

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (FOR.I) DEPARTMENT

Letter No.925/For.I(1)/2024,

Dated:18.04.2024

From
The Principal Secretary to Government,
EFS&T Department,
Telangana State Secretariat,
Hyderabad.

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

Sir,

Sub:- NGT Case –Notice in Original Application No.129/2024 - News Item titled "Forest land five times Delhi's geographical area Under encroachment govt.data shows" appearing in Deccan Herald dated 05.01.2024. – Submission of report – Regarding.

Ref:-1.Email received from Consultant Judicial- NGT (P.B),
judicial- ngt@gov.in, dt.19.02.2024.
2.Govt.Memo.No.925/For.I(1)/2024, dt.23.02.2024.
3.Email received from Forest Protection Division(MoEF&CC),
fpd-moefcc@gov.in, dt.07.03.2024
4.Govt.Memo.No.925/For.I(1)/2024, dt.16.03.2024.
5.From the Asst.Inspector General of Forests, MoEF & CC,
GoI, Lr.F.No.8/4/2024-PPD, dt.21-3-2024.
6.Govt.Memo.No.925/For.I(1)/2024, dt.30.03.2024
7.From PCCF (HoFF), Computer No.682513/2024-Vig-2,
dt:03.04.2024.

I am directed to invite your kind attention to the references 1st & 3rd cited and I am to inform that the following interim report is submitted herewith:

1. Contents of the said **National Green Tribunal Notice** captioned as "Forest land five times Delhi's geographical area under encroachment, Govt. data shows" are as follows:
 - Assam alone accounts of 3,407.48 Sq. KMs (12.69% of its geographical area) of forest land under encroachment. This is 45% of the total encroached forest land in India.
 - India has a total 7,75,288 Sq. KMs of forest area, constituting 23.58 % of its total geographical area.
 - The latest data showed that 750,633 Ha or 7,506.33 Sq. KMs of forest land has been encroached in the country.
 - In 2022, the forest area under encroachment stood at 7,400 Sq. KMs according to data shared in August of that year.
 - Also read: forest Dept reclaims 7 acres of encroached Turahalli woodland.
2. The news published in Deccan Herald dt.5.1.24 under the caption "Forest land five times Delhi's geographical area under encroachment, Govt data shows" has been suo-motto registered by NGT.

(PTO)

3. Orders dt.9.2.24 of National Green Tribunal Principal Bench, New Delhi in Original application No. 129/2024 are as follows:

"..... let notices be issued to all the respondents **to file their response within 2-months by e-mail** at judicial-ngt@gov.in preferably in PDF/OCR form".

Spl. CS, EFST Telangana is at Sl.No.32 of respondents list in the order dt.9.2.24 & at Sl.No.31

4. In this regard, the **following reply** is submitted.
- Total Geographical area of Telangana State is 277.10 Lakhs Acres.
 - Total Forest area of the State is 66.64 Lakhs Acres.
 - Total encroached area is 7.65 Lakhs acres (11.48 % of its Forest area)
 - Total retrieval of encroached area is 0.74 Lakhs acres.
5. The following steps are taken by the State Forest Department to curb encroachment in the forest area:
- Regular patrolling of forest beats/areas are undertaken by field staff. They are supported by (174) of Base camps and (64) Check Posts. In addition there are (9) Flying Squad Parties at Regional level and (2) Vigilance parties and (1) Anti Poaching Squad at state level exclusively for improving forest protection.
 - Regular beat inspections are being carried out.
 - Crime Control Cell / Toll Free number (18004255364) is established at State Head Quarters for registering calls pertaining to forest offence cases, poaching activities, forest produce smuggling, encroachment and complaints against the staff.
 - Other measures as required on case to case basis.
6. PCCF (HoFF) has been requested to prepare a detailed evidence based encroachment identification and transparent reporting system.
- It is further proposed to take up the matter in District Forest Protection Committee meetings for suitable action.
2. It is requested to place the above report before the National Green Tribunal for its consideration.

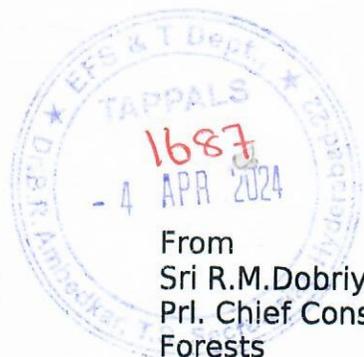
Yours faithfully


for Principal Secretary to Government

Copy to:-

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF),
Telangana State, Hyderabad.

Sc.



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GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
FOREST DEPARTMENT

From
Sri R.M.Dobriyal, IFS.,
Prl. Chief Conservator of
Forests
(Head of Forest Force)
Telangana ,
Aranya Bhavan,
Hyderabad

To :
The Prl. Secretary to Government,
Forest Department,
Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Secretariat
Telangana ,
Hyderabad

Computer No: 682513/2024-Vig-2 dated 03/04/2024

Madam,

Sub:- EFS&T Dept- Notice in Original Application No. 129/2024 -
Submission of Report- Reg.
Ref:- GM. No. 925/For.I(1)/2024, EFS&T(For.I) Dept. dt.
23.02.2024 & 16.03.2024

Adverting to the reference cited, it is submitted that the Government while enclosing a copy notice of **National Green Tribunal** in Original Application No.129/2024, requested to examine the matter and furnish detailed remarks/report.

1. Contents of the said **National Green Tribunal Notice** captioned as "Forest land five times Delhi's geographical area under encroachment, Govt data shows" are as follows:
 - Assam alone accounts for 3,407.48 Sq. KMs (12.69% of its geographical area) of forest land under encroachment. This is 45% of the total encroached forest land in India.
 - India has a total 7,75,288 Sq. KMs of forest area, constituting 23.58 % of its total geographical area.
 - The latest data showed that 750,633 Ha or 7,506.33 Sq. KMs of forest land has been encroached in the country.
 - In 2022, the forest area under encroachment stood at 7,400 Sq. KMs according to data shared in August of that year.
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3. Orders dt.9.2.24 of National Green Tribunal Principal Bench, New Delhi in Original application No. 129/2024 are as follows:

"..... let notices be issued to all the respondents **to file their response within 2-months by e-mail** at judicial-ngt@gov.in preferably in PDF/OCR form".

Spl. CS, EFST Telangana is at Sl.No.32 of respondents list in the order dt.9.2.24 & at Sl.No.31
4. As per order dt.19.2.24, the case is listed for hearing on 19.4.24 through **physical hearing** and to file reply.
In this regard, the **following reply** is submitted.

- URGENT -

4/4/24

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- Total geographical area of Telangana State is 277.10 lakh acres.
 - Total Forest area of the State is 66.64 lakh acres.
 - Total encroached area is 7.65 lakh acres (11.48 % of its forest area)
 - Total RoFR certificate issued for 6.70 Lakh Acrs
 - Total retrieval of encroached area is 0.74 lakh acres.
- The following steps are taken by the State Forest Department to curb encroachment in the forest area:
- Regular patrolling of forest beats/areas are undertaken by field staff. They are supported by (174) of Base camps and (64) Check Posts. In addition there are (9) Flying Squad Parties at Regional level and (2) Vigilance parties and (1) Anti Poaching Squad at state level exclusively for forest protection.
 - Regular beat inspections are being carried out to prevent tree fellings and check encroachments.
 - Crime Control Cell / Toll Free number (18004255364) & 1926 are established at State Head Quarters for registering calls pertaining to forest offence cases, poaching activities, forest produce smuggling, encroachment and complaints against the staff.
 - Other protection measures are taken as required on case to case basis.

It is requested to furnish reply to NGT at the earliest, as the **case is posted** for submission of reply **on 19.04.2024**.

Signed by Rakesh Mohan

Dobriyal

Date: 03-04-2024 11:51:46 Yours faithfully,

Reason: Approved

Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests
(Head of Forest Force)

True Copy//


03/4/2024
For. Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests


3/4/24