

File No. 5471/DSTE/PPCC/NGT/EE/2021 /137  
GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY  
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT  
PUDUCHERRY POLLUTION CONTROL COMMITTEE  
STATE LEVEL ENVIRONMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY  
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Telephone: 0413- 2201256 ; Telefax : 0413-2203494  
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Puducherry, the 25 FEB 2021

To  
The Consultant (Judicial),  
National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench,  
New Delhi.

Sir,

Sub : DSTE – PPCC – Submission of Compliance report on the Order dated 04.11.2020 passed by Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in in O.A. No. 726/2018 with O.A. No. 456/2018 – Rupesh Pethe Vs. State of M.P. & Ors. – Reg.

Ref: Email received on 05.11.2020 and 15.01.2021.

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With reference to the above mentioned subject, Compliance Report of the Puducherry Pollution Control Committee and the State Level Environmental Impact Assessment Authority, Puducherry is enclosed herewith.

Yours faithfully,



**S. Dinesh Kannan, IFS**  
**DIRECTOR / MS-PPCC /**  
**MS-SEIAA**

Encl.: As stated above.

Copy to:  
Standing Guard File.

**Report of Puducherry Pollution Control Committee and State Level  
Environmental Impact Assessment Authority, Puducherry in compliance to  
order dated 04.11.2020 of Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench,  
New Delhi in O.A. No. 726/2018 with O.A. No. 456/2018  
(Rupesh Pethe Vs. State of M.P. & Ors.)**

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The order of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi dated 04.11.2020 in O.A. No. 726/2018 with O.A. No. 456/2018 in the matter of Rupesh Pethe Vs. State of M.P. & Ors. was communicated to the District Collectors vide this office letter dated 31.12.2021 and the following facts are submitted based on the reply received.

It is submitted that the Union Territory of Puducherry comprises of two districts viz. Puducherry and Karaikal District. There is no separate Mining Department in the Union Territory of Puducherry as there is no potential mineral resources in this small Union Territory except a small quantity of river sand. Sand mining activities are governed under the Mines and Minerals (Regulations and Development) Act, 1957 (Central Act No. 67 of 1957) and the Puducherry Minor Minerals (Concession) Rules, 1977 in these two Districts. The sand mining permits are being issued by the Government of Puducherry through the Department of Revenue and Disaster Management under the provisions of the Puducherry Minor Minerals (Concession) Rules, 1977.

**District Survey Report Preparation:**

It is submitted that, at present there is no sand mining quarry available in Puducherry and Karaikal Districts and no lease / permit for sand mining is issued. Whenever such process is initiated, necessary District Survey Report (DSR) would be prepared through the consultants accredited by the National Accreditation Board of Education and Training / Quality Council of India in terms of O.M. of MoEF&CC dated 16.03.2010 and in consonance with the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 and the directions of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal.

### **Action taken on illegal mining:**

It is submitted that stern measures are being taken by the District Administration to curtail and stop sand mining in the Union Territory of Puducherry. The measures taken by the District Administrations to prevent the illegal sand mining activities are detailed below:

#### Puducherry District:

- i) Check posts have been established at strategic location and manned with Revenue and PWD staff on rotation.
- ii) Whenever required, Revenue Officials were posted on turn duty for the entire Puducherry region to make surprise checks / raid against illegal sand mining. A special cell is formed at Deputy Collector (Revenue) South, Villianur.
- iii) Since 2015, bullock carts have been seized at the entire Puducherry region for transporting of sand without valid permits and they were dealt under provisions of Mines and Minerals (Regulation Development) Act and cases have also been booked under IPC.
- iv) Awareness programmes / meetings were conducted by the officials of Revenue Department, Police Department and the PWD in the villages of Soriyankuppam, Kuruvinatham, Sellipet, Pillaiyarkuppam and Manalipet so as to educate the people of these villages about the directions of Green Tribunal and the consequences of illegal sand mining.
- v) The Tamil Nadu counterpart in Cuddalore District has also been requested to check illegal sand mining in their jurisdiction.
- vi) Periodical ditches are made in the river bank at Kunichampet and Chettipet area in Villianur Taluk and on the bridge leading to Kuruvinatham and Soriankuppam burial ground in Bahour Taluk to stop the movement of bullock carts and other vehicles through which miners illegally carry sand from the River Sankaraparani and Thenpennaiyar respectively.
- vii) The PWD, Puducherry has initiated action to construct revetments along the banks of Thenpennaiyar River at Soriankuppam and Kuruvinatham area.
- viii) A special Task Force has been constituted to prevent illegal transportation and quarrying of sand as per the Order dated 05.05.2015 of the National Green Tribunal in Application No.269/2013 under the Chairmanship of the Sub/Deputy Collector (Revenue) South, Villianur .

ix) Details of the vehicles and the extent of sand seized, compounding amount realized is as detailed below:

Description	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Quantity of sand seized in Units	50	200	250	959	433	81
Lorry captured	4	27	58	-	-	-
Bullock cart captured	191	296	271	-	-	-
Compounding amount realized, Rs.	6,33,300	15,33,000	34,33,000	11,43,500	5,62,000	5000

Karaikal District:

As and when complaints relating to Sand mining are received the same is being communicated to the Sand Mining squad, which is headed by a Deputy Tahsildar for necessary action. The squad consists of Revenue Officials viz., VAO, RI and Excise Police Constables functioning round – the clock to attend the illegal sand mining related complaints. Apart from this, the Tahsildar of Karaikal and Thirunallar Taluk Offices are also taking steps to curtail the illegal sand mining activities in their respective Taluk Jurisdictions. The Revenue Department is continuously making strenuous efforts to check the illegal mining and transportation of sand. Further, enforcement has been strengthened in recent years, and action is being taken under the relevant act and rules and compounded 179 number of cases from the year 2016 to 2020. The Police Authority of Karaikal district has also taken steps to curtail the illegal sand mining activities in their respective Jurisdictions. Further, as a measure of curtailing the illegal sand mining, the sand mining team members consisting staff of Taluk Office, Karaikal are monitoring the illegal sand mining activities in the river banks during the day and night on routine basis. The details of action taken are given in the table below:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of Cases</b>	<b>Amount of Penalty Imposed</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
2016	15	Rs. 2,05,000/-	15 number of vehicles were seized and released after remitting the penalties by the offender
2017	29	Rs. 2,07,000/-	33 number of vehicles were seized and released after remitting the penalties by the offender
2018	31	Rs. 2,62,000/-	32 number of vehicles were seized and released after remitting the penalties by the offender
2019	64	Rs. 6,71,000/-	65 number of vehicles were seized and released after remitting the penalties by the offender
2020	40	Rs. 3,94,000/-	51 number of vehicles were seized and released after remitting the penalties by the offender

The factual position is submitted accordingly before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal.

  
**(S. DINESH KANNAN, IFS)**  
**Member Secretary**  
**Puducherry Pollution Control Committee**  
**& State Level Environmental Impact**  
**Assessment Authority, Puducherry**