

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL SOUTHERN ZONE BENCH
AT CHENNAI**

OA No 177 OF 2023

IN THE MATTER OF:

SUOMOTUILLEGALQUARTZMININGINTEMPLELANDS

..... Applicant

VS

THE DISTRICT COLLECTOR PALNADU & OTHERS

.... Respondents

REPORT FILED BY THE MINES 2nd RESPONDENT

DATE- 30.10.2025



**M/s MADHURI DONTI REDDY
ADVOCATE**

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REPORT FILED BY MINES & GEOLOGY DEPARTMENT IN OA NO 177 OF 2023 (SZ) IN THE MATTER OF SUO MOTU ILLEGAL QUARTZ MINING IN TEMPLE LANDS VS THE DISTRICT COLLECTOR PALNADU

1. It is submitted that Hon'ble NGT (SZ), Chennai as SUO MOTU registered based on the News Paper item in Eenadu Newspaper, dt. 23.11.2023 on "Illegal Quartz Mining in Temple Lands" in Original Application No 177 of 2023 (SZ) in the Petasanigandla(V), Kaeampudi (M), Palnadu District. In Petasarnnigandla Village, Karempudi Mandal of 'Palnadu District illegal mining is reported in one of the small hillocks The said lands belong to Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple and are very close to the temple itself. It is stated that more than 50,000 Tonnes of quartz had illegally been mined. The illegal mining is happening for the last one year. However, the Department of Mines and Geology has not taken any action in spite of the large-scale mining, Moreover, the said illegally mined quartz and other minerals are being illegally transported through the forest area.
2. It is submitted that the Manager, Peta Sannlgandla group of Temples, Peta Sannlgandla Village, Karampudi Mandal, Guntur District conducted public auction of lease hold rights on 15-11-2006 for an extent of Ac 25.00 Cents in Block No. 28 belongs to the Sri Lakshmi Narsimha Swamy Temple, Peta Sannlgandla Village, Karampudi Mandal, Guntur District for the purpose of mining i.e., for excavation of Quartz. One Sri A. Hanumantha Rao (Late) emerged as highest bidder for a period of (3) years i.e., from 2006-07 to 2008-09 on an annual rent of Rs. 61,500/-. Accordingly, the Government vide G.O.Ms. No. 18 I&C (M-II) Dept, Dt: 11.01.2008 granted mining lease in favour of the bidder with a condition that consent has to be given by the Endowments Department for the extended period, failing which the lease period get expired as soon as the Endowment lease period expires. Further it was mentioned that it is obligatory on the part of the applicant to secure the consent from the Endowments Department. However, the Endowments Department has not extended the lease period.
3. Further it is submitted that, aggrieved by the orders of the Endowments Dept., Smt. A. Ramadevi, (legal hair) W/o Late Sri A. Hanumantha Rao filed writ petition No. 29387/2013 before the Hon'ble High Court of A.P, with a plea of not granting extensions of the lease period by the Endowments Department. The Endowments Dept., has filed counter affidavit in the matter on 22.09.2022. As the matter stood thus, this office vide Lr. No. 5795/M/2006,

Dt: 06.04.2022 submitted determination proposals to the Director of Mines & Geology, Ibrahimpatnam for non-payment of dead rent. Basing on the proposals of the ADM&G, Dachehalli the DM&G vide D.Dis Pro. No. 7556/D7/2022, Dt: 19.09.2022 determined the lease.

4. It is submitted that at present the article published in Eenadu daily news paper on 23-11-2023 with a caption that "Quartz Kollagottaru". Immediately the technical staff of this office inspected the area in question on 23-11-2023. During the inspection it was observed that there are three old pits with a depth of around 2 to 3 meters, there are no men and machinery in the site. The land belongs to the Endowment Dept., Further when enquired with the officials of Endowment Dept., they have informed that there are no workings and transportation of quartz since one year. The same was informed to the Director of Mines & Geology, Ibrahimpatnam vide this office Lr. No. 1330/P.C/2013, Dt: 23.11.2023. Further a copy of the letter is submitted to the District Collector, Palanadu District.
5. Further it is submitted that, on enquiry it revealed that the Endowments Dept., have divided the Block No. 28 into two parts i.e., Ac 12.50 Cents and Ac 12.50 Cents and issued public notice for mining. Further they have auctioned it successfully and issued orders for mining vide D.Dis No. A6/894/2021, Dt: 03-05-2021. There is no intimation to this office by the Endowments Dept., and no information has been received by this office from any other source in this regard.
6. It is submitted that, the Executive Officer, Sri Lakshmi Narsimha Swamy Temple, Peta Sannlgandla Village, Karampudi Mandal, Palnadu District vide their letter dt: 31-11-2023 informed that they have granted permission for mining in Block No. 28 belongs to the Sri Lakshmi Narsimha Swamy Temple, Peta Sannlgandla Village, Karampudi Mandal. Further as seen from the grant orders issued by the Endowments Department there is no copy marked to this office and no information received from their end during the whole process of auctioning of the temple property for mining. The orders were issued by the Deputy Commissioner Endowments, Guntur District vide D.Dis No. A6/2346/2022, Dt: 07.06.2022 and D.Dis No. A6/ENDW-SADMOLES/42/2023, Dt: 10.10.2023.
7. Further it is submitted that after receipt of the letter from the Endowments Dept., this office vide Lr.No.5795/M/2006, Dt: 04-12-2023 informed to the Executive Officer, Sri Lakshmi Narsimha Swamy Devasthanam, Petasanigandla Village that as per this office records, there are no existing

quarry leases in the said area and have not been proposed for grant of quarry lease for e-auction as on date in the above said lands and hence the EO was requested that not to allow anyone for quarrying operation in the endowment lands and also not to grant any permissions for quarrying in Endowment Lands without the knowledge of the Mines and Geology Department, otherwise it will lead to loss of Revenue to the Govt Exchequer.

Hence in view of the above circumstances it is humbly prayed that, this Hon'ble Tribunal may kindly be pleased to record this report in O.A. No.177 of 2023 and pass such order or other orders as this Hon'ble Tribunal, may deem fit and proper in the facts and circumstances of the case and thus render justice.


Divisional Mines & Geology Officer,
Dachepalli, Palnadu District.

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Dachepalli, Palnadu District.