

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI

Original Application No. 239 of 2024 (SZ)

In the matter of:

Tribunal on its own motion SUO MOTU
based on the News Item in Dinamalar
Chennai Edition Dt. 19.08.2024 titled
“Kalquarry in Sikkarayapuram near Kundrathur is full of water”.

Versus

The Chief Secretary to Govt of Tamil Nadu,
Chennai and ors.

...Respondent(s)

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Through

Dr. D. Shanmuganathan

Standing Counsel of Tamil Nadu

National Green Tribunal

Southern Zone, Chennai

DATE:05.11.2024

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI
Original Application No.239 Of 2024 (SZ)**

Tribunal on its own motion SUO MOTU
Based on the News Item in Dinamalar
Chennai Edition Dt. 19.08.2024 titled
"Kalqaurry in Sikkarayapuram near
Kundrathur is full of water".

. Petitioner

- Versus -


- 1 The Chief Secretary to Government,
Ministry of Natural Resources,
Fort St., George,
Chennai - 600 009
2. The Chief Secretary to Government,
Department of Environment, Climate Change and Forest,
Fort St., George,
Chennai - 600 009
- 3 The Commissioner of Geology and Mining,
Guindy, Chennai 600 032.
4. The Chairman,
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board,
Guindy, Chennai 600 032.
- 5 Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority
Egmore, Chennai -08.

..... Respondents

STATUS REPORT FILED BY THE THIRD RESPONDENT

I, E.Saravanelraj, I.A.S., Son of Ethirajalu, aged about 56 years, residing at Chennai working as the Commissioner of Geology and Mining do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows:-

2) I am the 3rd respondent in the above Original Application and as such I am well acquainted with the facts and circumstances of the case based on the


JOINT DIRECTOR
DEPT. OF GEOLOGY AND MINING
GUINDY, CHENNAI-600 032.


COMMISSIONER
COMMISSIONERATE OF GEOLOGY AND MINING
GUINDY, CHENNAI - 600 032.


available records. I am filing this affidavit before the National Green Tribunal Southern Zone, Chennai herein on behalf of myself and the first respondent

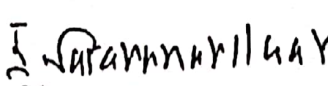
3) It is submitted that the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal Southern Zone, Chennai on its own SUO MOTU has registered case in Original Application No.239/2024(SZ) based on the news item in Dinamalar, Chennai edition dated 19.08.2024, titled "Kalquarry in Sikkarayapuram near Kundrathur is full of water". The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in its order dated 02.09 2024 has ordered to get appropriate instructions from the authorities regarding the issue raised in the news report.

4) It is submitted that in Kanchipuram District, 16 Rough Stone quarries over an extent of 90.45 ha in Government lands have been identified as abandoned quarries of which an extent of 38.46.00 hectares of area of Government lands in S.F.Nos. 207/1, 296/1A, of Sikkarayapuram village and S.F. Nos.873, 874, 876, 877, 878, 880 and 981 of Malayampakkam village of Kundrathur taluk were identified as abandoned quarries.

5) It is submitted that based on the announcement made by the Hon'ble Finance Minister during the Budget for the year 2021-2022, the Government in G.O.(Ms.) No.23, Industries (MMC.1) Department, dated 23.02.2022 have made amendment in the Tamil Nadu Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 1959 by inserting Rule 35-A to H introducing "Green Fund" for every district for Reclamation, Restoration and Rehabilitation of abandoned mines or quarries. Every holder of a prospecting license or quarry lease of mineral shall, in addition to the seigniorage fee, contribute to the Green Fund of the District in which the mining or quarrying operations are to be done, an amount at the rate of 10 percentage of the seigniorage fee. Provided that if the minerals are transported to a destination outside the State, the contribution to the Green fund shall be 50 percentage of the seigniorage fee. Green Fund is being collected from the lessees from 23.02.2022 in addition to the contribution towards Seigniorage fee.

6) It is submitted that Green fund shall be utilised for undertaking activities for Reclamation, Restoration and Rehabilitation of abandoned quarries / Mines in accordance with the projects as approved by the Reclamation, Restoration and


JOINT DIRECTOR
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GUINDY, CHENNAI - 600 032


COMMISSIONER
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Rehabilitation Committee headed by the District Collector. The District Collectors are taking necessary action to take up appropriate schemes/projects for the Reclamation, Restoration and Rehabilitation of abandoned quarries in their respective district using the Green Fund.

7) It is submitted that the Government in G.O.(D) No.55 Natural Resources (MMC 1) Department, Dated 05.06.2024 engaged Tvl. Care Earth Trust, Chennai for carrying out the feasibility studies for assessment of the adoptive re-use of the abandoned quarries in Kancheepuram and Chengalpeta Districts. In this regard, Tvl. Care Earth Trust, Chennai conducted a discussion with the Stakeholders, Public, Revenue and Local bodies on 22.10.2024 in respect of Kancheepuram District and obtained suggestions from them. The feasibility study report of Tvl. Care Earth Trust, Chennai is under finalisation.


8) It is submitted that on receipt of proposal from the Chairman of the Committee/District Collector, Kancheepuram to sanction fund for taking up projects for the Reclamation, Restoration and Rehabilitation of abandoned quarries, necessary fund will be provided.

Therefore, in view of the above, the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, (SZ), Chennai may accept this report and thus render justice.

Solemnly affirmed at Chennai on this 25TH October 2024 and signed his name in my presence.


COMMISSIONER
COMMISSIONERATE OF GEOLOGY AND MINING
GUINDY, CHENNAI - 600 032.

Before me


JOINT DIRECTOR
DEPT. OF GEOLOGY AND MINING
GUINDY, CHENNAI-600 032

DATE : 25.10.2024