

The minutes of meeting of Oversight Committee under Chairmanship of Hon'ble Justice (Retd.) Shri Rajes Kumar, Allahabad High Court held on dated 07.02.2020 at Circuit House, Prayagraj in compliance of Hon'ble NGT order dated 28.8.2018 in O.A. No. 164/2018, Ashwani Kumar Dubey vs. Union of India and others and order dated 12.02.2019 in O.A. No. 670/2018, Atul Singh Chauhan vs. Ministry of Environment & Forests, Govt. of India and others.

The attendance sheet of committee Members and stakeholders is enclosed.

Mining of sand in District Kaushambi: Mine Officer submitted a chart giving detail of 20 Pattas, wherein he has given the detail of the amount recovered and the future amount recoverable. He stated that this report has also been given to the Director, Mines. He further submitted that in cases where there was re-auction, no bidder had come forward. On an enquiry being made why the bidders had not come, he replied that due to bad quality of sand the bidders are not coming forward. Let the Mine Officer may inform this fact to the Director, Mines to get the necessary order from the Director, Mines for further action.

Mining of sand in District Prayagraj: Shri Anjani Kumar, Senior Mines Officer stated that he may be allowed one week's more time to give the reply to the petition filed by the petitioner (Shri Atul Singh Chauhan, petitioner before the Hon'ble NGT). Verbally he stated that various actions have been taken to stop the illegal mining with the help of the police. Shri Ashutosh Mishra, S.P. (Crimes) states that to check the illegal mining and the transportation the sand, number of F.I.Rs. have been lodged and Charge-sheets have also been submitted. He has produced the details of such action taken by the police. A copy of the details has been provided to Shri Anjani Kumar to consider and refer the same in his reply. The District Magistrate states that very serious actions have been taken to check the illegal mining with the help of the police. SSP, Prayagraj himself has made the spot inspection and seized the vehicles as well as the F.I.Rs. have been lodged. Recently, he has also taken the action against his own constable. He submitted that they are trying their best to check

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the illegal mining. He further submitted that unless the stock of the stacked sand is removed, it would be difficult to check the illegal mining. However, he is trying his best to get the stacked sand removed from the places where they are stacked. He is hopeful to get it expedited.

Shri Atul Singh Chauhan, the petitioner states that the main problem is in the Baswar area where even today the huge illegal mining is going on by the operation of the JCB and Boats particularly in the night. Shri Anjani Kumar, Senior Mines Officer states that no illegal mining is going on by JCB or by boat. He himself inspected the area and did not find any illegal mining operation. However, the District Magistrate assured that he will look into the matter himself and assured that if any illegal mining is going on, he will get the same stopped. He stated that he will talk with the Senior Superintendent of Police for the establishment of a Police Chauki in the Baswar area for this purpose.

From the various actions taken and the reports submitted, the Committee is satisfied that a lot of effort has been made by the officers concerned to check the illegal mining and for the settlement of the mining Pattas. Committee hopes and expects that mine officers shall discharge their duties more effectively on the principle of Zero tolerance. District Magistrate is requested to make a surprise check along with the Senior Superintendent of Police in the Baswar area, whether any illegal mining is going on and, if it is so, the stringent action may be taken against those persons involved in illegal mining.


(Justice Rajes Kumar)
Chairman

Oversight Committee, NGT New Delhi