

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL, PRINCIPAL BENCH
AT NEW DELHI

Original Application No. 628/2025

IN THE MATTER OF:

Onkar Singh

...Applicant

Versus

State of Himachal Pradesh & Ors.

...Respondents

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JOINT INSPECTION REPORT REGARDING COMPLAINT OF ILLEGAL FELLING AND WILDLIFE DAMAGE.

In order to verify the facts of the allegations as alleged by Sh. Onkar Singh in Original Application No. 682/2025 filed before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT), a committee was constituted by the Additional District Magistrate, Kangra at Dharamshala, vide letter No. 16/20 dated 15.01.2026.

The area/spot in question was visited by the members of the committee, i.e. SDM Jawali, DFO Wildlife Hamirpur, DFO Nurpur and their respective staff members on 24.02.2026. During the course of inspection, the complainant was present along with media personnel. The complainant was heard in detail and accompanied the team throughout the inspection. The entire stretch of the kacha path was visited along with the team members and the complainant.

During the spot visit, the complainant was asked to point out the alleged illegal felling of trees, damage to wildlife and other accusations made by him. However, he was unable to provide any proof or evidence of tree felling/uprooting or wildlife damage. After the inspection, the following observations and clarifications were made by the designated committee:

1. There are more than 100 homes belonging to Scheduled Tribe families of the Gaddi and Gujjar communities at a place known as Parla Nana. There is no alternative approach road for these tribal families to connect to the main PWD road. They have been using this kacha path for decades.
2. As per statements of elderly local residents, this path has been in use since their childhood, clearly indicating that this path is more than 50 years old. It serves as the only access route connecting the village to the main road.
3. During the inspection, it was observed that cattle belonging to the Gujjar community regularly use this kacha path. Evidence of cattle footprints and dung was found along the path. Due to continuous use and monsoon rains, the path often gets damaged, after which local villagers manually repair and clear it for their use.
4. Along the path, there used to be a Forest Department plant nursery near a water Nala; Some local villagers stated that they had worked as labourers in the nursery at that time and had also carried out plantation work in the nearby forest area. They further stated that the bridle path was deliberately left for the movement of villagers. The past existence of this nursery further indicates the long-standing presence of the old kacha/bridle path.
5. The complainant himself admitted that he had renovated an old "babri" (traditional water source) and other drinking water streams along this path about 10 years ago when he was a member of the local Panchayat. This clearly establishes that the path is old and not newly constructed, as alleged in the Original Application.
6. The team thoroughly inspected the entire stretch and found no evidence of uprooted trees or any form of wildlife damage. All allegations regarding wildlife damage were found to be baseless. On the contrary, local residents reported frequent sightings of leopards in the area in question. The presence of such apex predators indicates a healthy population of wild herbivores and an intact ecosystem.

7. It was also noted during the inspection that heated arguments occurred between the complainant and residents of Parla Nana village. This suggests that the matter appears to be a local village dispute in which the departments are being unnecessarily involved.
8. The committee was also apprised that an encroachment case No. 10/2025, under the H.P. Public Premises and Land (Eviction and Rent Recovery) Act, 1971 is under trial in the court of Collector-cum-DFO Nurpur against the applicant Sh. Onkar Singh.


Conclusion:


Based on the investigation and findings, it is concluded that the kacha path is an ancestral pathway connecting the village of Parla Nana to the main road of PWD. No evidence of damage to wildlife or forest trees was found by the committee during the course of inspection. The complaint appears to be motivated by local and political disputes and seems intended to harass government officials and local residents.

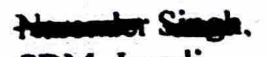
Recommendations

It is, therefore, recommended that appropriate action may kindly be considered against the complainant for filing false and baseless complaints, as the same have been found devoid of merit upon thorough verification by the competent authority. The submission of such unsubstantiated allegations not only causes unnecessary harassment to Government officials but also results in avoidable expenditure of time, effort and public resources, thereby diverting administrative machinery from genuine and priority matters. If such practices are not discouraged, they may set an undesirable precedent leading to misuse of official processes. Hence, in order to uphold administrative discipline and ensure that public grievance redressal mechanisms are not misused, suitable action as deemed appropriate under the relevant rules and provisions may kindly be initiated to deter recurrence of such instances in future.


RFO Jawali,


DFO Nurpur


DFO, Wildlife Himirpur.


SDM, Jawali.