

**IN THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL,
NEW DELHI
OA No. 362 of 2022**

IN THE MATTER OF :

Aravali Bachao Citizens Movement

...Applicant

Vs

Union of India & Ors.

... Respondents

INDEX

Sr. No.	Particulars	Page No.
1	Interim action taken report of Pardeep Kumar, Member Secretary, Haryana State Pollution Control Board	2-4
2	Copy of the proceedings (Annexure R-1)	5-8

Place: Panchkula

Dated: 8/12/23


Member Secretary
Haryana State Pollution Control Board

**IN THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL,
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OA No. 362 of 2022**

IN THE MATTER OF:

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Vs

Union of India & Ors. ... Respondents

Interim Action Taken Report of Pardeep Kumar, Member Secretary, Haryana State Pollution Control Board

I, Pardeep Kumar, Member Secretary of Haryana State Pollution Control Board do hereby state as under:

1. The Hon'ble NGT vide order dated 28.04.2023 in the matter of OA No. 362/2022 titled as Aravali Bachao Citizens Movement vs Union of India & Ors has issued direction and relevant part is reproduced as under:

"45.xxxxx.....no proceedings for imposition of environmental compensation and no steps for reclamation/rehabilitation of illegally mined land appear to have been taken. When environmental compensation is payable by mining lease holders for any illegal mining beyond/in violation of terms of lease and proceedings are taken for imposition of environmental compensation on them and steps are also taken for reclamation/rehabilitation of illegally mined land, then how the aspects of imposition of environmental compensation on persons indulging in illegal mining in the area of Aravali and reclamation/rehabilitation of illegally mined sites can be ignored.

39. In view of the above referred settled position of law HSPCB is directed to initiate proceedings for imposition and realization of environmental damage compensation from all persons involved in illegal mining throughout the State of Haryana including Aravali and file consolidated Action Taken Report be filed on or before the next date of hearing hereby fixed in the case.

XXXXXXXXXX

56. The applicant has made submissions that in response to information sought under Right to Information Act, 2005 the authorities informed that total amount for year wise

penalty/environmental compensation from 2010 to 2022 is Rs. 24,96,04,528/ and that environmental compensation recovered by the Directorate of Mines and Geology should be utilized for ecological restoration. The applicant has also made suggestions regarding promotion of Alternative Building Materials, Ecological Restoration of Aravali areas degraded by illegal mining and also given a plan for Ecological Restoration of illegally mined Aravali areas in Haryana.

57. The HSPCB is directed to submit an Action Plan regarding utilization of environmental compensation for reclamation/rehabilitation of the land illegally mined in the Aravali region in the State of Haryana and concerned respondents are also directed to submit their response to suggestions given by the applicant”.

2. That Mining Department has imposed Environment Compensation and the amount of EC is approx. Rs. 16.89 crore and shall be utilized in rejuvenation of Aravali area as per upgraded Rejuvenation Plan.
3. That the Chairman, HSPCB held a meeting on 06.12.2023 with officers Forest Department, Mining Department and various experts in the field of Bio-diversity, Wildlife, Forestry, Water Conservation along with the members of “Aravali Bachao Citizen Movement”. In the meeting, the issue of Aravali Rejuvenation was discussed thoroughly. The proceedings of the meeting are enclosed as **Annexure R-I**. It has been decided the Aravali Rejuvenation Plans of districts shall be upgraded on the template given by experts and shall be presented by respective DFOs on 16.12.2023 in a workshop to be organized at Gurugram. The DFOs shall update the rejuvenation plan as suggested by the experts and get it approved from the District Committee comprising of the following:-
 - i. Deputy Commissioner (Head of Committee)
 - ii. RO HSPCB (Convener)
 - iii. District Mining Officer
 - iv. District Forest Officer

The Rejuvenation Action Plans prepared by the District Committees shall be examined by the State Committee comprising of the following:-

- i. Dr. Babu Ram, Technical Expert, HSPCB (Head of the Committee-cum-Convener)
- ii. Smt. Madhavi Gupta, State Mining Officer,
- iii. Dr. Sumeet Dookia, Sr. Scientist, Wildlife Research, Indraprast, University,
- iv. Col. Sarvadaman Singh Oberoi, Mrs. Neelam Ahluwalia from Aravali Bachao Citizen Movement
- v. One officer each dealing with Forests and Wild Life to be nominated by the concerned departments

Subsequently, the action plan shall be submitted before Govt. for approval and implementation.

4. That preparation of Aravali Rejuvenation Action Plan for reclamation/rehabilitation of the land illegally mined in the Aravali region likely to take further two months time.

In view of the submission made herein above, it is requested that the details submitted may kindly be taken on record and it is also prayed to grant further two month time to submit final Rejuvenation Action Plan for reclamation/ rehabilitation of the land illegally mined in the Aravali region in the State of Haryana.

Place: Panchkula
Dated: 8/12/23


(Pardeep Kumar)
Member Secretary,
HSPCB



HARYANA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
C-11, SECTOR-6, PANCHKULA
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E-mail: hspcbwatercell@gmail.com



No. HSPCB/ WC/2023/8642-8666

Dated:-07.12.2023

To

1. Director, Mines & Geology Department, Panchkula.
2. Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Panchkula.
3. Dr. Babu Ram, Technical Expert, HSPCB.
4. District Forest Officers of Gurugram, Faridabad, Nuh, Mohindergarh, Rewari, Bhiwani and Charkhi Dahri.
5. Regional Officers, HSPCB, Gurugram (North), Gurugram (South), Faridabad, Ballabgarh, Nuh, Mohindergarh, Rewari, Bhiwani and Charkhi Dadri.
6. Mining Officers of Gurugram, Faridabad, Nuh, Mohindergarh, Rewari, Bhiwani and Charkhi Dahri.

Sub: Proceedings of the meeting in the matter of OA No. 362 of 2022 titled as Aravali Bachao Citizens Movement Vs Union of India & Others on dated 06.12.2023 at 02:30 PM.

Kindly refer to the subject noted above.

In this connection, I have been directed to enclose herewith the copy of proceedings of the meeting held on 06.12.2023 at 02:30 PM under Chairmanship of Sh. P. Raghavendra Rao, Chairman, HSPCB to discuss the issue of Aravali Rejuvenation Plan for your kind information and further necessary action please.

DA/As above

-sd-
Sr. Env. Engineer (HQ)
For Chairman

Endst. No. HSPCB/WC/8667-8672

Dated 07.12.2023

A copy of above is forwarded to the following for information and further necessary action please:-

1. Aravali Bachao Citizens Movement.
2. Dr. Sumit Dookia.
3. Dr. Vijay Dhasmana.
4. Dr. Ankila Hiremath.
5. Sh. Rajendra Singh.
6. Dr. Faiyaz Ahmad Khudsar.

DA/As above

-sd-
Sr. Env. Engineer (HQ)
For Chairman

Annexure R-I

Proceedings of meeting held on 06.12.2023 at 2:30 PM under the Chairmanship of Sh. P. Raghavendra Rao, Chairman, HSPCB at the Conference Hall, HSPCB, C-11, Sec-06, Panchkula in the matter of OA No. 362 of 2022 titled as Aravali Bachao Citizens Movement Vs Union of India & Others to discuss the issues of Aravali Rejuvenation.

A meeting was held under the Chairmanship of Sh. P. Raghavendra Rao, Chairman, HSPCB in the Conference Hall, HSPCB to discuss the issues of Aravali Rejuvenation. The list of participants is attached as **Annexure**.

Right at the outset, the Chairman welcomed all the participants. He emphasized that the rejuvenation of Aravali can be accomplished effectively by the State Govt. only with the active participation of the members of Civil Society and other stake holders. Therefore, the State Govt. Officers, Experts and members of Aravali Bachao Citizens Movement have been invited in this meeting. The Forest Department officers informed that they have prepared action plans for their respective areas of jurisdiction but it was felt the plans need a lot of up-gradation and additions.

Dr. Faiyaz Ahmed, Expert observed that the plans prepared so far primarily address the issue of plantation only but the subject now involves higher matrix i.e. ecology rejuvenation of Aravali area, which is much broader in scope and involves the site details, history of the site, the reference eco system, extent of degradation alongwith mapping & land ownership details. Dr. Vijay Dashmana, Expert Aravali Bio-Diversity agreed to the observations of Dr. Faiyaz and suggested to draw baselines. He also stressed for close monitoring during the implementation phase of the Rejuvenation Plan.

DFO, Nuh & DFO, Gurugram informed that they have planted various varieties of trees/ plants suitable for the environment of Aravali area. Some of these are fruit bearing which are useful for the animals found in the Aravali area.

Dr. Rajender Singh, (popularly known as waterman of India) emphasized that the water conservation is an important issue and should be included in the Rejuvenation Plan. Chairman HSPCB clarified that this component is already in the State Govt. policy and an action plan is already in place for entire State. Water conservation must be a part of the Rejuvenation Plan.

Dr. Ritu Rao, Trustee of "Aravali Citizen Movement" suggested that the issue of protection of Aravali and other measures should also be made a part of the Rejuvenation Plan for Aravali. Drone monitoring should also be employed for this.

Dr. Faiyaz and Dr. Vijay Dashmana agreed to prepare a template for the Rejuvenation Plan so that the Rejuvenation Plan can be prepared accordingly. They assured to prepare and circulate to the DFOs concerned latest by 11.12.2023.

The Chairman, HSPCB desired that detailed district-wise draft Aravali Rejuvenation Plans should be prepared in consultation with various experts in this field on the suggested template, and discussed a workshop to be conducted on 16.12.2023 at Gurugram. The experts may further go through and give their suggestions for further upgradation of the plans. The DFOs shall update the

plans accordingly and place before the State Committee, headed by Dr. Bahu Ram, Technical Expert, HSPCB with Dr. Sumit Dookia, Sr. Scientist, Wildlife Research, Indraprast University, Delhi, Mrs. Neelam Ahluwalia, Col. Sarrvadaman Singh Oberoi, Smt. Madhavi Gupta, State Mining Officer and one officer each dealing with Forests and Wild Life to be nominated by the concerned departments.

After detailed discussion the following decisions were taken for Aravali Rejuvenation Plan:-

1. District Level Committee will be headed by concerned Deputy Commissioner, RO HSPCB (Convener), Mining Officer, District Forest Officer as members.
2. State Committee will comprising Smt. Madhavi Gupta, State Mining Officer, Dr. Sumeet Dookia, Sr. Scientist, Wildlife Research, Indraprast, University, Col. Sarrvadaman Singh Oberoi, Mrs. Neelam Ahluwalia from Aravali Bachao Citizen Movement and one officer each dealing with Forests and Wild Life to be nominated by the concerned departments, shall be headed by Dr. Babu Ram, Technical Expert, HSPCB (Head of the Committee).
3. The workshop to present the draft rejuvenation action plan before experts shall be held on 16.12.2021 at Gurugram and shall be organized by the DFO, Gurugram and the Regional Officer, Gurugram South. The DFO concerned shall present the plan before the experts and other participants.
4. The Rejuvenation Plan shall be updated by the District committees as suggested by the experts and thereafter, the updated plan shall be presented before the State Committee.
5. The updated plan, as ratified by the State Committee will be placed before Govt. for final approval and implementation.

The meeting ended with thanks to Chair and all the participants.

Annexure

List of participants of meeting held on 06.12.2023 at 2:30 PM under the Chairmanship of Sh. P. Raghavendra Rao, Chairman, HSPCB at Conference Hall, HSPCB, C-11, Sec-06, Panchkula in the matter of OA No. 362 of 2022 titled as Aravali Bachao Citizens Movement Vs Union of India & Others.

Sr. No.	Name and Designation
1.	Sh. P. Raghavendra Rao, Chairman.....in the Chair.
2.	Dr. Babu Ram, Technical Expert, HSPCB
3.	Sh. Balraj Ahlawat, CEE, HSPCB
4.	Smt. Madhavi Gupta, State Mining Officer, Mining Department, Haryana, Chandigarh (through VC)
5.	Sh. JP Singh, SEE, HSPCB
6.	Sh. Raj Kr, DFO, Faridabad (through VC)
7.	Sh. Rajiv, DFO, Gurugram (through VC)
8.	Sh. Deepak, DFO, Rewari (through VC)
9.	Sh. Vijender, DFO, Nuh (through VC)
10.	Sh. Sandeep, RO, Faridabad (through VC)
11.	Sh. Akanasha, RO, Ballabgarh (through VC)
12.	Sh. Vipin, RO, Nuh (through VC)
13.	Sh. Krishan Kumar, RO, Mahendergarh (through VC)
14.	Sh. Harish Kumar, RO, Rewari (through VC)
15.	Sh. Shakti Singh, RO, Charkhi (through VC)
16.	Sh. Anil Kumar, Mining Officer, Gurugram/ Nuh (through VC)
17.	Sh. Bhupender, Mining Officer, Mahendergarh (through VC)
18.	Sh. Niranjana Lal, Mining Officer, Faridabad/ Panchkula (through VC)
	Other Participants
19.	Dr. Rajender Singh (through VC)
20.	Dr. Faiyaz Ahmad Khudsar (through VC)
21.	Dr. Ankila Hiremath, Ecologist, (through VC)
22.	Dr. Vijay Dashmana, Expert, Aravali, Biodiversity (through VC)
23.	Col. Sarrvadaman Singh Oberoi, Member Aravali Bachao Citizen Movement
24.	Mrs. Neelam Ahluwalia, Trustee, Aravali Bachao Citizen Movement
25.	Dr. Sumeet Dookia, Sr. Scientist, Wildlife Research, Indraprast University, Delhi
26.	Dr. Ritu Rao, Trustee, Aravali Bachao Citizen Movement (through VC)

True copy