtaining CTO from TNPCB.

CER Activity	Project Cost (Rs)	CER Cost Rs.
To Implement various Social Development activities for GOVT High School <b>Azhagiapandipuram</b> Village, Kanniyakumari District 1. 20-Tables, 5 -Chairs- 2. Syntex Tank 500 liter 3. Computer & Tables – 5 Nos 4. Providing Ro Water 5. providing Library with Racks & Book 6. Plantation in Govt High School, <b>Azhagiapandipuram</b> Village, Kanniyakumari District - 50 Nos	<b>Rs.1,17,63,782/-</b>	<b>Rs.5,00,000/-</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>Rs.1,17,63,782/</b>	<b>Rs.5,00,000/-</b>

## SEAC Standard condition – Ordinary Stone

SEAC Standard condition – Ordinary Stone	
Category	Conditions
1.	

<b>General</b>		The validity of Environmental Clearance (EC) shall be extended in accordance with EIA Notification, 2006 vide S.O.2944 (E) dated: 14.09.2016, as amended from time to time, if necessary.
		The EC does not exempt the Proponent and/or his appointed contractors and operator from securing other government approvals or preclude other agencies/departments from enforcing their rules and regulations.
		All the conditions imposed by the Assistant/Deputy Director, Geology & Mining, concerned District in the mining plan approval letter and the Precise area communication letter issued by concerned District Collector should be strictly followed.
<b>Land</b>	2.1	The ECH must not carry out any activity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Within 60 m from the Reserve Forest.</li> <li>• Within the notified environmentally sensitive area of notified protected areas.</li> <li>• Within 1 km of protected areas where the environmentally sensitive area has not been notified.</li> </ul>
<b>Water</b>	3.1	The operation of the quarry should not affect the agricultural activities & water bodies near the project site and a 50 m safety distance from water body should be maintained without carrying any activity.
<b>Safety</b>	4.1	The ECH shall ensure that the blasting operations shall be carried out with a prior notice to the habitations situated around the proposed quarry. The ECH also should post sentries/guards adequately to ensure safety to the public.
	4.2	The ECH shall comply with the provisions of the Mines Act, 1952, MMR 1961 and Mines Rules 1955 for ensuring safety, health and welfare of the people working in the mines and the surrounding habitants.
	4.3	The ECH shall ensure that the blasting operations are carried out by the blaster/Mine Mate/Mine Foreman <b>duly employed</b> by him/her in accordance with the provisions of MMR 1961.
	4.4	For the safety of the persons employed in the quarry, the PP shall carry out the scientific studies to assess the slope stability of the working benches and existing quarry wall <b>during the 4<sup>th</sup> year or when the depth exceeds 30m</b>

		<b>whichever is earlier</b> , by involving any one of the reputed Research and Academic Institutions - CSIR-Central Institute of Mining & Fuel Research / Dhanbad, NIRM/Bangalore, Division of Geotechnical Engineering-IIT-Madras, NIT-Dept of Mining Engg, Surathkal, and Dept of Mining Engg-Anna University Chennai. A copy of such scientific study report shall be submitted to the SEIAA, MoEF, TNPCB, AD/Mines-DGM and DMS, Chennai as a part of Environmental Compliance without any deviation.
<b>Social &amp; OHS</b>	5.1	The ECH shall register promptly through online in the <b>Shram Suvidha Portal</b> which is the official portal of Ministry of Labour & Employment, Govt of India to obtain <b>Labour Identification Number (LIN)</b> before obtaining the CTO from the TNPCB.
	5.2	The ECH shall <b>annually</b> carry out an Occupational Health Survey (OHS) <b>in accordance with the guidelines &amp; period of examination laid in the DGMS (Tech.) (S&amp;T) Circular No. 01 of 2011</b> , on OHS of the persons working in mines prone to generate the airborne dust, under Section 9A of Mines Act, 1952 and a copy of the annual compliance certificate shall be submitted to the SEIAA, IRO, MoEF&CC, TNPCB, AD/Mines-DGM and DMS, Chennai.
	5.3	The ECH shall install a 'Bio-toilet' and Rest shelter facility for the persons employed in the mine before obtaining the CTO from the TNPCB.
	5.4	The ECH shall monitor the whole-body vibration level of all the machineries deployed and shall undertake adequate measures to reduce whole-body vibration (WBV) exposure to eliminate the adverse occupational health hazards/impacts caused to the operators. The report on the periodic monitoring shall be included in the HYCR.
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	6.1	The ECH shall ensure that the provisions of the MMDR Act, 1957 & TNMMCR, 1959 are complied by carrying out the quarrying operations in a skillful, scientific and systematic manner keeping in view proper safety of the labour, structure, the public and public works located in that vicinity of the quarrying area and in a manner to preserve the environment and ecology of the area.
	6.2	As per the MoEF&CC Office Memorandum F.No. 22-

		65/2017-IA.III dated: 30.09.2020 and 20.10.2020 the proponent shall adhere to the EMP as committed.
	6.3	The ECH shall use only the road indicated in the mining plan for transportation purposes. ECH shall monitor the condition of the road at all times and if the roads are damaged, ECH shall approach the District Collector for the maintenance of haulage road/village / Panchayat Road under DMF.
	6.4	The ECH shall abide by the production schedule specified in the approved mining plan and if any deviation is observed, it will render the ECH liable for legal action in accordance with Environment and Mining Laws.
	6.5	The PP to erect Display board as Appendix-II
<b>Abbreviations:</b>		
ECH	=	Environment Clearance Holder
HYCR	=	Half Yearly Compliance Report.
CTO	=	Consent to Operate
DMF	=	District Mining Fund
IRO	=	Integrated Regional Office of MoEF&CC
CPCB	=	Central Pollution Control Board
WRD	=	Water Resources Department
DMS	=	Director of Mine Safety
OHS	=	Occupational Health and Safety
NABL	=	National Accreditation board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories
TNMMCR		Tamil Nadu Minor Mineral Concession Rules

**3.13.6.2. Standard**

1(a)	<b>Mining of minerals</b>
<b>Statutory compliance</b>	
1.	The project proponent shall obtain clearance from the National Board for Wildlife, if applicable.
2.	The project proponent shall prepare a Site-Specific Conservation Plan & Wildlife Management Plan and approved by the Chief Wildlife Warden. The recommendations of the approved Site-Specific Conservation Plan / Wildlife Management Plan shall be implemented in consultation with the State Forest Department. The implementation report shall be furnished along with the six-monthly compliance report. (in case of the presence of Schedule-I species in the study area).
3.	This Environmental Clearance (EC) is subject to orders/ judgment of Honble Supreme Court of India, Honble High Court, Honble NGT and any other Court of Law, Common Cause Conditions as may be applicable.

4.	The project proponent shall obtain forest clearance under the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1986, in case of the diversion of forest land for non-forest purpose involved in the project.
5.	The project proponent shall obtain Consent to Establish / Operate under the provisions of Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 from the concerned State Pollution Control Board/ Committee.
<b>null</b>	
1.	The Project Proponent shall make necessary alternative arrangements for livestock feed by developing grazing land with a view to compensate those areas which are coming within the mine lease. The development of such grazing land shall be done in consultation with the State Government. In this regard, Project Proponent should essentially implement the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court with regard to acquisition of grazing land. The sparse trees on such grazing ground, which provide mid-day shelter from the scorching sun, should be scrupulously guarded/ protected against felling and plantation of such trees should be promoted.
2.	The Project Proponent shall carryout plantation/ afforestation in backfilled and reclaimed area of mining lease, around water body, along the roadsides, in community areas etc. by planting the native species in consultation with the State Forest Department/ Agriculture Department/ Rural development department/ Tribal Welfare Department/ Gram Panchayat such that only those species be selected which are of use to the local people. The CPCB guidelines in this respect shall also be adhered. The density of the trees should be around 2500 saplings per Hectare. Adequate budgetary provision shall be made for protection and care of trees.
<b>Statutory compliance</b>	
1.	A copy of EC letter will be marked to concerned Panchayat / local NGO etc. if any, from whom suggestion / representation has been received while processing the proposal.
2.	The Project Proponent shall inform the MoEF&CC for any change in ownership of the mining lease. In case there is any change in ownership or mining lease is transferred. PP needs to apply for transfer of EC as per provisions of the para 11 of EIA Notification, 2006 as amended from time to time.
3.	The Project proponent complies with all the statutory requirements and judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 2nd August, 2017 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 114 of 2014 in matter of Common Cause versus Union of India &Ors before commencing the mining operations.
4.	The State Government concerned shall ensure that mining operation shall not be commenced till the entire compensation levied, if any, for illegal mining paid by the Project Proponent through their respective Department of Mining & Geology in strict compliance of Judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 2nd August, 2017 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 114 of 2014 in matter of Common Cause versus Union of India & Ors.
5.	The Project Proponent shall follow the mitigation measures provided in MoEFCC's Office Memorandum No. Z-11013/57/2014-IA.II (M), dated 29th October, 2014, titled "Impact of mining activities on Habitations-Issues related to the mining Projects wherein Habitations and villages are the part of mine lease areas or Habitations and villages are surrounded by the mine lease area."
6.	State Pollution Control Board/Committee shall be responsible for display of this EC letter at its Regional office, District Industries Centre and Collector's office/ Tehsildar's Office for 30 days.
7.	The Project Authorities should widely advertise about the grant of this EC letter by printing the same in at least two local newspapers, one of which shall be in vernacular language of the concerned area. The advertisement shall be done within 7 days of the issue of the clearance letter mentioning that the instant project has been accorded EC and copy of the EC letter is available with the State Pollution Control Board/Committee and web site of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change ( <a href="http://www.parivesh.nic.in">www.parivesh.nic.in</a> ). A copy of the advertisement may be forwarded to the concerned MoEFCC Regional Office for compliance and record.
<b>Air quality monitoring and preservation</b>	

1.	The project proponent use leak proof trucks/dumpers carrying mineral and cover them with tarpaulin.
<b>Water quality monitoring and preservation</b>	
1.	Project Proponent shall regularly monitor and maintain records w.r.t. ground water level and quality in and around the mine lease by establishing a network of existing wells as well as new piezo-meter installations during the mining operation in consultation with State Ground Water Department. The Report on changes in Ground water level and quality shall be submitted on six-monthly basis to the Regional Office of the Ministry, and State Groundwater Department / State Pollution Control Board.
<b>Water quality monitoring and preservation</b>	
1.	The project proponent shall practice rainwater harvesting to maximum possible extent.
2.	Project Proponent shall plan, develop and implement rainwater harvesting measures on long term basis to augment ground water resources in the area in consultation with Central Ground Water Board/ State Groundwater Department. A report on amount of water recharged needs to be submitted to Regional Office MoEFCC annually.
3.	Adhere to Zero Liquid Discharge
4.	The project proponent shall monitor regularly ground water quality at least twice a year (pre and post monsoon) at sufficient numbers of piezometers/sampling wells in the plant and adjacent areas through labs recognised under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and NABL accredited laboratories.
5.	Garland drains and collection pits shall be provided for each stock pile to arrest the run-off in the event of heavy rains and to check the water pollution due to surface run off.
6.	In case, immediate mining scheme envisages intersection of ground water table, then Environmental Clearance shall become operational only after receiving formal clearance from SGWA. In case, mining operation involves intersection of ground water table at a later stage, then PP shall ensure that prior approval from SGWA and MoEFCC is in place before such mining operations. The permission for intersection of ground water table shall essentially be based on detailed hydro-geological study of the area.
<b>Noise and vibration monitoring and prevention</b>	
1.	The peak particle velocity at 500m distance or within the nearest habitation, whichever is closer shall be monitored periodically as per applicable DGMS guidelines.
<b>Noise monitoring and prevention</b>	
1.	The ambient noise levels should conform to the standards prescribed under E(P)A Rules, 1986 viz. 75 dB(A) during day time and 70 dB(A) during night time.
2.	Noise level survey shall be carried as per the prescribed guidelines and report in this regard shall be submitted to Regional Officer of the Ministry as a part of six-monthly compliance report.
<b>Noise and vibration monitoring and prevention</b>	
1.	The illumination and sound at night at project sites disturb the villages in respect of both human and animal population. Consequent sleeping disorders and stress may affect the health in the villages located close to mining operations. Habitations have a right for darkness and minimal noise levels at night. PPs must ensure that the biological clock of the villages is not disturbed; by orienting the floodlights/ masks away from the villagers and keeping the noise levels well within the prescribed limits for day /night hours.
2.	The Project Proponent shall take measures for control of noise levels below 85 dBA in the work environment. The workers engaged in operations of HEMM, etc. should be provided with ear plugs /muffs. All personnel including

	laborers working in dusty areas shall be provided with protective respiratory devices along with adequate training, awareness and information on safety and health aspects. The PP shall be held responsible in case it has been found that workers/ personals/ laborers are working without personal protective equipment.
<b>Energy Conservation measures</b>	
1.	Provide solar power generation on roof tops of buildings, for solar light system for all common areas, street lights, parking around project area and maintain the same regularly;
2.	Provide LED lights in their offices and residential areas.
<b>Mining plan</b>	
1.	The Project Proponent shall adhere to approved mining plan, inter alia, including, total excavation (quantum of mineral, waste, over burden, inter burden and top soil etc.); mining technology; lease area; scope of working ( method of mining, overburden & dump management, O.B& dump mining, mineral transportation mode, ultimate depth of mining, concurrent reclamation and reclamation at mine closure; land-use of the mine lease area at various stages of mining scheme as well as at the end-of-life; etc.).
<b>Mining plan</b>	
1.	The land-use of the mine lease area at various stages of mining scheme as well as at the end-of-life shall be governed as per the approved Mining Plan. The excavation vis-à-vis backfilling in the mine lease area and corresponding afforestation to be raised in the reclaimed area shall be governed as per approved mining plan. PP shall ensure the monitoring and management of rehabilitated areas until the vegetation becomes self-sustaining. The compliance status shall be submitted half-yearly to the MoEFCC and its concerned Regional Office.
<b>Land reclamation</b>	
1.	Check dams of appropriate size, gradient and length shall be constructed around mine pit and OB dumps to prevent storm run-off and sediment flow into adjoining water bodies. A safety margin of 50% shall be kept for designing of sump structures over and above peak rainfall (based on 50 years data) and maximum discharge in the mine and its adjoining area which shall also help in providing adequate retention time period thereby allowing proper settling of sediments/ silt material. The sedimentation pits/ sumps shall be constructed at the corners of the garland drains.
2.	Catch drains, settling tanks and siltation ponds of appropriate size shall be constructed around the mine working, mineral yards and Top Soil/OB/Waste dumps to prevent run off of water and flow of sediments directly into the water bodies (Nallah/ River/ Pond etc.). The collected water should be utilized for watering the mine area, roads, green belt development, plantation etc. The drains/ sedimentation sumps etc. shall be de-silted regularly, particularly after monsoon season, and maintained properly.
<b>Waste management</b>	
1.	The waste oil, grease and other hazardous waste shall be disposed of as per the Hazardous & Other waste (Management & Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016.
<b>Land reclamation</b>	
1.	The slope of dumps shall be vegetated in scientific manner with suitable native species to maintain the slope stability, prevent erosion and surface run off. The selection of local species regulates local climatic parameters and help in adaptation of plant species to the microclimate. The gullies formed on slopes should be adequately taken care of as it impacts the overall stability of dumps. The dump mass should be consolidated with the help of dozer/ compactors thereby ensuring proper filling/ leveling of dump mass. In critical areas, use of geo textiles/ geo-membranes / clay liners / Bentonite etc. shall be undertaken for stabilization of the dump.
2.	The Overburden (O.B.), waste and topsoil generated during the mining operations shall be stacked at earmarked

	OB dump site(s) only and it should not be kept active for a long period of time. The physical parameters of the OB / waste dumps / topsoil dump like height, width and angle of slope shall be governed as per the approved Mining Plan and the guidelines/circulars issued by D.G.M.S. The topsoil shall be used for land reclamation and plantation.
<b>Green Belt and EMP</b>	
1.	The project proponent shall prepare GHG emissions inventory for the plant and shall submit the programme for reduction of the same including carbon sequestration including plantation.
<b>Green Belt and EMP</b>	
1.	Green belt shall be developed in an area equal to 33% of the plant area with a native tree species in accordance with CPCB guidelines. The greenbelt shall inter alia cover the entire periphery of the plant
<b>Transportation</b>	
1.	No Transportation of the minerals shall be allowed in case of roads passing through villages/ habitations. In such cases, PP shall construct a 'bypass' road for the purpose of transportation of the minerals leaving an adequate gap (say at least 200 meters) so that the adverse impact of sound and dust along with chances of accidents could be mitigated. All costs resulting from widening and strengthening of existing public road network shall be borne by the PP in consultation with nodal State Govt. Department. Transportation of minerals through road movement in case of existing village/ rural roads shall be allowed in consultation with nodal State Govt. Department only after required strengthening such that the carrying capacity of roads is increased to handle the traffic load. The pollution due to transportation load on the environment will be effectively controlled and water sprinkling will also be done regularly. Vehicular emissions shall be kept under control and regularly monitored. Project should obtain Pollution Under Control (PUC) certificate for all the vehicles from authorized pollution testing centers. [If applicable in case of road transport].
<b>Transportation</b>	
1.	The Main haulage road within the mine lease should be provided with a permanent water sprinkling arrangement for dust suppression. Other roads within the mine lease should be wetted regularly with tanker-mounted water sprinkling system. The other areas of dust generation like crushing zone, material transfer points, material yards etc. should invariably be provided with dust suppression arrangements. The air pollution control equipments like bag filters, vacuum suction hoods, dry fogging system etc. shall be installed at Crushers, belt-conveyors and other areas prone to air pollution. The belt conveyor should be fully covered to avoid generation of dust while transportation. PP shall take necessary measures to avoid generation of fugitive dust emissions.
<b>Public hearing and Human health issues</b>	
1.	The project proponent shall carry out heat stress analysis for the workmen who work in high temperature work zone and provide Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) as per the norms of Factory Act.
2.	Occupational health surveillance of the workers shall be done on a regular basis and records maintained as per the Factories Act.
3.	Emergency preparedness plan based on the Hazard identification and Risk Assessment (HIRA) and Disaster Management Plan shall be implemented.
<b>Public hearing and Human health issues</b>	
1.	Provision shall be made for the housing of construction labour within the site with all necessary infrastructure and facilities such as fuel for cooking, mobile toilets, mobile , safe drinking water, medical health care, creche etc. The housing may be in the form of temporary structures to be removed after the completion of the project.
<b>Green Belt</b>	

1.	The Project Proponent shall develop greenbelt in 7.5m wide safety zone all along the mine lease boundary as per the guidelines of CPCB in order to arrest pollution emanating from mining operations within the lease. The whole Green belt shall be developed within first 5 years starting from windward side of the active mining area. The development of greenbelt shall be governed as per the EC granted by the Ministry irrespective of the stipulation made in approved mine plan.
<b>Corporate Environment Responsibility</b>	
1.	Self-environmental audit shall be conducted annually. Every three years third party environmental audit shall be carried out.
<b>Public hearing and human health issues</b>	
1.	Project Proponent shall make provision for the housing for workers/labors or shall construct labor camps within/outside (company owned land) with necessary basic infrastructure/ facilities like fuel for cooking, mobile toilets, mobile , safe drinking water, medical health care, crèche for kids etc. The housing may be provided in the form of temporary structures which can be removed after the completion of the project related infrastructure. The domestic waste water should be treated with in order to avoid contamination of underground water.
<b>Corporate Environment Responsibility</b>	
1.	The company shall have a well laid down environmental policy duly approve by the Board of Directors. The environmental policy should prescribe for standard operating procedures to have proper checks and balances and to bring into focus any infringements/deviation/violation of the environmental / forest /wildlife norms/ conditions. The company shall have defined system of reporting infringements / deviation / violation of the environmental / forest I wildlife norms / conditions and / or shareholders / stake holders. The copy of the board resolution in this regard shall be submitted to the MoEF&CC as a part of six-monthly report.
<b>Corporate Environment Responsibility</b>	
1.	Action plan for implementing EMP and environmental conditions along with responsibility matrix of the company shall be prepared and shall be duly approved by competent authority. The year wise funds earmarked for environmental protection measures shall be kept in separate account and not to be diverted for any other purpose. Year wise progress of implementation of action plan shall be reported to the Ministry/Regional Office along with the Six Monthly Compliance Report.
2.	A separate Environmental Cell both at the project and company head quarter level, with qualified personnel shall be set up under the control of senior Executive, who will directly to the head of the organization.
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	
1.	The project authorities must strictly adhere to the stipulations made by the State Pollution Control Board and the State Government.
2.	The project proponent shall submit the environmental statement for each financial year in Form-V to the concerned State Pollution Control Board as prescribed under the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986, as amended subsequently and put on the website of the company.
3.	The Project Proponent shall submit six monthly compliance reports on the status of the implementation of the stipulated environmental safeguards to the MOEFCC & its concerned Regional Office, Central Pollution Control Board and State Pollution Control Board.
4.	The Project Authorities should inform to the Regional Office regarding date of financial closures and final approval of the project by the concerned authorities and the date of start of land development work.
5.	The Ministry or any other competent authority may alter/modify the above conditions or stipulate any further condition in the interest of environment protection.

6.	The above conditions will be enforced inter-alia, under the provisions of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991 along with their amendments and rules made there under and also any other orders passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India/High Court and any other Court of Law relating to the subject matter.
7.	Concealing factual data failure to comply with any or submission of false/ fabricated data and of the conditions mentioned above may result in withdrawal of this clearance and attract action under the provisions of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	
1.	Any appeal against this environmental clearance 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.
2.	The project proponent shall submit six-monthly reports on the status of the compliance of the stipulated environmental conditions on the website of the ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change at environment clearance portal.
3.	The project proponent shall upload the status of compliance of the stipulated environment clearance conditions, including results of monitored data on their website and update the same on half-yearly basis.
4.	No further expansion or modifications in the plant shall be carried out without prior approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)/SEIAA-TN.
5.	The concerned Regional Office of the MoEF&CC shall randomly monitor compliance of the stipulated conditions. The project authorities should extend full cooperation to the MoEF&CC officer(s) by furnishing the requisite data / information / monitoring reports.
6.	Any appeal against this environmental clearance 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.
7.	The Project Proponent shall prepare digital map (land use & land cover) of the entire lease area once in five years purpose of monitoring land use pattern and submit a report to concerned Regional Office of the MoEF&CC.
8.	In pursuant to Ministry's O.M No 22-34/2018-IA.III dated 16.01.2020 to comply with the direction made by Honble Supreme Court on 8.01.2020 in W.P. (Civil) No 114/2014 in the matter Common Cause vs Union of India, the mining lease holder shall after ceasing mining operations, undertake regrassing the mining area and any other area which may have been disturbed due to other mining activities and restore the land to a condition which is fit for growth of fodder, flora, fauna etc.
9.	A separate 'Environmental Management Cell' with suitable qualified manpower should be set-up under the control of a Senior Executive. The Senior Executive shall directly report to Head of the Organization. Adequate number of qualified Environmental Scientists and Mining Engineers shall be appointed and submit a report to RO, MoEF&CC.
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	
1.	The project proponent shall monitor the criteria pollutants level namely; PM10, SO2, NOx (ambient levels as well as stack emissions) or critical sectoral parameters, indicated for the projects and display the same at a convenient location for disclosure to the public and put on the website of the company.
2.	The project proponent shall inform the Regional Office as well as the Ministry, the date of financial closure and final approval of the project by the concerned authorities, commencing the land development work and start of production operation by the project.
3.	The copies of the environmental clearance shall be submitted by the project proponents to the Heads of local

	bodies, Panchayats and Municipal Bodies in addition to the relevant offices of the Government who in turn has to display the same for 30 days from the date of receipt.
4.	The above conditions will be enforced inter-alia, under the provisions of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991 along with their amendments and rules made there under and also any other orders passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India/High Court and any other Court of Law relating to the subject matter.
5.	The project proponent shall make public the environmental clearance granted for their project along with the environmental conditions and safeguards at their cost by prominently advertising it at least in two local newspapers of the District or State, of which one shall be in the vernacular language within seven days and in addition this shall also be displayed in the project proponents website permanently.

#### 4. Any Other Item(s)

N/A
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#### 5. List of Attendees

Sr. No.	Name	Designation	Email ID	Remarks
1	Dr V Palanikumar IAS	Chairman, SEAC	sea*****@gmail.com	
2	Thiru N Suresh Kumar	Member Secretary, SEAC	sea*****@gmail.com	
3	Thiru T Muruganandam	SEAC MEMBER	gtm*****@gmail.com	
4	Dr R Rajamanickam	SEAC MEMBER	raj*****@yahoo.co.in	
5	Thiru Jayabalan IFS	SEAC MEMBER	jay*****@yahoo.com	
6	Thiru R Sooriamoorthy	SEAC MEMBER	soo*****@gmail.com	
7	Dr Suresh Gandhi	SEAC MEMBER	msu*****@gmail.com	
8	Thiru. Sivalingam Subbaiyan	SEAC MEMBER	ssv*****@gmail.com	
9	Dr. Arun Senthil Ram Govindaraj	SEAC MEMBER	aru*****@yahoo.co.in	

Signature Not Verified

Digitally Signed by: Thiru N Suresh Kumar  
Member Secretary, SEAC

Date: 16/07/2025

executed through Collector's Proceedings No. KV1/508/2018, dated 29.01.2019. Based on the presentation made and the documents furnished by the Project proponent, SEAC-II decided to call for the following documents:

1. The PP shall obtain Certified Compliance Report (CCR) from Integrated Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Chennai for the earlier Environmental Clearance obtained from DEIAA.

Agenda No: 569 - 08

(New File No:12004/2025)

(Old File No:11234/2024)

Proposed Rough Stone quarry lease over an extent of 1.88.0 Ha in S.F. No: 832/2,3,5,6,7,8,9,10, (Patta Land) of Azhgiapandipuram Village of Thoivalai Taluk of Kanniyakumari District Tamil Nadu by J. Neppoleon - For Environmental Clearance.

Old Online No: (SIA/TN/MIN/495155/2024, Dated:04.09.2024

New Online No: (SIA/TN/MIN/530858/2025, Dated: 26.03.2025)

The details of the project furnished by the proponent are available on the PARIVESH web portal (parivesh.nic.in). The project proponent made a detailed presentation.

The SEAC-II noted the following:

1. The project proponent, J. Neppoleon has applied seeking Environmental Clearance for EIA study for the proposed rough stone quarry lease over an extent of 1.88.0 Ha in S.F. No: 832/2,3,5,6,7,8,9,10, (Patta Land) of Azhgiapandipuram Village of Thoivalai Taluk of Kanniyakumari District Tamil Nadu.
2. The project/activity is covered under Category "B2" of Item 1(a) "Mining of Minerals Projects" of the Schedule to the EIA Notification, 2006, as amended.
3. Earlier, the proposal was placed in the 504<sup>th</sup> meeting of SEAC held on 18.10.2024. The following are the discussion of SEAC,

On perusal of the KML file and the documents furnished by the Project Proponent, the SEAC-II noted the following environmentally sensitive features:

1. The proposed site is located at a distance of about 300m from the Azhgiapandipuram village. Gnam village is at a distance of about 450m.

MEMBER SECRETARY  
SEAC -TN

CHAIRMAN  
SEAC-TN

2. The proposed quarry is very close to the Kanyakumari Wild life Sanctuary. The ESZ for Kanyakumari Wild life Sanctuary ranges from 0km to 3km.
3. A government primary school is located at a distance of 470m.
4. River Pazhaiyar is flowing at a distance of 64m from the boundary of the lease.
5. Pazhaiyar dam and anaicut are located at a distance of 320m from the proposed quarry.
6. There are many building structures and houses around the proposed site and notable among them are an OHT at a distance of 230m and a temple at a distance of 220m.

Besides the above, the SEAC-II also deliberated on the following features:

1. The proposed quarry is located on the sloping face of the hillock and the hillock forms an important aspect in the ecology of the entire area.
2. Similarly, the risk and accident proneness of the mining activity are extremely high in the proposed site. The mining activity will also result in the formation of a void immediately after the completion of 'quarry' operations.
3. Transportation to and from the mining site through fragile narrow High Range roads on the sloping hillock will lead to environmental harm around the sensitive surroundings.
4. Further, there is a thick vegetation at the foot of the hillock that will be adversely impacted by the proposed activity.
5. In the case of this quarry, there is every reason to suspect the risk potential in the context of extreme events due to Climate Change and proximity to hazard zones. The ravages of extreme events due to Climate Change have been conspicuously present in the hilly regions of western ghats over the past few years, particularly in the High Range region. Hence, the greatest of caution has to be exercised while deciding about the fate of steep inclines (or) sloping faces.
6. Further, the SEAC have also taken a note on "Precautionary Principle" which involves the anticipation of environmental harm and taking measures to avoid it or to choose the least environmentally harmful activity. It is based on scientific uncertainty. Environmental protection should not only aim at protecting health,

property and economic interest but also protect the environment for its own sake.

7. In this regard, the SEAC have also considered the recent judgment in IA No.1000 of 2003 dated 3rd June 2022 Hon"ble Supreme Court of India which has underlined the necessity for following the Precautionary Principle. The judgment states that a situation may arise where there may be irreparable damage to environment after an activity is allowed to go ahead and if it is stopped, there may be irreparable damage to economic interest. The Hon"ble Court held that in case of a doubt, protection of environment would have precedence over economic interest. It was further held that precautionary principle requires anticipatory action to be taken to prevent harm and that harm can be prevented even on reasonable suspicion. Further, the Hon`ble Court emphasized in the said judgment that "it is not always necessary that there should be direct evidence of harm to the environment."SEAC, therefore, decided not to recommend Environmental Clearance for this project, considering the fragile environment settings around the proposed quarry site.
8. Accepting the decision of SEAC to not to recommend Environmental Clearance for the project for the reasons stated above, the SEIAA decided to reject the project proposal and to close and record the file.

The proposal was placed before SEAC-II in the meeting held on 22.05.2025. SEAC-II noted that the proposed project had not been recommended earlier on the aforementioned grounds. However, the Project Proponent has now submitted a fresh application for the same area via the PARIVESH portal, vide proposal ID SIA/TN/MIN/530858/2025, dated 26.03.2025. In this context, SEAC has forwarded the proposal to SEIAA for appropriate decision on whether the application may be reconsidered or not.

Agenda No: 569-09

(File No.12008/2025)

Proposed Rough Stone and Gravel Quarry lease over an extent of 4.99.39 Ha at S.F. Nos: 719/1(P), 720/1(P), 720/2, 720/3, 720/4, 720/5, 720/6, 720/7, 720/8, 720/9, 720/10, 720/11, 720/12, 720/13(P), 720/14(P)Vadakku Ariyanayagipuram – II Village.

MEMBER SECRETARY  
SEAC TN

CHAIRMAN  
SEAC TN



सत्यमेव जयते

**File No: 11234**  
**Government of India**  
**Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**  
**(Issued by the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA),**  
**TAMIL NADU)**



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Date 04/11/2024



To,

Thiru.j.Neppoleon  
 neppoleon j  
 neppoleon@hotmail.com

**Subject:** Rejection of Environmental Clearance (EC) to the proposed Project under the EIA Notification 2006- and as amended thereof -regarding.

Sir/Madam,

This is in reference to your application submitted to SEIAA vide proposal number SIA/TN/MIN/495155/2024 dated null Rejecting prior Environmental Clearance (EC) to the project **Proposed Rough Stone quarry lease over an extent of 1.88.0 Ha in S.F. No: 832/2,3,5,6,7,8,9,10, (Patta Land) of Azhziapandipuram Village of Thoivalai Taluk of Kanniyakumari District Tamil Nadu by J. Neppoleon** - under the provision of the EIA Notification 2006-and as amended thereof.

2. The particulars of the proposal are as below :

(i) EC Identification No.	EC24C0108TN5232167N
(ii) File No.	11234
(iii) Clearance Type	Fresh EC (Mining)
(iv) Category	B2
(v) Project/Activity Included Schedule No.	1(a)
(vii) Name of Project	Rough Stone
(viii) Name of Company/Organization	neppoleon j
(ix) Location of Project (District, State)	KANNIYAKUMARI, , TAMIL NADU,
(x) Issuing Authority	SEIAA
(xi) Applicability of General Conditions as per EIA Notification, 2006	No

**The SEAC noted the following:**

1. The project proponent, **J. Neppoleon** has applied seeking Environmental Clearance for EIA study for the proposed rough stone quarry lease over an extent of 1.88.0 Ha in S.F. No: 832/2,3,5,6,7,8,9,10, (Patta Land) of Azhziapandipuram Village of Thoivalai Taluk of Kanniyakumari District Tamil Nadu.
2. The project/activity is covered under Category "B2" of Item 1(a) "Mining of Minerals Projects" of the Schedule to the

EIA Notification, 2006, as amended.

On perusal of the KML file and the documents furnished by the Project Proponent, the SEAC noted the following environmentally sensitive features:

1. The proposed site is located at a distance of about 300m from the Azhziapandipuram village. Gnam village is at a distance of about 450m.
2. The proposed quarry is very close to the **Kanyakumari Wild life Sanctuary**. The **ESZ for Kanyakumari Wild life Sanctuary** ranges from **0km to 3km**.
3. **A government primary school** is located at a distance of 470m.
4. **River Pazhaiyar** is flowing at a distance of 64m from the boundary of the lease.
5. Pazhaiyar dam and **anaicut** are located at a distance of 320m from the proposed quarry.
6. There are many building structures and houses around the proposed site and notable among them are an OHT at a distance of 230m and a temple at a distance of 220m.

Besides the above, the SEAC also deliberated on the following features:

1. The proposed quarry is located on the sloping face of the hillock and the hillock forms an important aspect in the ecology of the entire area.
2. Similarly, the risk and accident proneness of the mining activity are extremely high in the proposed site. The mining activity will also result in the formation of a void immediately after the completion of 'quarry' operations.
3. Transportation to and from the mining site through fragile narrow High Range roads on the sloping hillock will lead to environmental harm around the sensitive surroundings.
4. Further, there is a thick vegetation at the foot of the hillock that will be adversely impacted by the proposed activity.
5. In the case of this quarry, there is every reason to suspect the risk potential in the context of extreme events due to Climate Change and proximity to hazard zones. The ravages of extreme events due to Climate Change have been conspicuously present in the hilly regions of western ghats over the past few years, particularly in the High Range region. Hence, the greatest of caution has to be exercised while deciding about the fate of steep inclines (or) sloping faces.
6. Further, the SEAC have also taken a note on "Precautionary Principle" which involves the anticipation of environmental harm and taking measures to avoid it or to choose the least environmentally harmful activity. It is based on scientific uncertainty. **Environmental protection should not only aim at protecting health, property and economic interest but also protect the environment for its own sake.**
7. In this regard, the SEAC have also considered the recent judgment in IA No.1000 of 2003 dated 3rd June 2022 Hon"ble Supreme Court of India which has underlined the necessity for following the Precautionary Principle. The judgment states that a situation may arise where there may be irreparable damage to environment after an activity is allowed to go ahead and if it is stopped, there may be irreparable damage to economic interest. The Hon"ble Court held that in case of a doubt, **protection of environment would have precedence over economic interest**. It was further held that precautionary principle requires anticipatory action to be taken to prevent harm and that harm can be prevented even on reasonable suspicion. Further, the Hon'ble Court emphasized in the said judgment that **"it is not always necessary that there should be direct evidence of harm to the environment."** SEAC, therefore, decided **not to recommend Environmental Clearance** for this project, considering the fragile environment settings around the proposed quarry site.

#### **SEIAA REMARKS:**

The SEIAA noted that the subject was placed in the 504<sup>th</sup> meeting of SEAC held on 18.10.2024 and the SEAC noted that.

1. The project proponent, **J. Neppoleon** has applied seeking Environmental Clearance for EIA study for the Proposed Rough Stone quarry lease over an extent of 1.88.0 Ha in S.F. No: 832/2,3,5,6,7,8,9,10, (Patta Land) of Azhziapandipuram Village of Thovalai Taluk of Kanniyakumari District Tamil Nadu.
2. The project/activity is covered under Category "B2" of Item 1(a) "Mining of Minerals Projects" of the Schedule to the EIA Notification, 2006, as amended.

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3. Transportation to and from the mining site through fragile narrow High Range roads on the sloping hillock will lead to environmental harm around the sensitive surroundings.
4. Further, there is a thick vegetation at the foot of the hillock that will be adversely impacted by the proposed activity.
5. In the case of this quarry, there is every reason to suspect the risk potential in the context of extreme events due to Climate Change and proximity to hazard zones. The ravages of extreme events due to Climate Change have been conspicuously present in the hilly regions of western ghats over the past few years, particularly in the High Range region. Hence, the greatest of caution has to be exercised while deciding about the fate of steep inclines (or) sloping faces.
6. Further, the SEAC have also taken a note on "Precautionary Principle" which involves the anticipation of environmental harm and taking measures to avoid it or to choose the least environmentally harmful activity. It is based on scientific uncertainty. Environmental protection should not only aim at protecting health, property and economic interest but also protect the environment for its own sake.
7. In this regard, the SEAC have also considered the recent judgment in IA No.1000 of 2003 dated 3rd June 2022 Hon"ble Supreme Court of India which has underlined the necessity for following the Precautionary Principle. The judgment states that a situation may arise where there may be irreparable damage to environment after an activity is allowed to go ahead and if it is stopped, there may be irreparable damage to economic interest. The Hon"ble Court held that in case of a doubt, protection of environment would have precedence over economic interest. It was further held that precautionary principle requires anticipatory action to be taken to prevent harm and that harm can be prevented even on reasonable suspicion. Further, the Hon'ble Court emphasized in the said judgment that "it is not always necessary that there should be direct evidence of harm to the environment."

SEAC, therefore, decided **not to recommend Environmental Clearance** for this project, considering the fragile environment settings around the proposed quarry site.

Accepting the decision of SEAC to not to recommend Environmental Clearance for the project for the reasons stated above, the **SEIAA decided to reject the project proposal and to close and record the file.**

**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: 04/11/2024

	is not satisfactory.
1.	The Ministry/SEIAA-TN reserves the right to stipulate additional conditions if found necessary. The Company in a time bound manner shall implement these conditions.
1.	The Regional Office of this Ministry shall monitor compliance of the stipulated conditions. The project authorities should extend full cooperation to the officer (s) of the Regional Office by furnishing the requisite data / information/monitoring reports.
1.	The above conditions shall be enforced, inter-alia under the provisions of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016 and the Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991 along with their amendments and Rules and any other orders passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India / High Courts and any other Court of Law relating to the subject matter.
1.	The proponent shall abide by all the commitments and recommendations made in the EIA/EMP report and also that during presentation to the SEAC. All the commitments made on the issues raised during public hearing shall also be implemented in letter and spirit.
1.	Compensation of the land acquired for the project shall be settled as per the R&R Policy. Adequate facility of drinking water, plantation and other social amenities should be provided to established R&R villages.
1.	Persons of nearby villages shall be given training on livelihood and skill development to make them employable with its proper records.
1.	The illumination and sound at night at project sites disturb the villages in respect of both human and animal population. Consequent sleeping disorders and stress may affect the health in the villages located close to mining operations. Habitations have a right for darkness and minimal noise levels at night. PPs must ensure that the biological clock of the villages is not disturbed; by orienting the floodlights/ masks away from the villagers and keeping the noise levels well within the prescribed limits for day light/night hours

### 3.17. Agenda Item No 17:

#### 3.17.1. Details of the proposal

<b>Rough Stone by neppoleon j located at KANNIYAKUMARI,TAMIL NADU</b>			
<b>Proposal For</b>		Mining EC Under 5 Ha	
<b>Proposal No</b>	<b>File No</b>	<b>Submission Date</b>	<b>Activity (Schedule Item)</b>
SIA/TN/MIN/495155/2024	11234	18/10/2024	Mining of minerals (1(a))

#### 3.17.2. Deliberations by the committee in previous meetings

<b>Date of SEAC 1 :18/10/2024</b>
-----------------------------------

**Deliberations of SEAC 1 :****The SEAC noted the following:**

1. The project proponent, **J. Neppoleon** has applied seeking Environmental Clearance for EIA study for the proposed rough stone quarry lease over an extent of 1.88.0 Ha in S.F. No: 832/2,3,5,6,7,8,9,10, (Patta Land) of Azhziapandipuram Village of Thovalai Taluk of Kanniyakumari District Tamil Nadu.
2. The project/activity is covered under Category “B2” of Item 1(a) “Mining of Minerals Projects” of the Schedule to the EIA Notification, 2006, as amended.

On perusal of the KML file and the documents furnished by the Project Proponent, the SEAC noted the following environmentally sensitive features:

1. The proposed site is located at a distance of about 300m from the Azhziapandipuram village. Gnam village is at a distance of about 450m.
2. The proposed quarry is very close to the **Kanyakumari Wild life Sanctuary**. The **ESZ for Kanyakumari Wild life Sanctuary** ranges from **0km to 3km**.
3. A **government primary school** is located at a distance of 470m.
4. **River Pazhaiyar** is flowing at a distance of 64m from the boundary of the lease.
5. Pazhaiyar dam and **anaicut** are located at a distance of 320m from the proposed quarry.
6. There are many building structures and houses around the proposed site and notable among them are an OHT at a distance of 230m and a temple at a distance of 220m.

Besides the above, the SEAC also deliberated on the following features:

1. The proposed quarry is located on the sloping face of the hillock and the hillock forms an important aspect in the ecology of the entire area.
2. Similarly, the risk and accident proneness of the mining activity are extremely high in the proposed site. The mining activity will also result in the formation of a void immediately after the completion of ‘quarry’ operations.
3. Transportation to and from the mining site through fragile narrow High Range roads on the sloping hillock will lead to environmental harm around the sensitive surroundings.
4. Further, there is a thick vegetation at the foot of the hillock that will be adversely impacted by the proposed activity.
5. In the case of this quarry, there is every reason to suspect the risk potential in the context of extreme events due to Climate Change and proximity to hazard zones. The ravages of extreme events due to Climate Change have been conspicuously present in the hilly regions of western ghats over the past few years, particularly in the High Range region. Hence, the greatest of caution has to be exercised while deciding about the fate of steep inclines (or) sloping faces.
6. Further, the SEAC have also taken a note on “Precautionary Principle” which involves the anticipation of environmental harm and taking measures to avoid it or to choose the least environmentally harmful activity. It is based on scientific uncertainty. **Environmental protection should not only aim at protecting health, property and economic interest but also protect the environment for its own sake.**
7. In this regard, the SEAC have also considered the recent judgment in IA No.1000 of 2003 dated 3rd June 2022 Hon“ble Supreme Court of India which has underlined the necessity for following the Precautionary Principle. The judgment states that a situation may arise where there may be

irreparable damage to environment after an activity is allowed to go ahead and if it is stopped, there may be irreparable damage to economic interest. The Hon'ble Court held that in case of a doubt, **protection of environment would have precedence over economic interest.** It was further held that precautionary principle requires anticipatory action to be taken to prevent harm and that harm can be prevented even on reasonable suspicion. Further, the Hon'ble Court emphasized in the said judgment that **“it is not always necessary that there should be direct evidence of harm to the environment.”**

SEAC, therefore, decided **not to recommend Environmental Clearance** for this project, considering the fragile environment settings around the proposed quarry site.

### 3.17.3. Deliberations by the SEIAA in current meetings

The SEIAA noted that the subject was placed in the 504<sup>th</sup> meeting of SEAC held on 18.10.2024 and the SEAC noted that.

1. The project proponent, **J. Neppoleon** has applied seeking Environmental Clearance for EIA study for the Proposed Rough Stone quarry lease over an extent of 1.88.0 Ha in S.F. No: 832/2,3,5,6,7,8,9,10, (Patta Land) of Azhziapandipuram Village of Thovalai Taluk of Kanniyakumari District Tamil Nadu.
2. The project/activity is covered under Category “B2” of Item 1(a) “Mining of Minerals Projects” of the Schedule to the EIA Notification, 2006, as amended.

On perusal of the KML file and the documents furnished by the Project Proponent, the SEAC noted the following environmentally sensitive features:

Besides the above, the SEAC also deliberated on the following features:

SEAC, therefore, decided **not to recommend Environmental Clearance** for this project, considering the fragile environment settings around the proposed quarry site.

Accepting the decision of SEAC to not to recommend Environmental Clearance for the project for the reasons stated above, the **SEIAA decided to reject the project proposal and to close and record the file.**

### 3.17.4. Recommendation of SEIAA

Reject

### 3.18. Agenda Item No 18:

#### 3.18.1. Details of the proposal

Ordinary earth quarry-Nandivaram village by ASHOKKUMAR located at KANCHIPURAM,TAMIL NADU			
Proposal For		Amendment in EC	
Proposal No	File No	Submission Date	Activity (Schedule Item)

13.05.2020.

### 3.2.3. Deliberations by the SEIAA in current meetings

The Authority noted that the Proposal was placed in the 585th SEAC-II Meeting held on 03.07.2025. During the presentation, the PP has informed & requested one year validity extension as per the MoEF&CC's Notification issued S.O. 221 (E) dated 18.01.2021 for Covid extension. In view of the MoEF&CC's Notification dated 18.01.2021, the committee decided to grant EC Extension for a period of 1 year, which is valid upto 18.06.2026 for the same annual peak approved in the mine plan for which EC was issued vide letter dated: 13.05.2020.

In view of the above, **the Authority noted the SEAC-II decision and decided to grant EC Extension for a period of 1 year, which is valid upto 18.06.2026 for the same annual peak approved in the mine plan for which EC was issued vide letter dated: 13.05.2020.**

### 3.2.4. Recommendation of SEIAA

Approved

### 3.2.5. Details of Environment Conditions

#### 3.2.5.1. Specific

##### SEIAA SPECIFIC CONDITIONS:

- The Authority noted the SEAC-II decision and decided to grant EC Extension for a period of 1 year, which is valid upto 18.06.2026 for the same annual peak approved in the mine plan for which EC was issued vide letter dated: 13.05.2020.

### 3.3. Agenda Item No 3:

#### 3.3.1. Details of the proposal

<b>Rough Stone Quarry by neppoleon j located at KANNIYAKUMARI,TAMIL NADU</b>			
<b>Proposal For</b>		Mining EC Under 5 Ha	
<b>Proposal No</b>	<b>File No</b>	<b>Submission Date</b>	<b>Activity (Schedule Item)</b>
SIA/TN/MIN/530858/2025	12004	28/05/2025	Mining of minerals (1(a))

#### 3.3.2. Deliberations by the committee in previous meetings

**Date of SEAC 1 :22/05/2025**

**Deliberations of SEAC 1 :****The SEAC-II noted the following:**

1. The project proponent, **J. Neppoleon** has applied seeking Environmental Clearance for EIA study for the proposed rough stone quarry lease over an extent of 1.88.0 Ha in S.F. No: 832/2,3,5,6,7,8,9,10, (Patta Land) of Azhziapandipuram Village of Thovalai Taluk of Kanniyakumari District Tamil Nadu.
2. The project/activity is covered under Category “B2” of Item 1(a) “Mining of Minerals Projects” of the Schedule to the EIA Notification, 2006, as amended.
3. Earlier, the proposal was placed in the **504<sup>th</sup> meeting of SEAC held on 18.10.2024**. The following are the discussion of SEAC,

**On perusal of the KML file and the documents furnished by the Project Proponent, the SEAC-II noted the following environmentally sensitive features:**

1. **The proposed site is located at a distance of about 300m from the Azhziapandipuram village. Gnam village is at a distance of about 450m.**
2. **The proposed quarry is very close to the Kanyakumari Wild life Sanctuary. The ESZ for Kanyakumari Wild life Sanctuary ranges from 0km to 3km.**
3. **A government primary school is located at a distance of 470m.**
4. **River Pazhaiyar is flowing at a distance of 64m from the boundary of the lease.**
5. **Pazhaiyar dam and anaicut are located at a distance of 320m from the proposed quarry.**
6. **There are many building structures and houses around the proposed site and notable among them are an OHT at a distance of 230m and a temple at a distance of 220m.**

**Besides the above, the SEAC-II also deliberated on the following features:**

1. The proposed quarry is located on the sloping face of the hillock and the hillock forms an important aspect in the ecology of the entire area.
2. Similarly, the risk and accident proneness of the mining activity are extremely high in the proposed site. The mining activity will also result in the formation of a void immediately after the completion of ‘quarry’ operations.
3. Transportation to and from the mining site through fragile narrow High Range roads on the sloping hillock will lead to environmental harm around the sensitive surroundings.
4. Further, there is a thick vegetation at the foot of the hillock that will be adversely impacted by the proposed activity.
5. In the case of this quarry, there is every reason to suspect the risk potential in the context of extreme events due to Climate Change and proximity to hazard zones. The ravages of extreme events due to Climate Change have been conspicuously present in the hilly regions of western ghats over the past few years, particularly in the High Range region. Hence, the greatest of caution has to be exercised while deciding about the fate of steep inclines (or) sloping faces.
6. Further, the SEAC have also taken a note on “Precautionary Principle” which involves the anticipation of environmental harm and taking measures to avoid it or to choose the least environmentally harmful activity. It is based on scientific uncertainty. **Environmental protection should not only aim at protecting health, property and economic interest but also protect the environment for its own sake.**
7. In this regard, the SEAC have also considered the recent judgment in IA No.1000 of 2003 dated

3rd June 2022 Hon"ble Supreme Court of India which has underlined the necessity for following the Precautionary Principle. The judgment states that a situation may arise where there may be irreparable damage to environment after an activity is allowed to go ahead and if it is stopped, there may be irreparable damage to economic interest. The Hon"ble Court held that in case of a doubt, **protection of environment would have precedence over economic interest**. It was further held that precautionary principle requires anticipatory action to be taken to prevent harm and that harm can be prevented even on reasonable suspicion. Further, the Hon'ble Court emphasized in the said judgment that **"it is not always necessary that there should be direct evidence of harm to the environment."**SEAC, therefore, decided **not to recommend Environmental Clearance** for this project, considering the fragile environment settings around the proposed quarry site.

8. Accepting the decision of SEAC to not to recommend Environmental Clearance for the project for the reasons stated above, the **SEIAA decided to reject the project proposal and to close and record the file.**

**The proposal was placed before SEAC-II in the meeting held on 22.05.2025. SEAC-II noted that the proposed project had not been recommended earlier on the aforementioned grounds. However, the Project Proponent has now submitted a fresh application for the same area via the PARIVESH portal, vide proposal ID SIA/TN/MIN/530858/2025, dated 26.03.2025. In this context, SEAC has forwarded the proposal to SEIAA for appropriate decision on whether the application may be reconsidered or not.**

**Date of SEIAA 2 :12/06/2025**

**Deliberations of SEIAA 2 :**

The Authority noted that the subject was placed in the 569<sup>th</sup> meeting of SEAC-II held on 22.05.2025. SEAC –II has forwarded the proposal to SEIAA for appropriate decision on whether the application may be reconsidered or not. After detailed discussions, the authority decided to refer the proposal back to SEAC-II for re-examination in light of the new facts presented by the Project Proponent.

**Date of SEAC 3 :03/07/2025**

**Deliberations of SEAC 3 :****The SEAC-II noted the following:**

1. The project proponent, J. Neppoleon has applied seeking Environmental Clearance for EIA study for the proposed rough stone quarry lease over an extent of 1.88.0 Ha in S.F. No: 832/2,3,5,6,7,8,9,10, (Patta Land) of Azhziapandipuram Village of Thovalai Taluk of Kanniyakumari District Tamil Nadu.
2. The project/activity is covered under Category “B2” of Item 1(a) “Mining of Minerals Projects” of the Schedule to the EIA Notification, 2006, as amended.
3. **Earlier, the proposal was placed in the 569<sup>th</sup> SEAC-II held on 22.05.2025. The Committee has noted the following:**

Earlier, the proposal was placed in the **504<sup>th</sup> meeting of SEAC held on 18.10.2024**. On perusal of the KML file and the documents furnished by the Project Proponent, the SEAC-II noted the following environmentally sensitive features:

- i. The proposed site is located at a distance of about 300m from the Azhziapandipuram village. Gnam village is at a distance of about 450m.**
- ii. The proposed quarry is very close to the Kanyakumari Wild life Sanctuary. The ESZ for Kanyakumari Wild life Sanctuary ranges from 0km to 3km.**
- iii. A government primary school is located at a distance of 470m.**
- iv. River Pazhaiyar is flowing at a distance of 64m from the boundary of the lease.**
- v. Pazhaiyar dam and anicut are located at a distance of 320m from the proposed quarry.**
- vi. There are many building structures and houses around the proposed site and notable among them are an OHT at a distance of 230m and a temple at a distance of 220m.**

**Besides the above, the SEAC-II also deliberated on the following features:**

- a. The proposed quarry is located on the sloping face of the hillock and the hillock forms an important aspect in the ecology of the entire area.
- b. Similarly, the risk and accident proneness of the mining activity are extremely high in the proposed site. The mining activity will also result in the formation of a void immediately after the completion of ‘quarry’ operations.
- c. Transportation to and from the mining site through fragile narrow High Range roads on the sloping hillock will lead to environmental harm around the sensitive surroundings.
- d. Further, there is a thick vegetation at the foot of the hillock that will be adversely impacted by the proposed activity.
- e. In the case of this quarry, there is every reason to suspect the risk potential in the context of extreme events due to Climate Change and proximity to hazard zones. The ravages of extreme events due to Climate Change have been conspicuously present in the hilly regions of western ghats over the past few years, particularly in the High Range region. Hence, the greatest of caution has to be exercised while deciding about the fate of steep inclines (or) sloping faces.
- f. Further, the SEAC have also taken a note on “Precautionary Principle” which involves the anticipation of environmental harm and taking measures to avoid it or to choose the least environmentally harmful activity. It is based on scientific uncertainty. **Environmental protection should not only aim at protecting health, property and economic interest**

**but also protect the environment for its own sake.**

- g. In this regard, the SEAC have also considered the recent judgment in IA No.1000 of 2003 dated 3rd June 2022 Hon"ble Supreme Court of India which has underlined the necessity for following the Precautionary Principle. The judgment states that a situation may arise where there may be irreparable damage to environment after an activity is allowed to go ahead and if it is stopped, there may be irreparable damage to economic interest. The Hon"ble Court held that in case of a doubt, **protection of environment would have precedence over economic interest.** It was further held that precautionary principle requires anticipatory action to be taken to prevent harm and that harm can be prevented even on reasonable suspicion. Further, the Hon'ble Court emphasized in the said judgment that **"it is not always necessary that there should be direct evidence of harm to the environment."**SEAC, therefore, decided **not to recommend Environmental Clearance** for this project, considering the fragile environment settings around the proposed quarry site.
- h. Accepting the decision of SEAC to not to recommend Environmental Clearance for the project for the reasons stated above, the **SEIAA decided to reject the project proposal and to close and record the file.**
4. **The proposal was placed before SEAC-II in the meeting held on 22.05.2025. SEAC-II noted that the proposed project had not been recommended earlier on the aforementioned grounds. However, the Project Proponent has now submitted a fresh application for the same area via the PARIVESH portal, vide proposal ID SIA/TN/MIN/530858/2025, dated 26.03.2025. In this context, SEAC has forwarded the proposal to SEIAA for appropriate decision on whether the application may be reconsidered or not.**
5. Subsequently, the subject was placed in the 837<sup>th</sup> Authority meeting held on 12.06.2025. The Authority noted that the subject was placed in the 569<sup>th</sup> meeting of SEAC-II held on 22.05.2025. SEAC –II has forwarded the proposal to SEIAA for appropriate decision on whether the application may be reconsidered or not. After detailed discussions, the authority decided to refer the proposal back to SEAC-II for re-examination in light of the new facts presented by the Project Proponent.

Now, the proposal was placed in 585<sup>th</sup> Meeting of SEAC-II held on 03.07.2025. The PP has presented the following

S.No	SEAC Query	PP Reply
1	The proposed site is located at a distance of about 300m from the Azhgiapan dipuram village. Gnam village is at a distance of about 450m.	There is no habitation or village within a 300-meter radius of the proposed site. The Project Proponent (PP) has already fenced the perimeter to prevent unauthorized access and has installed appropriate signage to ensure both worker safety and environmental protection. The goo

		gle image with demarcation of habitation distance from project site is shown in <u>slide No.32</u> .
2	A government primary school is located at a distance of 470m	Material transport will be scheduled during off-peak hours to avoid heavy traffic near schools and villages. Additionally, access roads will be maintained regularly to ensure safe transportation and to minimize dust generation and road damage.as <b>Traffic Study Report has been submitted Enclosed as Annexures – I I and the details are shown in Slide No.12</b>
3	River Pazhaiyar is flowing at a distance of 64m from the boundary of the lease.	The Hydrogeology Study Report has been submitted <b>enclosed as Annexures – III</b> and summary details are shown in <u>Slide No.10 &amp; 11</u>
4	Pazhaiyar dam and anaicut are located at a distance of 320m from the proposed quarry.	The Hydrogeology Study Report Has been submitted <b>enclosed as Annexures –III</b> . and summary details are shown in <u>Slide No.10 &amp; 11</u>
5	There are many building structures and houses around the proposed site and notable among them are an OHT at a distance of 230m and a temple at a distance of 220m.	I hereby submit the enumeration study of structures, buildings, institutions, temples, water tanks, and other structures located within a 500-meter radius of the proposed quarry site. The details are enclosed as <b>Annexure-IV</b> . The google image with demarcation of habitation distance from project site is shown in <u>slide No.32</u> . I will ensure that no damage is caused to any of these structures during the quarrying operations.
6	The proposed quarry is very close to the Kanyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary. The ESZ for Kanyakumari Wildlife Sanct	The Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) extends from 0 to 3.0 kilometers around the boundary of the Kanyakumari Wildlife Sanct

uary ranges from 0km to 3km.

ctuary. The proposed lease area is located 1.54 kilometers from the ESZ boundary. Therefore, the proposed project may not require clearance under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 (NBWL). Kindly considered the proposed project. A map showing the Kanyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary boundary and the lease area is enclosed as Annexure-V. Slide No.81

Based on the presentation and documents furnished by the project proponent, SEAC decided to recommend the proposal for the **annual peak production of not exceeding 34,775m<sup>3</sup> of rough stone** subject to the following specific conditions and **it shall be valid for the project life including production value as laid down in the mining plan approved and renewed by competent authority, from time to time, subject to a maximum of thirty years, whichever is earlier, vide MoEF&CC Notification S.O, 1807(E) dated 12.04.2022.**

### 3.3.3. Deliberations by the SEIAA in current meetings

The Authority noted that the subject was appraised in the 585th SEAC-II meeting held on 03.07.2025. SEAC-II has furnished its recommendations for granting Environmental Clearance subject to the conditions stated therein. During deliberations, the Authority noted that the proposed area is surrounded by fully lush green landscape and mining activity in this area will cause severe negative impact on the green landscape. Hence, the Authority decided to reject the proposal. Further, the Authority decided to close and record the file.

### 3.3.4. Recommendation of SEIAA

Reject

## 3.4. Agenda Item No 4:

### 3.4.1. Details of the proposal

**Proposed Expansion of Industrial buildings located at S.F. No. 2/1A, 2/1B1, 2/2A2, 2/2A3A, 7/2B, 8/2B of Vadaputhur Village, Kinathukadavu Taluk, Coimbatore District. by indian products private limited located at COIMBATORE, TAMIL NADU**

<b>Proposal For</b>		Fresh EC	
<b>Proposal No</b>	<b>File No</b>	<b>Submission Date</b>	<b>Activity (Schedule Item)</b>
SIA/TN/INFRA2/539632/2025	12261	31/05/2025	Building / Construction (8(a))

### 3.4.2. Deliberations by the committee in previous meetings

Deferred for ADS

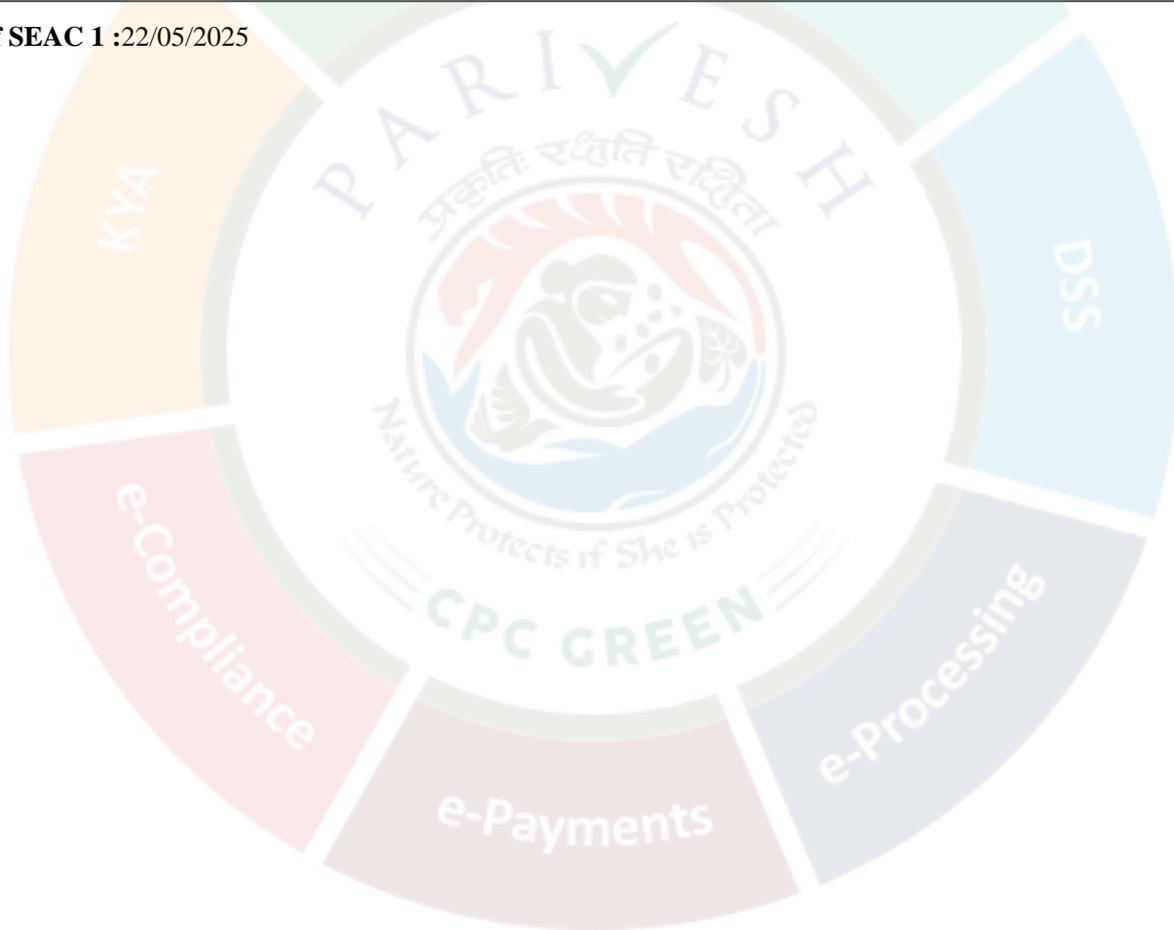
### 3.7. Agenda Item No 7:

#### 3.7.1. Details of the proposal

<b>Rough Stone Quarry by neppoleon j located at KANNIYAKUMARI,TAMIL NADU</b>			
<b>Proposal For</b>		Mining EC Under 5 Ha	
<b>Proposal No</b>	<b>File No</b>	<b>Submission Date</b>	<b>Activity (Schedule Item)</b>
SIA/TN/MIN/530858/2025	12004	28/05/2025	Mining of minerals (1(a))

#### 3.7.2. Deliberations by the committee in previous meetings

Date of SEAC 1 :22/05/2025



**Deliberations of SEAC 1 :****The SEAC-II noted the following:**

1. The project proponent, **J. Neppoleon** has applied seeking Environmental Clearance for EIA study for the proposed rough stone quarry lease over an extent of 1.88.0 Ha in S.F. No: 832/2,3,5,6,7,8,9,10, (Patta Land) of Azhziapandipuram Village of Thovalai Taluk of Kanniyakumari District Tamil Nadu.
2. The project/activity is covered under Category “B2” of Item 1(a) “Mining of Minerals Projects” of the Schedule to the EIA Notification, 2006, as amended.
3. Earlier, the proposal was placed in the **504<sup>th</sup> meeting of SEAC held on 18.10.2024**. The following are the discussion of SEAC,

**On perusal of the KML file and the documents furnished by the Project Proponent, the SEAC-II noted the following environmentally sensitive features:**

1. **The proposed site is located at a distance of about 300m from the Azhziapandipuram village. Gnam village is at a distance of about 450m.**
2. **The proposed quarry is very close to the Kanyakumari Wild life Sanctuary. The ESZ for Kanyakumari Wild life Sanctuary ranges from 0km to 3km.**
3. **A government primary school is located at a distance of 470m.**
4. **River Pazhaiyar is flowing at a distance of 64m from the boundary of the lease.**
5. **Pazhaiyar dam and anaicut are located at a distance of 320m from the proposed quarry.**
6. **There are many building structures and houses around the proposed site and notable among them are an OHT at a distance of 230m and a temple at a distance of 220m.**

**Besides the above, the SEAC-II also deliberated on the following features:**

1. The proposed quarry is located on the sloping face of the hillock and the hillock forms an important aspect in the ecology of the entire area.
2. Similarly, the risk and accident proneness of the mining activity are extremely high in the proposed site. The mining activity will also result in the formation of a void immediately after the completion of ‘quarry’ operations.
3. Transportation to and from the mining site through fragile narrow High Range roads on the sloping hillock will lead to environmental harm around the sensitive surroundings.
4. Further, there is a thick vegetation at the foot of the hillock that will be adversely impacted by the proposed activity.
5. In the case of this quarry, there is every reason to suspect the risk potential in the context of extreme events due to Climate Change and proximity to hazard zones. The ravages of extreme events due to Climate Change have been conspicuously present in the hilly regions of western ghats over the past few years, particularly in the High Range region. Hence, the greatest of caution has to be exercised while deciding about the fate of steep inclines (or) sloping faces.
6. Further, the SEAC have also taken a note on “Precautionary Principle” which involves the anticipation of environmental harm and taking measures to avoid it or to choose the least environmentally harmful activity. It is based on scientific uncertainty. **Environmental protection should not only aim at protecting health, property and economic interest but also protect the environment for its own sake.**
7. In this regard, the SEAC have also considered the recent judgment in IA No.1000 of 2003 dated

3rd June 2022 Hon"ble Supreme Court of India which has underlined the necessity for following the Precautionary Principle. The judgment states that a situation may arise where there may be irreparable damage to environment after an activity is allowed to go ahead and if it is stopped, there may be irreparable damage to economic interest. The Hon"ble Court held that in case of a doubt, **protection of environment would have precedence over economic interest**. It was further held that precautionary principle requires anticipatory action to be taken to prevent harm and that harm can be prevented even on reasonable suspicion. Further, the Hon'ble Court emphasized in the said judgment that **"it is not always necessary that there should be direct evidence of harm to the environment."**SEAC, therefore, decided **not to recommend Environmental Clearance** for this project, considering the fragile environment settings around the proposed quarry site.

8. Accepting the decision of SEAC to not to recommend Environmental Clearance for the project for the reasons stated above, the **SEIAA decided to reject the project proposal and to close and record the file.**

**The proposal was placed before SEAC-II in the meeting held on 22.05.2025. SEAC-II noted that the proposed project had not been recommended earlier on the aforementioned grounds. However, the Project Proponent has now submitted a fresh application for the same area via the PARIVESH portal, vide proposal ID SIA/TN/MIN/530858/2025, dated 26.03.2025. In this context, SEAC has forwarded the proposal to SEIAA for appropriate decision on whether the application may be reconsidered or not.**

### 3.7.3. Deliberations by the SEIAA in current meetings

The Authority noted that the subject was placed in the 569<sup>th</sup> meeting of SEAC-II held on 22.05.2025. SEAC –II has forwarded the proposal to SEIAA for appropriate decision on whether the application may be reconsidered or not. After detailed discussions, the authority decided to refer the proposal back to SEAC-II for re-examination in light of the new facts presented by the Project Proponent.

### 3.7.4. Recommendation of SEIAA

Refer-Back to SEAC for Reconsideration

## 3.8. Agenda Item No 8:

### 3.8.1. Details of the proposal

**Proposed construction of hospital building by Everstrat Moet Private Limited, Evernest Mansion Private Limited, Everstrat Peak Private Limited and Everstrat Towers Private Limited by EVERSTRAT MOET PRIVATE LIMITED located at KRISHNAGIRI, TAMIL NADU**

<b>Proposal For</b>		Application for Corrigendum	
<b>Proposal No</b>	<b>File No</b>	<b>Submission Date</b>	<b>Activity (Schedule Item)</b>



**BEFORE THE HON'BLE  
NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI  
Appeal No. 41 of 2025 (SZ)**

Thiru. J. Napoleon,  
S/o. Jesurajan,  
No.41, Bharatha Street,  
Kottar, Nagerkoil, Agatheeswaram,  
Kanniyakumari District 629 002  
Ph. 98844 225653  
Email: tmnaveen@gmail.com

**...Appellant**

Vs

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

Rep. by its Member Secretary,

**And Another**

**...Respondent**

COUNTER AFFIDAVIT OF 1<sup>st</sup> RESPONDENT

COUNSEL FOR 1<sup>st</sup> RESPONDENTS