

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL SOUTHERN ZONE
BENCH AT CHENNAI

ORIGINAL APPLICATION No.207 of 2025 (SZ)

IN THE MATTER OF:

Karri Venkataramana

... Applicants

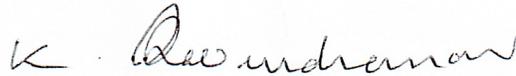
.. Versus..

Union of India and Others.

... Respondents

REPORT FILED BY
DISTRICT MINES AND GEOLOGY OFFICER, (FAC) KAKINADA
RESPONDENT No. 4

Date: 17.12.2025



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ADVOCATE**

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KARI VENKATARAMANA

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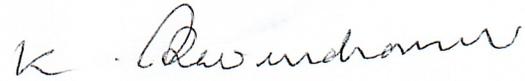
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DATE: 17.12.2025



K.RAVINDRANATH
STANDING COUSNEL FOR GOVERNMENT OF A.P.
ANDHRA PRADESH POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND GEOLOGY

From
Sri D. Phanibhushan Reddy, M.Sc.,
District Mines and Geology Officer (I/C),
KAKINADA.

To
Sri K. Ravindranath,
Standing council for APPCB,
Hon'ble NGT(SZ)
Chennai
Tamilnadu.

Letter No. 2092/NGT/2025, Date: 29.11.2025

Sir,

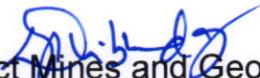
Sub: NGT Case – OA No. 207 of 2025 filed by Sri Karri Venkata Ramana before Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Chennai – Affidavit communicated – Report called for – Submitted – Reg.

Ref: 1. OA No. 207 of 2025 filed by Sri Karri Venkata Ramana.
2. Memo No. 11524213/D4-KKD/2025, dated 26.11.2025 from the Director of Mines and Geology, Ibrahimpatnam.

I invite kind attention the subject and references cited and submit that the Director of Mines and Geology, Ibrahimpatnam while communicated the petitioner affidavit in OA No. 207 of 2025 filed by Sri Karri Venkata Ramana before Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Chennai and directed to submit report directly to Sri K Ravindranath, Standing Council for APPCB, Hon'ble NGT(SZ), Chennai under a copy marked to his office for taking further necessary action.

In this connection, the report along with supporting documents on illegal excavation and transportation of Gravel / ordinary earth at Rameswaram, h/o. anuru village, Peddapuram mandal and surampalem village of Gandepalli mandal of Kakinada district is herewith submitted for kind perusal and taking further necessary action in the matter.

Yours faithfully,


District Mines and Geology officer (FAC)
Kakinada

Copy submitted to the Director of Mines and Geology, Ibrahimpatnam for favour of information and necessary action.

REPORT SUBMIT ON ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 207 OF 2025 FILED BY SRI KARRI VENKATA RAMANA BEFORE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL, CHANNAI ON GRAVEL ILLEGAL EXCAVATION AND TRANSPORTATION AT RAMESWARAM, H/o. ANURU VILLAGE, PEDDAPURAM MANDAL, KAKINADA DISTRICT.

Introduction:-

It is submitted that as per the revenue records the total extent of land in Rameswaram Village is Acs 823.73 Cents. The land was de-reserved by the Government of Andhra Pradesh in the year 1974 vide G.O.Ms.No. 148, Dated 10.08.1974 to uplift the poor Scheduled Caste people of Anuru, Valuthimmapuram and Surampalem villages by assigning these lands to the Scheduled Caste beneficiaries. The total de-reserve land of Acs 823.73 Cents has been recognized as a separate Revenue village called Rameswaram of Peddapuram Mandal. An extent of Acs 818.65 Cents has been assigned to the beneficiaries @ Acs 1.35 Cents each leaving an extent of Acs 5.08 Cents for footpaths and cart tracks. The Pattas have been distributed to the beneficiaries in the year 1976 and 1987 by the Hon'ble Governor of Andhra Pradesh Sri K. Obula Reddy and Hon'ble Chief Minister of AP Sri N.T. Rama Rao respectively. This area is bestowed with Gravel which is suitable for Road formations as well as filling purposes. In this district major utilization of Gravel is observed in Jagananna Layouts, Government works and Real estate ventures.

Allegation:-

It is submitted that Sri Nagulapalli Appa Rao, S/o Seshaiyah (Late), Ulimeswaram Village, Peddapuram Mandal of Kakinada District has filed a complaint before the Hon'ble Lokayuktha, Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh regarding alleged illegal quarrying of gravel at Rameswaram Village, H/o Anuru Village, Peddapuram Mandal, Kakinada District vide Complaint No:1296/2021/B2, Date : 06.02.2023 (Annexure-I) the same was forwarded to the Collector and District Magistrate, Kakinada District for submission of comments to the Hon'ble Lokayuktha directly before the date of hearing i.e., 05.12.2023. Accordingly the

Collector & District Magistrate, Kakinada District, has submitted a report to the Deputy Registrar, Hon'ble Lokayukta, Kurnool regarding the petition filed by Sri Nagulapalli Appa Rao, S/o Seshayya (Late) of Ulimeswaram Village, Peddapuram Mandal Kakinada District (Annexure-II).

The Collector and District Magistrate, Kakinada District, Kakinada has addressed a letter to the District Mines and Geology Officer, Kakinada along with Complaint No. 1296/2021/B2/LOK/9260/2023, Dated: 23.09.2023 of the Deputy Registrar, Hon'ble Lokayukta, Kurnool in connection with allegations about the illegal mining and illicit excavation of earth etc., at Rameswaram, H/o. Anuru Village of Peddapuram Mandal (Annexure-III) and directed the District Mines and Geology Officer, Kakinada to cause detailed verification through their field staff and initiate action if any illicit excavation/ transportation of earth is noticed and submit a detailed action taken report directly to the Hon'ble Lokayukta, Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh (Annexure-IV).

Back Ground:-

Further it is submitted that the Hon'ble Lokayukta, Kurnool has forwarded the Complaint of Sri N. Apparao vide complaint No. 1296/2021/B2 to the Deputy Director of Mines and Geology, Kakinada vide Letter Dis. No, 1296/2021/B2/LOK/12275/ 2023, Dated: 15.12.2023 and directed to submit report (Annexure-V). Subsequently this office has addressed a letter to the Tahasildar, Peddapuram Mandal and requested to depute their Mandal Surveyor, Village Surveyor Village Revenue Officers of the concerned villages on 03.01.2024 to complete the Joint Survey and Inspection over the subject area (Annexure-VI).

Details of Enquiry: -

The then technical staff of the District Vigilance Squad, Erstwhile East Godavari District and the then surveyor O/o District Mines and Geology Officer, Kakinada along with the Revenue field level staff of O/o the Tahsildar, Peddapuram have jointly surveyed and inspected the complaint area in Rameswaram Village, H/o Anuru Village, Peddapuram Mandal, Kakinada District on 04.01.2024.

This office has requested the Tahsildar, Peddapuram vide Lr.No.3152/DVS-EG/Gravel/Anuru/2023, Date: 25.01.2024 (Annexure-VII) to depute the Mandal Surveyor as well as the Village Surveyor of the subject area on 02.02.2024 along with local Revenue Officials in order to complete the survey and inspection.

The joint inspection has been taken up by the then technical staff of the District Vigilance Squad, Erstwhile East Godavari District and the then Surveyor O/o District Mines and Geology Officer, Kakinada, along with the Revenue field level staff of O/o Tahsildar, Peddapuram have inspected 16 areas of Rameswaram, H/o Anuru, Peddapuram Mandal, Kakinada District with GNS Rover on 02.02.2024, 03.02.2024 and 05.02.2024. The then surveyor have inspected the illegal excavated areas Located in Survey Numbers / Sub Divisions, Rameswaram Village, Peddapuram Mandal Over an extent areas and mined out extent areas, for the Mineral Gravel/Morrum/ Ordinary Earth accompanied with the Department of Mines and Geology, District Vigilance Squad, Erstwhile East Godavari District and Mandal Surveyor, VRO, O/o. the Tahsildar, Peddapuram in the presence of the Petitioner Sri Nagalapalli Appa Rao on 04.01.2024, 05.02.2024, 22.04.2024 to 25.04.2024.

Basing on the data furnished by the Tahsildar, Peddapuram, the then Surveyor of Mines Department have accompanied with the DGPS Agency taken Measurements of the Mined-out areas of Rameswaram Village Peddapuram Mandal with help of DGPS instrument by taking levels along with DGPS Empaneled Agency. At the time of survey, they have taken levels for entire mine out areas with help of DGPS instrument. The cross-section method is adopted for entire mined out areas on an account of different irregular levels.

The Tahsildar, Peddapuram Mandal has furnished the information regarding survey number wise Pattadars and combined sketch details for further course of action vide Ref. B/55/2024, Date: 09.01.2025 enclosed as Annexure-VIII.

The then Surveyor of the office of the District Mines and Geology Office, Kakinada has calculated the excavated quantities of Gravel from the concerned Survey Numbers by utilizing DGPS instrument the entire working area is covered by taking 13 Cross Sections in South to North directions. Further submitted that through the Raw data derived from the DGPS instrument and converted in the AutoCAD system and the details of the excavated quantities.

Rule Position :-

The Rule 27 of APMMC Rules 1966 Specifies that "In case where the land is leased out, the lessee and where no lease is granted, the registered holder shall be responsible for the proper working of the quarry and shall be liable to the Government for his wrongful act or default".

The Rule 26(2) of APMMC Rules 1966 envisaged that " Whenever any person raises, transports or causes to be raised or transported without any lawful authority, any minor minerals from any area not granted under a mineral concession and for that purpose, use any tool, equipment, vehicle or any other thing, such mineral, tool, equipment, vehicle or any other thing shall be liable to be seized by the Asst. Director of Mines & Geology or the officer authorized in this behalf by the Director of Mines & Geology and the person involved in such illegal quarrying and transportation of such mineral shall be liable to pay ten times of Normal Seigniorage fee as penalty in addition to the normal Seigniorage fee along with Consideration amount, DMF and MERIT amounts on the assessed quantities by the Asst. Director of

Mines & Geology or the officer authorized in this behalf by the Director of Mines & Geology. On realization of the above said penalty in addition to the normal Seigniorage fee along with Consideration amount, DMF and MERIT amounts, Asst. Director of Mines & Geology concerned may release the quantity of mineral, tool, equipment, vehicle or any other thing seized”.

As per rule 34 (1) of APMMC Rules 1966 says that :- “No minor mineral shall be dispatched from any of the leased areas or area granted under a mineral concession without a valid e-transit permit issued by the Asst. Director of Mines & Geology concerned or any officer authorized in this behalf by the Director of Mines & Geology. Provided that any misuse of e-transit forms, dispatch and transportation of any minor mineral except Granite, Marble and 31 minor minerals mentioned at Sl. Nos. 18 to 48 in the Schedule-I of rule 10 without paying Seigniorage fee and any other contravention, shall result in levy of five times of the normal Seigniorage fee as penalty for the first time offence and ten times of normal Seigniorage fee as penalty for the second time offence in addition to the Normal Seigniorage fee along with DMF and MERIT amounts for the evaded quantity”.

The District Mines and Geology Officer, Kakinada has issued Show Cause Notices to the defaulter basing on the information furnished by the Tahsildar, Peddapuram Mandal and the Surveyor of office of the District Mines and Geology Officer, Kakinada. The details are submitted as ANNEXURE -

Further it is submitted that the District Mines and Geology Officer, Kakinada has issued 128 Show Cause Notices on 27.03.2025 (140 Pattadars excluding Jagananna Layout) to the above illegal Gravel/Ordinary earth defaulters through the Village Revenue Officer of Anuru Village, as per the orders of the office of the Tahsildar, Peddapuram Mandal to submit their explanation within 15 days from the date of receipt of the notice. But no one has submitted the reply to the above Show Cause Notice, Accordingly the District Mines and Geology Officer, Kakinada has issued Demand Notices to the defaulters under the provisions of Andhra Pradesh Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 1966 on 27.10.2025 and these are in serving process through concerned Village Revenue Officer.

The total evaded quantity of the Gravel/Ordinary Earth in the above Survey Numbers is 74,04,686 Cum of Gravel/Ordinary Earth (Total excavated quantity is 1,06,97,376 Cum – Temporary Permits issued quantity 7,09,793 Cum – Jagananna Layout quantity 25,82,897 Cum = 74,04,686 Cum. Further it is submitted that the total area of unauthorized excavation is noticed in 137.19 Acs. (Total area of excavation is 248.47 Acs – Temporary Permits issued area is 35.34 Acs – Jagananna Layout excavated area = 75.94 Acs).

The demanded amount of Rs. 3,78,60,11,482/- from the above defaulters for illegal excavation and transportation of 74,04,686 Cbm of Gravel/Ordinary earth over an extent of Acs 137.19.

Further, during the period from 2017-18 to 2021-22, the then Asst. Director of Mines and Geology, Rajamahendravaram has issued temporary permits in Surempalem village, Gandepalli mandal for a quantity of 2,45,265 Cum of Gravel and collected a revenue of Rs. 94,78,890/-.(List of Temporary permits issued in Surampelam village of Gandepalli mandal is submitted as ANNEXURE -

Further, It is bring to the kind notice that the Government vide G.O.Ms.No.224 Industries & Commerce (M.V) Department, Dated 02.05.1980 issued orders that "in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (4) of section 21 of Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 (Central Act 67 of 1957), the Governor of Andhra Pradesh specially empowers the Revenue Divisional Officers, Tahsildars in-charge of taluks and Deputy Tahsildars in charge of independent sub-taluks in the State of Andhra Pradesh to exercise the powers of a Magistrate for the purposes of the said section in the case of major minerals".

Further, the Government vide G.O.Ms.No.339 Industries & Commerce (M.V) Department, Dated 10.07.1989 empowered the Director of Mines & Geology to delegate the powers under Rule 26 of A.P. Minor Mineral Concession Rules' 1966. Accordingly, the Director of Mines & Geology vide Progs.No.19611/ K3/1989,

Dt:12.01.1991 has nominated the Mandal Revenue Officers and the Mandal Revenue Inspectors in the State to exercise powers under sub-rules (1) and (2) and under sub-rule (3) of Rule-26 of A.P. Minor Mineral Concession Rules' 1966 in arresting the illegal quarrying and transportation of minerals.

Further, the Government vide G.O.Ms.No.3, Revenue (Serv-III) Department, Dated 05.01.1990 "in the functions of the Tahsildars included inspection of quarries and prevention of illicit quarrying; inspection of survey marks; inspection of encroachment areas; inspect licences granted under explosive Act/Arms Act". Also the Government vide G.O.Ms.No. 20, Revenue (Serv-III) Department, dated 21.01.2016 has issued orders authorizing the Deputy Tahsildars to prevent illicit quarrying under the respective jurisdiction.

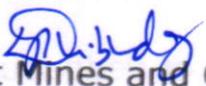
At this juncture, it is brought to the kind notice that ***the office of the District Mines and Geology Office, Kakinada is having one Royalty Inspector and Two Technical Assistants, hence it is not possible to look after the entire district with a limited staff to prevent trespass, encroachment, and unauthorized excavations of the minerals in the entire district.*** The Culprits / offenders are escaping from unauthorised excavation of areas before arriving officials of Mines and Geology Department to the spot as our head quarter Kakinada is located far from such vulnerable areas. Hence, it is difficult to arrive to such spots before they escape as they are establishing network to know the movements of the concerned officials of this department and passing the information to the persons at the spot areas to escape. Being the custodian of the lands, this office vide Letter No. 1188/E/2018, dated 29.11.2024 and 18.11.2025 requested the Tahsildars of Peddapuram and Gandepalli to take necessary

action to prevent trespass, encroachment and unauthorised excavation of Earth/Gravel from the illicit prone areas vulnerable areas and issue instructions to the village level officials in your respective jurisdiction to keep constant vigil over the area to control and prevent the unauthorised excavation and transportation of Earth/Gravel and other minerals, so as to curb unauthorized excavation and transportation of Minerals.

Further it is bring to the kind notice that the on verification of the photographs enclosed with the petitioner affidavit, it is revealed that the photographs were captured during the time of vehicle transporting of gravel from the authorized temporary permit areas, hence the contention of the petitioner that ongoing illegal quarrying and transportation is carried out is not correct.

Further it is also bring to the kind notice that the Government selected M/s Sudhakara Infra Tech Private Limited as an agency for collection of Seigniorage fee, Consideration from the lease holders on all minor minerals in Erstwhile East Godavari district from 18.04.2023 to 17.04.2025 with a condition that the SCC contractor shall establish check posts on his own cost and see that no mineral is transported without valid permits. The SCC Contractor has established check posts and monitor / vigil on unauthorized transportation of minor minerals in Erstwhile East Godavari District for a period two years i.e., from 18.04.2025 to 13.07.2025.

In view of the aforesaid facts and circumstances, it is humbly prayed that this Hon'ble Tribunal may be pleased to DISMISS the Original Application No. 207 of 2025 and Pass such other order or orders as this Hon'ble Court may deem fit and proper in the circumstances of the case.


District Mines and Geology Officer, (FAC)
Kakinada.

Item No.09:-

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

[Through Physical Hearing (Hybrid Option)]

Original Application No.207 of 2025 (SZ)

IN THE MATTER OF:

Karri Venkataramana

...Applicant(s)

Versus

Union of India and Ors.

...Respondent(s)

Date of hearing: 26.09.2025.



CORAM:

HON'BLE Smt. JUSTICE PUSHPA SATHYANARAYANA, JUDICIAL MEMBER

HON'BLE Dr. PRASHANT GARGAVA, EXPERT MEMBER

For Applicant (s): Mr. G. Stanly Hebzon Singh &
Mr. V. Anantha Krishnan.

For Respondent(s): Mrs. Madhuri Donti Reddy for R2 to R6.

ORDER

1. Let the notices be issued to the respondents through the Tribunal as well as privately.

2. Mrs. Madhuri Donti Reddy, the learned counsel accepts notice on behalf of Respondents No.2 to 6.

3. List the matter on **01.12.2025**. In the meanwhile, the respondents are directed to file their respective replies/reports.

Sd/-

Smt. Justice Pushpa Sathyanarayana, JM

Sd/-

Dr. Prashant Gargava, EM

**O.A. No.207/2025 (SZ),
26th September, 2025. Mn.**



Item No.15:-

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

[Through Physical Hearing (Hybrid Option)]

Original Application No.207 of 2025 (SZ)

IN THE MATTER OF:

Karri Venkataramana

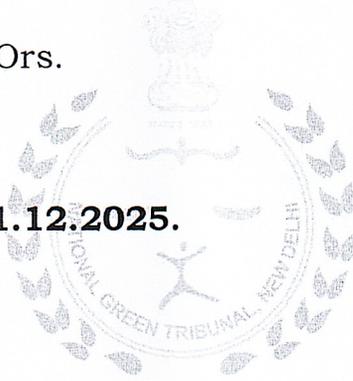
...Applicant(s)

Versus

Union of India and Ors.

...Respondent(s)

Date of hearing: 01.12.2025.



CORAM:

HON'BLE Smt. JUSTICE PUSHPA SATHYANARAYANA, JUDICIAL MEMBER

HON'BLE Dr. PRASHANT GARGAVA, EXPERT MEMBER

For Applicant (s): Mr. G. Stanly Hebzon Singh &
Mr. V. Anantha Krishnan.

For Respondent(s): Mr. K. Ravindranath for R2 to R6.

ORDER

1. The report dated 27.11.2025 filed on behalf of the Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board (Respondent No.5) is taken on record.

2. The rest of the respondents are directed to file their respective reports/replies.

3. For completion of pleadings, post the matter on **16.02.2026.**

Sd/-

Smt. Justice Pushpa Sathyanarayana, JM

Sd/-

Dr. Prashant Gargava, EM

**O.A. No.207/2025 (SZ),
01st December, 2025. Mn.**

