

## IN THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL (WZ),

Book No : 3125  
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 DATE : 4/6/25

PUNE

IN

Appeal No. 35/2025

M. N. J.  
 MANGLAGAURI P. MAKWANA  
 NOTARY  
 GOVT. OF INDIA

IN THE MATTER OF:-

M/s Gurukrupa Stone Quarry Works

..... APPELLANT

VERSUS

State Environment Impact Assessment Authority Gujrat

.....RESPONDENTS

**COUNTER AFFIDAVIT ON BEHALF OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT,  
 FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (RESPONDENT No. 2)**

**MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:**

I, Yogesh Kumar S/o N.K. Prasad aged about 35 years and currently working as Scientist 'C' at Regional Office Gandhinagar of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), New Delhi do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as under:

1. That I am, the above named Deponent, authorized and well conversant with the facts and circumstances of the present case and thus competent to swear the present Affidavit in my official capacity.
2. That I have read and understood the contents of the present Affidavit. The contents thereof are true and no part of it is false and nothing material has been concealed therefrom.
3. It is submitted at the very outset that the Respondent No. 1 denies each averment and/or submission made in the application that is contrary to and is inconsistent with the averments made and facts stated in the present reply. It is submitted that nothing stated in the application may be deemed to have been admitted by the Respondent No. 1 unless and until the same is expressly admitted in the present reply.
4. It is humbly submitted that, the Ministry ( MoEFCC) issued Environmental Impact Assessment (herein after referred as "EIA") Notification dated 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2006 which

*(Signature)*



requires certain projects to obtain prior Environmental Clearance ("EC") before any construction work in case of new projects or expansion and modernization of existing projects or activities. The Schedule to the Notification details the categories or projects or activities which require prior environmental clearance.

5. That it is most respectfully submitted that all projects and activities are broadly categorized into two categories - Category "A" and Category "B", based on the spatial extent of potential impacts and potential impacts on human health and natural and manmade resources. All projects or activities included as Category 'A' in the Schedule, including expansion and modernization of existing projects or activities and change in product mix, require prior environmental clearance from the Central Government in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) and all projects or activities included as Category 'B' in the Schedule require prior environmental clearance from the State/Union territory Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA).
6. That it is most respectfully that, in exercise of the powers conferred upon the Central Government under sub section (3) of section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and in accordance with the procedures specified in the EIA Notification, 2006, SEIAAs have been constituted in different States/UTs to discharge the functions of the regulatory authorities for the respective States/UTs.
7. That, it is most respectfully submitted that the Ministry vide notification S.O. 1886 (E) dated 20.04.2022 has delegated the power to the State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) to grant Environmental Clearances to all minor mineral mining projects, irrespective of mine lease area and  $\leq 250$  ha mining lease area in respect of major mineral mining lease other than coal. A copy of the Notification S.O. 1886 (E) dated 20.04.2022 is marked and annexed herein as **Annexure No. 1**.
8. That it is most respectfully submitted that the Answering respondent vide notification no. S.O. 637 (E) dated 28.02.2014 delegated the power to SEIAA to issue show cause notice to project proponents in case of violation of the conditions of the Environmental Clearances (EC) issued by the said Authorities to projects or activities within their jurisdiction and to issue directions to the said project proponents for keeping such EC in abeyance or

*(Signature)*

withdrawing them, if required, for violations. A true copy of the Notification S.O. 637 (E) dated 28.02.2014 is marked and annexed herein as **Annexure No. 2.**

That it is most respectfully submitted that State Department of Mines and Geology is the Nodal Authority in the state for dealing with the allotment of mining leases under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act (MMDR Act) and is entrusted with the enforcement and regulation of mining operations in a State including illegal mining. Further, the State Government is empowered under Section 23 C of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act 1957(MMDR Act) to make rules for prevention of illegal mining, transportation and storage of minerals.

10. That it is most respectfully submitted that the State Pollution Control Board is the Nodal Authority in the State for dealing with cases related to pollution or environment management coming under the purview of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and the Environment Protection Act 1986.

11. It is submitted that the Hon'ble NGT in O.A. No. 304/2019 observed that the Kerala SPCB has permitted stone quarrying beyond 50 m from residence and public roads, and directed the SPCB to revisit the existing criterion based on an appropriate study. That vide order dated 28.02.2020 the NGT noted that *"a report has been filed by the Kerala State PCB on 17.12.2019 reiterating the distance criteria of 50 mtrs and mentioning that no study is available with the CPCB"*. NGT expressed that *"We are of the view, as earlier observed that the distance of 50 mtrs. for stone quarry, particularly when blasts are involved, is highly inadequate and can have deleterious effect on noise and air pollution, environment and public health"* and directed CPCB to examine and lay down more stringent conditions and appropriately longer distance within one month and convey the same to the State Boards. Copy of the order dated 28.02.2020 is annexed as **Annexure-3.**

12. In compliance to order dated 28.02.2020, the CPCB filed report on 09.07.2020 and titled 'Distance criteria for permitting stone quarrying. Relying on the report submitted by CPCB, Hon'ble NGT vide order dated 21.07.2020 mandated to have 100 and 200m distance for stone quarry operations without and with blasting , respectively. Subsequently, Hon'ble NGT has vide its order dated 18.01.2023 mandated minimum distances from buildings,





Reservoirs, Rivers, Canals, etc. The order of Hon'ble NGT dated 21.07.2020 and order dated 18.01.2023 is annexed as **Annexure -4 (colly.)**.

It is respectfully submitted that the order dated 21.07.2020 was challenged in the Hon'ble High Court of Kerala (WPC 19710/2020 Order dated 21.12.2020) and subsequently at Hon'ble Supreme Court (CA No 6273 of 2021 tagged with CA No. 12122-12123 of 2018).

14. That the Hon'ble Supreme Court by order dated 25.10.2021 referred the matter back to NGT:

*"In other words, all contentions raised in the present appeal(s) on these aspects, including on merits are left open, to be considered by the Tribunal afresh".*

15. Thereafter the Hon'ble Tribunal vide order dated 09.12.2021 inter alia directed that,

*"15. Accordingly, we constitute a seven-member joint Committee comprising CPCB, Indian Institute of Mines/ IIT, Dhanbad, CSIR-Central Institute of Mining & Fuel Research (CIMFR), Dhanbad, CSIR-Central Building Research Institute (CBRI), Roorkee, IIT Roorkee, Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Dehradun and Directorate General of Mines Safety, Gol. The nodal agency will be CPCB for coordination and compliance. The Committee may undertake visit to the relevant sites and except for such visits, conduct proceedings online, if necessary. The Committee may study the impact of blasting with Nonel Detonation technology at distances of 50m, 75m, 100m, 125m, 150m, 200m and 250m. The study will include the impact caused by vibrations on different soil strata /earth profile in the area and on noise and air levels, on building and human and wildlife....."*

16. That three interim status reports dated 20.7.2022, 28.10.2022 & 13.01.2023 were submitted to NGT by the Joint Committee and the final report has been submitted on 02.03.2023 by CPCB. The matter was last listed on 19.02.2025. As per the order dated 19.02.2025 of Hon'ble NGT in OA no. 304/2019 the matter was to be listed on 23.05.2025. However the information about the Hon'ble NGT order dated 23.05.2025 is not available. The Order of Hon'ble NGT dated 19.02.2025 is annexed as **Annexure -5**.

17. It is most humbly submitted that the Answering Respondent seeks leave to make additional submissions, if required, during the course of the proceedings.

18. That in view of the aforementioned facts and circumstances, this Hon'ble Court may kindly be pleased to pass appropriate order(s).



*Yogesh Kumar*

**DEPONENT**

डॉ. योगेश कुमार / Dr. Yogesh Kumar  
 वैज्ञानिक 'सी' / Scientist 'C'  
 पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय,  
 Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change,  
 भारत सरकार / Govt. of India  
 ए. क्षे. का., गाँधीनगर (गुजरात) / IRO, Gandhinagar(Gujarat)

**VERIFICATION:-**

I, the above named Deponent, do hereby verify that the contents of the above counter affidavit are true and correct to my knowledge as per the records of the answering respondents. No part of it is false and nothing material has been concealed therefrom. Verified at 04<sup>th</sup> on this day of, June 2025.

*Yogesh Kumar*

**DEPONENT**

डॉ. योगेश कुमार / Dr. Yogesh Kumar  
 वैज्ञानिक 'सी' / Scientist 'C'  
 पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय,  
 Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change,  
 भारत सरकार / Govt. of India  
 ए. क्षे. का., गाँधीनगर (गुजरात) / IRO, Gandhinagar(Gujarat)

4 JUN 2025

**SOLEMNLY AFFIRMED  
 BEFORE ME**

*M.P.*

**MANGLAGAURI P. MAKWANA  
 NOTARY  
 GOVT. OF INDIA**

31 JUN 2025





# भारत का राजपत्र

## The Gazette of India

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असाधारण  
EXTRAORDINARY

भाग II—खण्ड 3—उप-खण्ड (ii)  
PART II—Section 3—Sub-section (ii)

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पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय

अधिसूचना

नई दिल्ली, 20 अप्रैल, 2022

**का.आ. 1886(अ).**—केंद्रीय सरकार पर्यावरण और वन विभाग के पूर्ववर्ती मंत्रालय में पर्यावरण (संरक्षण) अधिनियम, 1986 की धारा (3) की उप-धारा (1) और उप-धारा (2) के खंड (v) के अधीन प्रदत्त शक्तियों का प्रयोग करते हुए, पर्यावरण समाघात निर्धारण अधिसूचना, 2006 (जिसे इसमें इसके पश्चात ईआईए अधिसूचना, 2006 कहा गया है), परियोजनाओं की कतिपय प्रवर्ग के लिए पूर्व पर्यावरणीय मंजूरी आज्ञापक बनाने के लिए, संख्या का.आ.1533(अ), तारीख 14 सितंबर, 2006 द्वारा प्रकाशित की है।

और राज्य पर्यावरण समाघात निर्धारण प्राधिकरण (एसईआईए) का गठन प्रवर्ग ख के अधीन सभी प्रस्तावों के लिए पर्यावरण मंजूरी (ईसी) पर विचार और अनुदान के लिए प्रत्यायोजित शक्तियों का प्रयोग करने हेतु राज्य स्तर पर ईआईए अधिसूचना, 2006 के कार्यान्वयन के लिए पर्यावरण (संरक्षण) अधिनियम, 1986 की धारा 3 की उप-धारा (3) के अधीन किया गया है;

और राज्य पर्यावरण समाघात निर्धारण प्राधिकरण ने पर्यावरण मंजूरी मूल्यांकन प्रक्रिया में पिछले पंद्रह वर्षों में पर्याप्त अनुभव प्राप्त किया है और राज्य स्तर पर पर्यावरण मंजूरी प्रस्तावों के कुशल और पारदर्शी निपटान के लिए परिवेश पोर्टल के माध्यम से पूरी तरह से ऑनलाइन कर दिया गया है;

और केंद्रीय सरकार राज्य स्तर पर मंजूरी की प्रसुविधा के लिए पर्यावरण मंजूरी प्रक्रिया को और विकेंद्रीकृत करना आवश्यक समझती है;

और आज की तारीख में, सुरक्षा भागीदारी के महत्वपूर्ण तत्वों के साथ राष्ट्रीय रक्षा और सामरिक महत्व से संबंधित प्रवर्ग ख की परियोजनाओं का राज्य स्तर पर भी मूल्यांकन किया जा रहा है, जिसे केंद्रीय सरकार राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा चिंताओं को ध्यान में रखते हुए केंद्रीय रूप से मूल्यांकन करना आवश्यक समझती है;

अतः अब, केंद्रीय सरकार, पर्यावरण (संरक्षण) नियम, 1986 के नियम 5 के उप-नियम (4) के साथ पठित पर्यावरण (संरक्षण) अधिनियम, 1986 (1986 का 29) की धारा 3 की उप-धारा (1) और उप-धारा (2) के खंड (v) द्वारा प्रदत्त शक्तियों का प्रयोग करते हुए उक्त नियमों के नियम 5 के उप-नियम (3) के खंड (क) के अधीन नोटिस की अपेक्षा को समाप्त करने के पश्चात्, लोकहित में भारत सरकार की तत्कालीन पर्यावरण एवं वन मंत्रालय की अधिसूचना संख्यांक का.आ. 1533(अ), तारीख 14 सितम्बर, 2006, की अधिसूचना में निम्नलिखित और संशोधन करती है अर्थात्:-

उक्त अधिसूचना में-

(1) पैरा 4 में, उप-पैरा (iii) क) के स्थान पर, निम्नलिखित रखा जाएगा, अर्थात्: -

(iii) क) राष्ट्रीय रक्षा या सामरिक या सुरक्षा महत्व से संबंधित हैं या जिन्हें केंद्रीय सरकार द्वारा संकटकाल जैसे महामारी, प्राकृतिक आपदाओं जैसी अत्यावश्यकताओं के कारण ऐसी प्रवर्ग 'ख' परियोजनाओं को अधिसूचित किया गया है या राष्ट्रीय कार्यक्रमों या स्कीमों या मिशन या ऐसी परियोजनाओं के अधीन पर्यावरण के अनुकूल क्रियाकलापों का संवर्धन करने के लिए जो इस अधिसूचना में यथा अधिकथित समय-सीमा से अधिक विलंबित हैं और समय-समय पर इस संबंध में यथा-अधिकथित मानदंडों को पूरा करती हैं, उन्हें केंद्रीय स्तर पर प्रवर्ग 'ख' परियोजनाओं के रूप में विचार किया जाएगा;

(2) अनुसूची में, -

(i) मद 1(क) के सामने, -

(क) स्तंभ (3) में, -

(क) गैर-कोयला खनन पट्टे के संबंध में "> 100 हेक्टेयर खनन पट्टा क्षेत्र" के स्थान पर, निम्नलिखित रखा जाएगा, अर्थात्: -

"कोयले के अलावा अन्य प्रमुख खनिज खनन पट्टे के संबंध में >250 हेक्टेयर खनन पट्टा क्षेत्र";

(ख) ">150 हेक्टेयर" प्रतीक, अंक और अक्षर के स्थान पर, "> 500 हेक्टेयर" प्रतीक, आंकड़े और अक्षर रखे जाएंगे;

(ख) स्तंभ (4) में, -

(क) गैर-कोयला खनन के संबंध में <100 हेक्टेयर खनन पट्टा क्षेत्र के स्थान पर,

पट्टा", निम्नलिखित रखा जाएगा, अर्थात्: -

"लघु खनिज खनन पट्टों के संबंध में सभी खनन पट्टा क्षेत्र और कोयले के अलावा अन्य प्रमुख खनिज खनन पट्टे के संबंध में <250 हेक्टेयर खनन पट्टा क्षेत्र";

(ख) "<150 हेक्टेयर" के प्रतीकों, अंकों और अक्षरों के स्थान पर "<500 हेक्टेयर" के प्रतीक, अंक और अक्षर रखे जाएंगे;

(ii) मद 1(ग) के सामने, -

(क) स्तंभ (3) में, -

(क) क्रम संख्या (i) में, "> 50 मेगावाट, प्रतीकों, अंकों और अक्षरों के स्थान पर "> 100 मेगावाट" प्रतीक, आंकड़े और अक्षर रखे जाएंगे;

(ख) क्रम संख्या (ii) और उससे संबंधित प्रविष्टियों का लोप किया जाएगा;

(ख) स्तंभ (4) में, -

(क) क्रम संख्या (i) में, "<50 मेगावाट" प्रतीक, अंक और अक्षर के स्थान पर, "<100 मेगावाट" प्रतीक, आंकड़े और अक्षर रखे जाएंगे;

(ख) क्रम संख्या (ii) में, -

(I) "और <50,000 हेक्टेयर" शब्द, प्रतीक और अंक का लोप किया जाएगा;

(II) बिंदु (ग) में सारणी में, "से <50,000" शब्द, प्रतीक और अंक का लोप किया जाएगा; ।

(ग) स्तंभ (5) में, क्रम संख्या (ii) के पश्चात, निम्नलिखित क्रम संख्या अंतःस्थापित किया जाएगा, अर्थात् :-

"(iii) अंतर-राज्यीय मुद्दों से संबंधित सिंचाई परियोजनाओं का मूल्यांकन केंद्रीय स्तर पर श्रेणी में परिवर्तन के बिना किया जाएगा।";

(iii) मद 1(घ) के सामने,-

(क) स्तंभ (3) में, "> 50 मेगावाट" प्रतीकों, अंकों और अक्षरों के स्थान पर, "> 100 मेगावाट" प्रतीकों, अंकों और अक्षरों को रखा जाएगा;

(ख) स्तंभ (4) में, "<50 मेगावाट" प्रतीक, अंक और अक्षर के स्थान पर, "<100 मेगावाट" प्रतीक, आंकड़े और अक्षर रखे जाएंगे;

(iv) मद 2(क) के सामने, -

(क) स्तंभ (3) में, ">1" प्रतीकों और अंक के स्थान पर, ">2.5" प्रतीकों और अंक को रखा जाएगा;

(ख) स्तंभ (4) में, "<1" प्रतीकों और अंक के स्थान पर, "< 2.5" प्रतीक और अंक रखे जाएंगे;

(ग) स्तंभ (5) में, विद्यमान पैरा के पश्चात, निम्नलिखित पैरा अंतःस्थापित किया जाएगा, अर्थात्: -

"खनन पट्टा क्षेत्र के भीतर स्थित धुलाई मशीनों के साथ एकीकृत कोयला खनन परियोजनाओं को कोयला खनन परियोजनाओं के लिए विद्यमान सीमा के अनुसार केंद्रीय स्तर या राज्य स्तर पर, यथास्थिति, विचार किया जाना जारी रहेगा।";

(v) मद 2 (ख) के सामने, -

(क) स्तंभ (3) में, विद्यमान प्रविष्टियों का लोप किया जाएगा;

(ख) स्तंभ (4) में, "<0.5 मिलियन टीपीए का उत्पादन" प्रतीक, अंक, शब्द और अक्षर के स्थान पर, "सभी खनिज परिष्करण परियोजना, परिष्करण की प्रक्रिया पर ध्यान दिए बिना" शब्द रखे जाएंगे;

(ग) स्तंभ (5) में, विद्यमान पैरा के पश्चात, निम्नलिखित पैरा रखा जाएगा,

अर्थात्: -

"भीतर स्थित लाभकारी संयंत्रों के साथ एकीकृत खनन परियोजनाएं खनन पट्टा क्षेत्र पर केन्द्रीय स्तर पर विचार किया जाता रहेगा या यथास्थिति, राज्य स्तर, खनन परियोजनाओं के लिए विद्यमान सीमा के अनुसार।";

(vi) मद 7 (क) के सामने,-

(क) स्तंभ (3) में, "सभी परियोजनाओं" शब्दों के स्थान पर "सभी नई परियोजनाएं" शब्द रखे जाएंगे;

(ख) स्तंभ (4) में, निम्नलिखित अंतःस्थापित किया जाएगा, अर्थात्: -

"सभी विस्तार परियोजनाएं, जिनमें हवाई पट्टियां भी सम्मिलित हैं, जो वाणिज्यिक उपयोग के लिए हैं।"

[फा. सं. आईए 3-22/10/2022-आईए. III]

डॉ. सुजीत कुमार बाजपेयी, संयुक्त सचिव

टिप्पण : मूल अधिसूचना भारत के राजपत्र, असाधारण, भाग II, खंड III, उप-खंड (ii), संख्या का.आ. 1533(अ), तारीख 14 सितंबर, 2006 द्वारा प्रकाशित की गई थी और अधिसूचना संख्या का.आ. 1807(अ), तारीख 12 अप्रैल, 2022 द्वारा अंतिम संशोधन किया गया था।

**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

**NOTIFICATION**

New Delhi, the 20th April, 2022

**S.O. 1886(E).**—WHEREAS, the Central Government in the erstwhile Ministry of Environment and Forests, in exercise of its powers under sub-section (1) and clause (v) of sub-section (2) of section (3) of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 has published the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 (hereinafter referred to as the EIA Notification, 2006), vide number S.O.1533 (E), dated the 14th September, 2006 for mandating prior environmental clearance for certain category of projects;

And whereas, the State Environment Impact Assessment Authorities (SEIAAs) have been constituted under sub-section (3) of section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for implementation of the EIA Notification, 2006 at State level for exercising delegated powers to consider and grant Environmental Clearance (EC) for all proposals under Category B;

And whereas, the SEIAAs have gained substantial experience over the past fifteen years in the EC appraisal process and the process at the State level has also been made completely online through the PARIVESH portal for efficient and transparent disposal of EC proposals;

And whereas, the Central Government deems it necessary to further decentralise the EC process for facilitating clearances at State level;

And whereas, as on date, category 'B' projects, relating to national defence and strategic importance with significant element of security involvement are also being appraised at the State level which, the Central Government deems it necessary to be appraised centrally taking into account national security concerns;

Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) and clause (v) of sub-section (2) of section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (29 of 1986), read with sub-rule(4) of rule 5 of the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986, the Central Government, after having dispensed with the requirement of notice under clause (a) of sub-rule (3) of rule 5 of the said rules, in public interest, hereby makes the following further amendments in the notification of the Government of India, in the erstwhile Ministry of Environment and Forests, number S.O. 1533 (E), dated the 14th September, 2006, namely:-

In the said notification,-

(1) in paragraph 4, for sub-paragraph (iii a), the following shall be substituted, namely:-

*(iii a) Such Category 'B' projects, relating to the National defence or strategic or security importance or those as notified by the Central Government on account of exigencies such as pandemics, natural disasters or to promote environmentally friendly activities under National Programmes or Schemes or Missions or such projects which are inordinately delayed beyond the stipulated timeline as laid down in this notification and also meet the criteria as laid down in this regard from time to time, shall be considered at the Central level as Category 'B' projects;*

(2) in the Schedule,-

(i) against item 1(a),-

(a) in column (3),-

(A) for ">100 ha. of mining lease area in respect of non-coal mining lease", the following shall be substituted, namely:-

">250 ha mining lease area in respect of major mineral mining lease other than coal";

(B) for the symbol, figures and letters "> 150 ha", the symbol, figures and letters "> 500 ha" shall be substituted;

(b) in column (4),-

(A) for "≤ 100 ha of mining lease area in respect of non-coal mine lease", the following shall be substituted, namely:-

"All mining lease area in respect of minor mineral mining leases and ≤ 250 ha mining lease area in respect of major mineral mining lease other than coal";

(B) for the symbols, figures and letters “ $\leq 150$  ha”, the symbols, figures and letters “ $\leq 500$  ha” shall be substituted;

(ii) against item 1(c),—

(a) in column (3),—

(A) in serial number (i), for the symbols, figures and letters “ $\geq 50$  MW”, the symbols, figures and letters “ $\geq 100$  MW” shall be substituted;

(B) serial number (ii) and the entries relating thereto shall be omitted;

(b) in column (4),—

(A) in serial number (i), for the symbol, figures and letters “ $< 50$  MW”, the symbol, figures and letters “ $< 100$  MW” shall be substituted;

(B) in serial number (ii),—

(I) the word, symbol and figures “and  $< 50,000$  ha.” shall be omitted;

(II) in point (c) in the table, the word, symbol and figures “to  $< 50,000$ ” shall be omitted;

(c) in column (5), after serial number (ii), the following serial number shall be inserted, namely:—

“(iii) Irrigation projects involving Inter-State issues shall be appraised at Central level without change in category.”;

(iii) against item 1(d),—

(a) in column (3), for the symbols, figures and letters “ $\geq 50$  MW”, the symbols, figures and letters “ $\geq 100$  MW” shall be substituted;

(b) in column (4), for the symbol, figures and letters “ $< 50$  MW”, the symbol, figures and letters “ $< 100$  MW” shall be substituted;

(iv) against item 2(a),—

(a) in column (3), for the symbols and figure “ $\geq 1$ ”, the symbols and figures “ $\geq 2.5$ ” shall be substituted;

(b) in column (4), for the symbols and figure “ $< 1$ ”, the symbols and figures “ $< 2.5$ ” shall be substituted;

(c) in column (5), after the existing paragraph, the following paragraph shall be inserted, namely:—

“Integrated coal mining projects with washeries located within mining lease area shall continue to be considered at Central level or State level, as the case may be, as per the extant threshold for coal mining projects.”;

(v) against item 2 (b),—

(a) in column (3), the existing entries shall be omitted;

(b) in column (4), for the symbol, figures, words and letters “ $< 0.5$  million TPA throughput”, the words “All mineral beneficiation projects irrespective of the procedure for beneficiation” shall be substituted;

(c) in column (5), after the existing paragraph, the following paragraph shall be inserted, namely:—

“Integrated mining projects with beneficiation plants located within mining lease area shall continue to be considered at Central level or State level, as the case may be, as per the extant threshold for mining projects.”;

(vi) against item 7 (a),—

(a) in column (3), for the words “All projects”, the words “All new projects” shall be substituted;

(b) in column (4), the following shall be inserted, namely:—

“All expansions projects, including airstrips, which are for commercial use.”.

[F. No. IA3-22/10/2022-IA.III]

Dr. SUJIT KUMAR BAJPAYEE, Jt. Secy.

**Note :** The principal notification was published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section III, sub-section (ii), vide, number S.O. 1533(E), dated the 14th September, 2006 and was last amended, vide, the notification number S.O. 1807(E), dated the 12th April, 2022.



# भारत का राजपत्र The Gazette of India

असाधारण

EXTRAORDINARY

भाग II—खण्ड 3—उप-खण्ड (ii)

PART II—Section 3—Sub-section (ii)

प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित

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पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय

अधिसूचना

नई दिल्ली, 28 फरवरी, 2014

**का.आ. 637(अ).**—केन्द्रीय सरकार, पर्यावरण (संरक्षण) अधिनियम, 1986 (1986 का 29) की धारा 23 द्वारा प्रदत्त शक्तियों का प्रयोग करते हुए उक्त अधिनियम की धारा 5 के अधीन इसमें निहित शक्तियों को पर्यावरण (संरक्षण) अधिनियम, 1986 की धारा 3 की उप-धारा (3) के अधीन केंद्रीय सरकार द्वारा गठित किए गए सभी राज्य और संघराज्यक्षेत्र पर्यावरण समाघात प्राधिकरणों (जिन्हें इसमें इसके पश्चात् उक्त प्राधिकरण कहा गया है) को उक्त प्राधिकरणों द्वारा अपनी अधिकारिता के भीतर परियोजनाओं या क्रिया कलापों को जारी पर्यावरण अनापत्तियों की शर्तों के अतिक्रमण की दशा में परियोजना प्रस्तावकों को कारण बताओ नोटिस जारी करने तथा इस शर्त के अधीन कि केंद्रीय सरकार शक्तियों के ऐसे प्रत्यायोजन का प्रतिसंहरण कर सकेगी या उक्त अधिनियम की धारा 5 के उपबंधों को स्वयं अवलंब ले सकेगी, यदि केंद्रीय सरकार की राय में लोक हित में ऐसी कार्यवाही आवश्यक है, यदि अपेक्षित हो तो अतिक्रमणों के लिए उक्त परियोजना प्रस्तावकों को ऐसी पर्यावरण अनापत्तियों को उन्हें प्रास्थगित रखने या वापस लिए जाने हेतु निदेश जारी करने की शक्तियों का प्रत्यायोजन करती है।

[सं. जे-11013/2/2013-आई ए (आई)]

अजय त्यागी, संयुक्त सचिव

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 28th February, 2014

**S.O. 637(E).**—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 23 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (29 of 1986), the Central Government hereby delegates the powers vested in it under section 5 of the said Act to all the State and Union Territory Environment Impact Assessment Authorities (Hereinafter referred to as the said Authorities) constituted by the Central Government under sub-section (3) of section 3 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, to issue show cause notice to project proponents in case of violation of the conditions of the environment clearances issued by the said Authorities to projects or activities within their jurisdiction and to issue directions to the said project proponents for keeping such environment clearances in abeyance or withdrawing them, if required, for violations, subject to the condition that the Central Government may revoke such delegations of powers or may itself invoke the provisions of section 5 of the said Act, if in the opinion of the Central Government such a Course of action is necessary in the public interest.

[No. J-11013/2/2013-IA. (I)]

AJAY TYAGI, Jt. Secy.

## अधिसूचना

नई दिल्ली, 28 फरवरी, 2014

**का.आ. 638(अ).**—केन्द्रीय सरकार, पर्यावरण (संरक्षण) अधिनियम, 1986 (1986 का 29) की धारा 19 के खण्ड (क) द्वारा प्रदत्त शक्तियों का प्रयोग करते हुए उक्त की धारा के प्रयोजन के लिए इससे उपाबद्ध उस सारणी के स्तंभ (3) में उनमें से प्रत्येक के सामने उल्लिखित अधिकारिता के साथ उस सारणी के स्तंभ (2) में उल्लिखित प्राधिकरण या अधिकारी को प्रातिकृत करती है:

## सारणी

क्रम संख्यांक	प्राधिकरण/अधिकारी	अधिकारिता
(1)	(2)	(3)
1.	पर्यावरण (संरक्षण) अधिनियम, 1986 की धारा 3 की उपधारा (3) के अधीन केंद्रीय सरकार द्वारा गठित राज्य या संघ राज्यक्षेत्र स्तर पर्यावरण समाघात प्राधिकरण (एस.ई.आई.ए.ए.)	संपूर्ण राज्य या संघ राज्यक्षेत्र
2.	पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय (एम.ओ.ई.एफ.) के किन्हीं प्रादेशिक कार्यालयों में तैनात कोई निदेशक, वन संरक्षक या अपर प्रधान मुख्य वन संरक्षक	पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय द्वारा यथा-विनिश्चित प्रादेशिक कार्यालय की अधिकारिता

[सं. जे-11013/2/2013-आई ए (आई)]

अजय त्यागी, संयुक्त सचिव

## NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 28th February, 2014

**S.O. 638(E).**—In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (a) of section 19 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (29 of 1986), the Central Government hereby authorises the Authority or officer mentioned in column (2) of the Table hereto for the purpose of the said section with the jurisdiction mentioned against each of them in column (3) of that Table:

## TABLE

S. No.	Authority/Officer	Jurisdiction
(1)	(2)	(3)
1.	State or Union Territory level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) constituted by the Central Government under sub-section (3) of section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.	Whole of State or Union Territory
2.	Any Director, Conservator of Forests or Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Posted in any of the Regional Offices of the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF).	Jurisdiction of the Regional Office as decided by the Ministry of Environment and Forests

[No. J-11013/2/2013-IA. (I)]

AJAY TYAGI, Jt. Secy.

Item No.04

Court No. 1

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI**

Original Application No. 304/2019

(With report dated 17.12.2019)

M. Haridasan&amp;Ors.

Applicant(s)

Versus

State of Kerala

Respondent(s)

Date of hearing: 28.02.2020

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ADARSH KUMAR GOEL, CHAIRPERSON  
HON'BLE DR. NAGIN NANDA, EXPERT MEMBER  
HON'BLE MR. SIDDHANTA DAS, EXPERT MEMBER**

For Respondent(s):

Mr. Jogy Scaria, Advocate and Mr.  
Keerthipriyan, Advocate for Kerala SPCB  
Mr. Nishe Rajen Shonker, Advocate for State  
of Kerala  
Mr. Rajkumar, Advocate for CPCB

**ORDER**

1. Issue for consideration is the safeguards in operation of stone quarries close to residence and public roads. At present, the Kerala State PCB has permitted the stone quarry beyond 50 mtrs. from residence and public roads. This Tribunal vide order dated 09.10.2019 considered the matter and observed:

“3. We find that the environmental norms require assessment of impact of such activities and mere distance of 50 mtrs. By itself is not enough to dispense with such norms. In absence of any study, any stone quarry near the residence and public road is bound to cause air and noise pollution even beyond 50 mtrs. In this regard, reference may be made of observations in the judgments of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in *M.C. Mehta v. Union of India*, (1996) 8 SCC 496 and *Mohammed Haroon Ansari v. District Collector, Ranga Reddy District*, (2004) 1 SCC 491. In granting EC, this

*consideration has to be kept in mind in view of the fact that clean and safe environment is a part of right to life.*

4. *Accordingly, we direct State PCB to revisit the existing criteria based on an appropriate study. CPCB may give its view in the matter to the State PCB within two weeks in light of available expert studies on the subject. The State PCB may furnish its action taken report in the matter by e-mail at [judigical-ngt@gov.in](mailto:judigical-ngt@gov.in) before the next date."*

2. Accordingly, a report has been filed by the Kerala State PCB on 17.12.2019 retreating the distance criteria of 50 mtrs. and mentioning that no study is available with the CPCB.

3. We are of the view, as earlier observed that the distance of 50 mtrs. for stone quarry, particularly when blasts are involved, is highly inadequate and can have deleterious effect on noise and air pollution, environment and public health.

4. In view of above, we direct the CPCB to examine and lay down more stringent conditions and appropriately longer distance within one month and convey the same to the State Boards. The State Board may take further action accordingly. Compliance reports be filed before the next date by email at [judicial-ngt@gov.in](mailto:judicial-ngt@gov.in).

List again on 08.05. 2020.

Adarsh Kumar Goel, CP

Dr.Nagin Nanda, EM

Siddhanta Das, EM

February 28, 2020  
Original Application No. 304/2019  
AK

Item No. 09

Court No. 1

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI**

(By Video Conferencing)

Original Application No. 304/2019

(With report dated 09.07.2020)

M. Haridasan & Ors.

Applicant(s)

Versus

State of Kerala

Respondent(s)

Date of hearing: 21.07.2020

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ADARSH KUMAR GOEL, CHAIRPERSON  
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE S. P. WANGDI, JUDICIAL MEMBER  
HON'BLE DR. NAGIN NANDA, EXPERT MEMBER**

Respondent(s): Ms. Soni Singh, Advocate for CPCB  
Mr. Jogy Scaria, Advocate for KSPCB

**ORDER**

1. The Issue for consideration is the safeguards in operation of stone quarries close to residences and public roads. At present, the Kerala State PCB has permitted the stone quarry beyond 50 mtrs. from residences and public roads.

2. The Tribunal considered the matter on 28.02.2020. Finding the distance to be inadequate, CPCB was required to consider the matter and report. It was observed:

*"2. Accordingly, a report has been filed by the Kerala State PCB on 17.12.2019 retreating the distance criteria of 50 mtrs. and mentioning that no study is available with the CPCB.*

3. We are of the view, as earlier observed that the **distance of 50 mtrs. for stone quarry, particularly when blasts are involved, is highly inadequate and can have deleterious effect on noise and air pollution, environment and public health.**
4. In view of above, we direct the **CPCB to examine and lay down more stringent conditions and appropriately longer distance within one month and convey the same to the State Boards.** The State Board may take further action accordingly. Compliance reports be filed before the next date by email at [judicial-ngt@gov.in.](mailto:judicial-ngt@gov.in)”

3. Accordingly, the CPCB has filed its report on 09.07.2020 concluding as follows:

**“6.0 Conclusion:**

*In view of available information, following minimum distance criteria may be considered for permitting stone quarrying by SPCBs:*

<b>Mining Type</b>		<b>Minimum Distance</b>	<b>Locations</b>
<b>A.</b>	<b>When Blasting is not involved</b>	<b>100 m</b>	<i>Residential/Public buildings, Inhabited sites, locations to be considered by States.</i>
<b>B.</b>	<b>When Blasting is involved</b>	<b>200 m **</b>	

**\*\*Note: The regulations for danger zone (500 m) prescribed by Directorate General of Mines Safety also have to be complied compulsorily and necessary measures should be taken to minimise the impact on environment.**

*However, if any states is already having stringent criteria than the above for minor mineral mining (i.e. more prescribed distances than the above), the same shall be applicable.”*

4. In view of the above, the said criteria be followed throughout India.  
The CPCB may monitor compliance.

A copy of this order be sent to the CPCB and all the State PCBs/PCCs by email for compliance.

The application is disposed of.

Adarsh Kumar Goel, CP

S. P. Wangdi, JM

Dr. Nagin Nanda, EM

July 21, 2020  
Original Application No. 304/2019  
AK

Item No. 17

Court No. 1

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI**

Original Application No. 304/2019  
(MA No 81/2021, IA No 443/2023, IA No 150/2024,  
IA No 173/2024, IA No 440/2023, MA No 83/2021,  
MA No 96/2021, IA No 444/2023, IA No 441/2023,  
IA No 175/2024 & IA No 184/2022)

M. Haridasan & Ors.

Applicant(s)

Versus

State of Kerala & Ors.

Respondent(s)

Date of hearing: 19.02.2025

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE PRAKASH SHRIVASTAVA, CHAIRPERSON  
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ARUN KUMAR TYAGI, JUDICIAL MEMBER  
HON'BLE DR. A. SENTHIL VEL, EXPERT MEMBER**

Applicant: Mr. Raj Panjwani, Senior Advocate (Amicus Curiae) with Mr. Aayushman Aeron, Adv.

Respondents: Mr. Pallav Sisodia, Senior Advocate with Mr. Nishe Rajen Shonker, Adv. for the State of Kerala  
Mr. Jogy Scaria, Adv. for KSPCB  
Mr. Mahesh Agarwal & Mr. Arshit Anand, Advs. for Adani Vizhinjam Port Pvt. Ltd.  
Mr. Abu John Mathew, Adv. for Rockfield Estates (Through VC)  
Mr. E.M.S. Anam, Mr. M.S. Vishnu Shankar & Mr. Thomas Joceb, Advs. in I.A No. 81/2023, 83/2023 & 96/2023  
Ms. Usha Nandini. V, Mr. Biju P. Raman, Ms. Saritha Thomas & Mr. John Thomas Arakal, Advs. in I.A 439- 441/2023 & 442-444/2023  
Ms. Usha Nandini.V & Mr. Biju P. Raman, Advs. in I.A 173/2024  
Ms. Soni Singh, Adv. for CPCB (Through VC)  
Mr. P.B. Sahasranaman, Adv. (Through VC)

**ORDER**

1. Learned Counsel appearing for Respondents No. 14, 15 and 22 submits that the leading Counsel for these respondents Mr. Alex M. Scaria has expired and had sought time to engage another Counsel and get the matter prepared. A letter to this effect was also circulated in advance. The prayer is allowed.

2. Learned Amicus has also submitted that the State of Kerala has not responded to the last point of the letter petition which is on page 36 regarding Western Ghats.

3. Learned Senior Counsel for the State of Kerala submits that all the relevant documents in this regard will be placed on record during hearing.

4. List on 23.05.2025 at 2.00 p.m.

Prakash Shrivastava, CP

Arun Kumar Tyagi, JM

Dr. A. Senthil Vel, EM

February 19, 2025

Original Application No. 304/2019

(MA No 81/2021, IA No 443/2023, IA No 150/2024,  
IA No 173/2024, IA No 440/2023, MA No 83/2021,  
MA No 96/2021, IA No 444/2023, IA No 441/2023,  
IA No 175/2024 & IA No 184/2022)

dv..