

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL SOUTHERN ZONE  
BENCH AT CHENNAI

Original Application No.165 OF 2023 (SZ)

IN THE MATTER OF:

Pilli Surendra Babu

... Applicant

..Versus..

Union of India and others

... Respondents

REPORT FILED BY THE 14<sup>th</sup> RESPONDENT  
ANDHRA PRADESH POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

Date: 09.12.2025



M/S. K. RAVINDRANATH  
ADVOCATE

STANDING COUNSEL FOR GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH  
ANDHRA PRADESH POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

No.35, Flat No. A-2 'Aurora' Apartments,  
Kandhan Street, Shenoy Nagar, Chennai-600 030

Mobile No.9840057777

E-mail : [ravindranath.kilari@gmail.com](mailto:ravindranath.kilari@gmail.com)

**Before the National Green Tribunal  
Southern Zone, Chennai**

**Original Application No.165 of 2023 (SZ)**

**Sri Pilli Surendra Babu**

.....Applicant

Versus

**State of Andhra Pradesh & Others**

.....Respondents

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Place: Vijayawada  
Dt:06.12.2025

  
Environmental Engineer,  
A.P. Pollution Control Board,  
Regional office, Vijayawada.

**ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER**  
A.P. Pollution Control Board  
Regional Office, Vijayawada



**Report of A.P. Pollution Control Board in O.A. No. 165 of 2023 (SZ) filed by Sri Pilli Surendra Babu, R/o. Kesarapalli (V), Gannavaram (M), Krishna District before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Chennai.**

It is to submit that a case was filed by Sri Pilli Surendra Babu, R/o. Kesarapalli (V), Gannavaram (M), Krishna District before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT), Principal Bench (PB), New Delhi in Original Application (O.A.) No.53 of 2023 (PB) alleging that illegal mining being carried out in and around Kothuru Reserve Forest Area, Vijayawada Rural (M), NTR District. In obedience to the Hon'ble NGT order dt.10.02.2023, a Joint Committee constituted with Scientist 'D' MoEF & CC, Integrated Regional Office (IRO), Vijayawada, DFR Flying Squad, Rajahmundry, Sub-Collector, Vijayawada, NTR District and Environmental Engineer (EE), A.P. Pollution Control Board (APPCB), Regional Office (RO), Vijayawada.

The A.P. Pollution Control Board, Head Office, Vijayawada has addressed letter dt.12.05.2023 to Director of Mines & Geology, A.P. to take action for stoppage of all the illegal mining takes place in and around Kotturu Reserve Forest Area, namely in Nainavaram, Kothuru Tadepalli & Jakkampudi Villages in Vijayawada Rural Mandal, NTR District.

In compliance with the Hon'ble NGT order dt.12.05.2023, the Board has again addressed letters on 18.05.2023 to Director of Mines & Geology, A.P., the Collector & District Magistrate, NTR District and Commissioner of Police, District Commissionerate, Vijayawada to take appropriate steps to ensure to stop illegal mining taking place in and around Kotturu Reserve Forest Area namely in Nainavaram, Kothuru Tadepalli & Jakkampudi Villages in Vijayawada Rural Mandal, NTR District.

The Joint Committee conducted site visit on 20.03.2023 & 21.04.2023 and submitted detailed report on 19.05.2023 to the Hon'ble N.G.T (PB).

Consequent to the Joint committee report, the Collector & District Magistrate, NTR District constituted the Task Force teams at Divisional and Mandal Levels, to stop the illegal mining activities and illegal transportation of soil, excavated from the bunds of Polavaram Right main Canal, Kothuru Tadepalli Reserve Forest Area, Jakkampudi, Velagaleru, Pathapadu areas and to protect the Government properties.

The Divisional Level Team constituted with the following officials:

1. The Sub Collector, Vijayawada,
2. The Assistant Commissioner of Police, Vijayawada West,
3. The Assistant Commissioner of Police, Mylavaram,
4. The Executive Engineer, Irrigation Department (Polavaram),
5. The District Transport Commissioner,
6. The Deputy Director of Mines & Geology, NTR District,
7. The Forest Range Officer, Vijayawada.

The Mandal Level Team constituted with the Tahasildars, SHOs, Royalty Inspector in DVS, Vijayawada, The Assistant Executive Engineers, Polavaram project and Deputy Range Officer, Vijayawada.

Further, constituted 3 teams in Revenue Department by the Sub-Collector and Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Vijayawada with Village Revenue Officers & Village Revenue Assistants.

The Hon'ble N.G.T (PB), New Delhi transferred the matter to the Southern Zone Bench (SZ) and the O.A. No. has been changed from O.A.No.53 of 2023 (PB) to O.A. No.165 of 2023 (SZ).

This office has submitted a detailed report to the Hon'ble N.G.T (SZ) on 14.02.2024. **(Annexure-I)**.

The case listed on 23.06.2025 and the Hon'ble N.G.T (SZ) issued following order **(Annexure-II)**:

1. On the last occasion, it was mentioned that a Writ Petition (PIL) No.19 of 2023 was filed before the Hon'ble High Court of Andhra Pradesh for the same relief.
2. Upon verification, we see that though the relief sought for is the same but the above Writ Petition relates to Polavaram Right Canal in United Krishna District, whereas the present O.A. relates to Kotturu Reserve Forest area, Vijayawada Rural Mandal in NTR District. It is the applicant and the reliefs are the same in both matters.
3. Be that as it may, the latest status report by the Mines and Geology Department and the MoEF & CC after inspection is required to be filed to know whether the alleged illegal activities are stopped or not. From the earlier report of the Mines and Geology Department, it is seen that more than Rs.31 Cores has been levied as a penalty. It is not known whether the same has been recovered or not. Following the penalty levied by the Mines and Geology Department, the Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board (APPCB) ought to have levied environmental compensation. However, it is not known what remediation measures have been undertaken and whether the environmental compensation has been levied. Let the APPCB file a report in this regard.
4. The applicant alleges that despite the imposition of penalties and the inspections made by the departments, illegal mining is still happening. Let him also produce the photographs with the date, latitude and longitude details to show that the activities are still going on.
5. Post the matter on 20.08.2025.

The case was listed on 20.08.2025 and issued following order **(Annexure-III)**:

1. Despite specific directions issued to the MoEF & CC and the Department of Mines and Geology to file their respective reports regarding the alleged illegal activities, no such reports have been filed till date.
2. The learned counsel appearing for both the MoEF & CC and the Department of Mines and Geology submits that a joint inspection was ordered, which requires additional time for completion and report submission.
3. We make it clear that the direction was not for a joint inspection. Both departments are at liberty to conduct their independent inspections and file separate reports along with photographs containing latitude and longitude details.
4. As a last chance, let the matter be listed on **17.10.2025** for filing of the aforesaid reports.

The case matter is listed on **10.12.2025 (Annexure-IV)**.

This office has addressed a letter to the District Mines & Geology Officer, Mines & Geology Department, Vijayawada, NTR District on 05.12.2025 regarding the details of the penalties levied to the firms / persons / agencies, which were carried illegal mining in and around at Kothur Tadepalli Reserve Forest area for levy of Environmental Compensation (EC). The Environmental Compensation (EC) will be utilized for remediation measures **(Annexure-V)**.

This report is submitted for kind consideration. The APPCB will abide by all such directions as the Hon'ble Tribunal may deem fit and appropriate.

Place: Vijayawada

Dt.06.12.2025

  
Environmental Engineer,  
APPCB, Regional Office,  
Vijayawada

**ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER**  
**A.P. Pollution Control Board**  
**Regional Office, Vijayawada**

Before the National Green Tribunal  
Southern Zone, Chennai

ANNEXURE - I

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Original Application No.165 of 2023 (SZ)

Sri Pilli Surendra Babu

.....Applicant

Versus

State of Andhra Pradesh & Others

.....Respondents

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Place: Vijayawada  
Dt:14.02.2024.

*Pinivet*  
14/2  
Environmental Engineer,  
A.P. Pollution Control Board,  
Regional office, Vijayawada.

ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER  
A.P. Pollution Control Board  
Regional Office, Vijayawada

**Further report of A.P. Pollution Control Board in O.A. No. 165 of 2023(SZ) filed by Sri Pilli Surendra Babu, R/o. Kesarapalli (V), Gannavaram (M), Krishna District before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Chennai**

It is to submit that a case was filed by Sri Pilli Surendra Babu, R/o. Kesarapalli(V), Gannavaram (M), Krishna District before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT), Principal Bench (PB), New Delhi in Original Application (O.A.) No.53 of 2023 (PB) alleging that illegal mining being carried out in and around Kothuru Reserve Forest Area, Vijayawada Rural (M), NTR District. In obedience to the Hon'ble NGT order dt.10.02.2023, a Joint Committee constituted with Scientist 'D' MoEF & CC, Integrated Regional Office (IRO), Vijayawada, DFR Flying Squad, Rajahmundry, Sub-Collector, Vijayawada, NTR District and Environmental Engineer (EE), A.P. Pollution Control Board (APPCB), Regional Office (RO), Vijayawada.

The A.P. Pollution Control Board, Head Office, Vijayawada has addressed letter dt.12.05.2023 to Director of Mines & Geology, A.P. to take action for stoppage of all the illegal mining takes place in and around Kotturu Reserve Forest Area, namely in Nainavaram, Kothuru Tadepalli & Jakkampudi Villages in Vijayawada Rural Mandal, NTR District. (Annexure-1)

In compliance with the Hon'ble NGT order dt.12.05.2023, the Board has again addressed letters on 18.05.2023 to Director of Mines & Geology, A.P., the Collector & District Magistrate, NTR District and Commissioner of Police, District Commissionerate, Vijayawada to take appropriate steps to ensure to stop illegal mining taking place in and around Kotturu Reserve Forest Area namely in Nainavaram, Kothuru Tadepalli & Jakkampudi Villages in Vijayawada Rural Mandal, NTR District. (Annexure-2)

The Joint Committee conducted site visit on 20.03.2023 & 21.04.2023 and submitted detailed report on 19.05.2023 to the Hon'ble N.G.T (PB).

Consequent to the Joint committee report, the Collector & District Magistrate, NTR District constituted the Task Force teams at Divisional and Mandal Levels, to stop the illegal mining activities and illegal transportation of soil, excavated from the bunds of Polavaram Right main Canal, Kothuru Tadepalli Reserve Forest Area, Jakkampudi, Velagaleru, Pathapadu areas and to protect the Government properties.

The Divisional Level Team constituted with the following officials:

1. The Sub Collector, Vijayawada,
2. The Assistant Commissioner of Police, Vijayawada West,
3. The Assistant Commissioner of Police, Mylavaram,
4. The Executive Engineer, Irrigation Department (Polavaram),
5. The District Transport Commissioner,
6. The Deputy Director of Mines & Geology, NTR District,
7. The Forest Range Officer, Vijayawada.

The Mandal Level Team constituted with the Tahasildars, SHOs, Royalty Inspector in DVS, Vijayawada, The Assistant Executive Engineers, Polavaram project and Deputy Range Officer, Vijayawada.

Further, constituted 3 teams in Revenue Department by the Sub-Collector and Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Vijayawada with Village Revenue Officers & Village Revenue Assistants.

In response to the above, the Director of Mines & Geology vide letter dt.15.06.2023 communicated that the DVS, Vijayawada has collected the levied penalties of Rs.63,600/- from 6 Gravel laden vehicles found transporting the Gravel without valid transit forms in Kothuru Tadepalli Villages of Vijayawada Rural Mandal. The Board has submitted further report in this case on 11.09.2023.

The Hon'ble N.G.T (PB), New Delhi transferred the matter to the Southern Zone Bench (SZ) and the O.A. No. has been changed from O.A.No.53 of 2023 (PB) to O.A. No.165 of 2023 (SZ).

The Hon'ble NGT vide order dt. 20.11.2023 in O.A. No. 165 of 2023(SZ) directed as follows:

*"10. The Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board as well as the Mines and Geology Department have to ensure that Respondents No.19 to 24 stop their quarrying activity forthwith and file a report to that effect.*

*11. To be noted is that even as early as on 12.05.2023, the Principal Bench of this Tribunal had directed the District Magistrate-Vijayawada and the Senior Superintendent of Police to take appropriate steps to ensure that no illegal mining takes place in the above-mentioned area."*

Further, it is submitted that the petitioner has also filed a writ petition before the Hon'ble High Court of A.P. vide W.P. (PIL) No. 19 of 2023 and prayed that the Hon'ble High Court may be pleased to direct the Respondent authorities to forthwith take steps to stop the illegal mining activity conducting on the bunds of Polavaram Right Canal in united Krishna District.

In this connection, the Hon'ble High Court has issued Interim Orders on 06.03.2023 in the W.P. (PIL) No. 19 of 2023 filed by Sri Pilli Surendra Babu and operative portion of the order is as follows:

*"Heard the learned council for the petitioner. Issue notices to the respondents returnable in four weeks personal notice is also permitted. Respondent 10 and 11 shall file a counter(s) along with comprehensive report on the issue of illegal Mining over the subject area by the next date of hearing. Meanwhile respondent no:10 (Principal Secretary, Water Resource Department, Secretariat, Velagapudi) and 11 (The Engineer-in-Chief, Irrigation, Water Resource Department, Vijayawada) shall ensure that there is no illegal mining on the bunds of Polavaram Right Canal in united Krishna District."*

In this context, it is to submit that the RO, Vijayawada, APPCB received a complaint filed by Sri Mondem Jamalajah, Kothuru Tadepalli (V), Vijayawada Rural (M), NTR District on illegal mining of gravel at Kothuru Tadepalli, P.Nainavaram, Pathapadu Villages of Vijayawada Rural Mandal and Velagaleru Village, G. Konduru Mandal, NTR District. The Board forwarded the complaint to the District Mines & Geology Officer (DMGO), Tahsildar, Vijayawada Rural & G. Konduru Mandals and Panchayat Secretaries, Kothuru Tadepalli, P. Nainavaram, Pathapadu and Velagaleru villages on 13.12.2023 to take necessary action on the illegal mining activity at the above areas. (Annexure-3 & 4)

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In response to the Board letter dt.13.12.2023, the Asst. Director of Mines & Geology, District Vigilance Squad (DVS), Erstwhile, Krishna District, O/o. DMGO, Vijayawada has submitted a report that the DVS team of erstwhile Krishna District has been regularly inspecting subjected areas and imposing penalties on illegal transportation of gravel vehicles. Further informed that 3 nos. of mining check posts have been established at the entry and exit point at the required places around the clock.

Further, it is submitted that the District Vigilance Squad (DVS), erstwhile Krishna District and technical staff of O/o. The District Mines and Geology Office, Vijayawada have inspected and conducted route check in and around alleged areas of Kothuru Tadepalli, Velagaleru and Vemavaram etc., and collected penalty to a tune of an amount of Rs.71,13,219 during the period from 2022-23 & 2023-24 (upto 27.12.2023) on illegal transportation. The District Vigilance Squad, O/o. The District Mines and Geology Office, Vijayawada is regularly keep watching and taking all possible measures to curb illegal excavation and transportation of gravel. During the course of regular inspections, it is noticed that no men and machinery available at the alleged area.

It is informed by the Mines & Geology Department in the report that the ADM&G, Vijayawada requested the Tahsildar, Vijayawada Rural & G.Konduru (M) to instruct their village level staff to keep constant watch and ward over the illicit mining prone areas as they are custodians of the Government lands in their jurisdiction and to take necessary action on the culprits as they are already empowered to take action as per G.O. Ms. No.224, Dt.02.05.1980 of the Ind & Comm (M.IV) Department and G.O. Ms. No.20, Dt. 21.01.2016 of Revenue (SER-II) Dept. and also the Asst. Director of Mines & Geology, Vijayawada requested the SHO's Vijayawada Rural & G. Konduru Mandals to keep constant vigil on illegal prone areas in their jurisdiction. The copy of the report submitted by the Mines & Geology Department, NTR District is herewith attached. (Annexure-5)

This report is submitted for kind consideration. The APPCB will abide by all such directions as the Hon'ble Tribunal may deem fit and appropriate.

Place: Vijayawada

Dt.14.02.2024

*mineral*  
*14/2*  
Environmental Engineer,  
APPCB, Regional Office,  
Vijayawada  
ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER  
A.P. Pollution Control Board  
Regional Office, Vijayawada

**Item No.17:-**

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI**

[Through Physical Hearing (Hybrid Option)]

**Original Application No.165 of 2023 (SZ)**

[Earlier O.A. No.53/2023 (PB)]

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

Pilli Surendra Babu,  
Andhra Pradesh.

...Applicant(s)

**With**

Union of India,  
Rep. by its Secretary,  
MoEF&CC, New Delhi and Ors.

...Respondent(s)

**Date of hearing: 23.06.2025.**



**CORAM:**

**HON'BLE Smt. JUSTICE PUSHPA SATHYANARAYANA, JUDICIAL MEMBER**

**HON'BLE Dr. SATYAGOPAL KORLAPATI, EXPERT MEMBER**

For Applicant(s): Mr. Paleti V.R. Maheswararao.

For Respondent(s): Mr. K. Raja represented  
Mr. R. Raghavan for R1.  
Mrs. Madhuri Donti Reddy for R2 to R18.

ORDER

1. On the last occasion, it was mentioned that a Writ Petition (PIL) No.19 of 2023 was filed before the Hon'ble High Court of Andhra Pradesh for the same relief.

2. Upon verification, we see that though the relief sought for is the same but the above Writ Petition relates to Polavaram Right Canal in United Krishna District, whereas the present O.A. relates to Kotturu Reserve Forest area, Vijayawada Rural Mandal in NTR District. It is the applicant and the reliefs are the same in both matters.

3. Be that as it may, the latest status report by the Mines and Geology Department and the MoEF&CC after inspection is required to be filed to know whether the alleged illegal activities are stopped or not. From the earlier report of the Mines and Geology Department, it is seen that more than Rs.31 Cores has been levied as a penalty. It is not known whether the same has been recovered or not. Following the penalty levied by the Mines and Geology Department, the Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board (APPCB) ought to have levied environmental compensation. However, it is not known what remediation measures have been undertaken and whether the environmental compensation has been levied. Let the APPCB file a report in this regard.

4. The applicant alleges that despite the imposition of penalties and the inspections made by the departments, illegal

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mining is still happening. Let him also produce the photographs with the date, latitude and longitude details to show that the activities are still going on.

5. Post the matter on 20.08.2025.

Sd/-  
Smt. Justice Pushpa Sathyanarayana, JM

Sd/-  
Dr. Satyagopal Korlapati, EM

O. A. No.165/2023 (SZ)  
23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2025. AD.



**Item No.04:-**

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI**

[Through Physical Hearing (Hybrid Option)]

**Original Application No.165 of 2023 (SZ)**

[Earlier O.A. No.53/2023 (PB)]

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

Pilli Surendra Babu,  
Andhra Pradesh.

...Applicant(s)

**With**

Union of India,  
Rep. by its Secretary,  
MoEF&CC, New Delhi and Ors.

...Respondent(s)

**Date of hearing: 20.08.2025.**



**CORAM:**

**HON'BLE Smt. JUSTICE PUSHPA SATHYANARAYANA, JUDICIAL MEMBER**

**HON'BLE Dr. AFROZ AHMAD, EXPERT MEMBER**

For Applicant(s): Mr. Paleti V.R. Maheswararao.

For Respondent(s): Mr. R. Raghavan for R1.  
Mrs. Madhuri Donti Reddy for R2 to R18.

**ORDER**

1. Despite specific directions issued to the MoEF&CC and the Department of Mines and Geology to file their respective reports regarding the alleged illegal activities, no such reports have been filed till date.

2. The learned counsel appearing for both the MoEF&CC and the Department of Mines and Geology submits that a joint inspection was ordered, which requires additional time for completion and report submission.

3. We make it clear that the direction was not for a joint inspection. Both departments are at liberty to conduct their independent inspections and file separate reports along with photographs containing latitude and longitude details.

4. As a last chance, let the matter be listed on 17.10.2025 for filing of the aforesaid reports.

Sd/-  
Smt. Justice Pushpa Sathyanarayana, JM

Sd/-  
Dr. Afroz Ahmad, EM

O. A. No.165/2023 (SZ)  
20<sup>th</sup> August, 2025. AD.

Item No.04:-

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI

Original Application No.165 of 2023 (SZ)

[Earlier O.A. No.53/2023 (PB)]

IN THE MATTER OF:

Pilli Surendra Babu,  
Andhra Pradesh.

...Applicant(s)

With

Union of India,  
Rep. by its Secretary,  
MoEF&CC, New Delhi and Ors.

...Respondent(s)



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**Date of hearing: 17.10.2025.**

---

Matter stands adjourned to 10.12.2025.



ANDHRA PRADESH POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD  
REGIONAL OFFICE, VIJAYAWADA.  
Plot No.41, Opp: SBI, Sri Kanakadurga Officers' Colony, Gurunanak Nagar,  
Vijayawada – 520 008.



ANNEXURE - V (14)

Ph: 0866-2543542

Lr.No.O.A. No.165 of 2023/PCB/RO-VJA/2025-1047

Date.05.12.2025

To  
The District Mines & Geology Officer,  
Mines & Geology Department,  
D.No.54-18-67/1B, LIC Colony,  
Vijayawada, NTR District.

Sir,

Sub: APPCB-RO-VJA- The Hon'ble N.G.T (SZ) orders issued in O.A. No.165 of 2023 against the case filed by Sri Pilli Surendra Babu, Keesarapalli (V), Gannavaram(M), Krishna District on illegal mining activity carried out in and around at Kothur Tadepalli Reserve Forest Area-Penalty levied by Mines & Geology Department more than Rs.31.0 Crores on illegal mining activity- Information required for levy of Environmental Compensation (EC)-Reg.

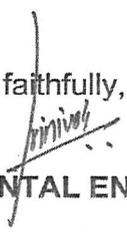
- Ref: 1. The Hon'ble N.G.T order dated.23.06.2025 in O.A. No.165 of 2023 (SZ).  
2. The Hon'ble N.G.T order dated.20.08.2025 in O.A. No.165 of 2023 (SZ).  
3. The Hon'ble N.G.T order dated.17.10.2025 in O.A. No. 165 of 2023 (SZ).  
\*\*\*\*\*

It is to submit that the Hon'ble N.G.T (SZ) vide order dated.23.06.2025 has noted that as per the report of the Mines & Geology Department it is seen that more than Rs.31.0 Crores has been levied as a penalty on illegal mining.

It is requested to inform the details of the penalties levied to the firms / persons / agencies, which are carried illegal mining in and around at Kothur Tadepalli Reserve Forest area for levy of Environmental Compensation (EC). The Environmental Compensation (EC) will be utilized for remediation measures.

After receiving the information, the Board will levy of Environmental Compensation (EC) on the illegal mining carried at Kothur Tadepalli Reserve Forest area.

Yours faithfully,

  
ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER

Copy submitted to

1. The MS, APPCB, BO, Vijayawada for favour of kind information.
2. The JCEE (ECS), APPCB, BO, Vijayawada for kind information.
3. The JCEE (Legal), APPCB, BO, Vijayawada for kind information.

