

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI  
Original Application No. 249 of 2024 (SZ)**

**In the matter of:**

Suo Moto matter in respect of news item appearing in The Hindu dated 27.05.2024 titled "T.N. Forest Minister Mathiventhan criticized for staying at partially-closed „illegal resort“ in Mudumalai Tiger Reserve”.

Versus

MOEF & CC, Through its Regional Office,  
Chennai and ors .

....Respondent(s)

**REPORT FILED BY 3<sup>RD</sup> RESPONDENT- THE DISTRICT COLLECTOR, NILGIRIS.**

**INDEX**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Page No.</b>
1	04.08.2025	Status Report Filed by 3 <sup>rd</sup> Respondent – The District Collector, Nilgiris.	1-5

(Note: The page numbers are at the top centre of every page)



Through  
Dr. D. Shanmuganathan  
Standing Counsel of Tamil Nadu  
National Green Tribunal  
Southern Zone, Chennai

**DATE:03.01.2026**

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

**Original Application No. 249 of 2024 (SZ)**

(Renumbered on transfer from the Principal Bench in  
Original O.A. No. 733/2024)

In the matter of

Suo Moto matter in respect of news item  
appearing in The Hindu, dated 27.05.2024  
titled **“T.N. Forest Minister, Mathiventhan  
criticized for staying at partially closed ‘illegal  
resort’ in Mudumalai Tiger Reserve”**

*And*

1. Ministry of Environment, Forest &  
Climate Change, Through its Regional Office.  
Chennai - 600 006.
2. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,  
Chennai – 600 032.
3. District Magistrate/District Collector,  
The Nilgiris District, Udthagamandalam. - Respondents

**Status Report filed by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Respondent**

I, **Lakshmi Bhavya Tanneeru**, D/o of T.S.V. Prasad, Hindu, aged 34 years,  
working as the District Magistrate/District Collector of the Nilgiris District at  
Udthagamandalam do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state as hereunder: -

1. I am the 3<sup>rd</sup> respondent in the above Suo Moto Original Application No.249 of 2024. I am conversant with the facts and circumstances of the case. I am filing this report not only on my behalf and for the respondents No. 1 and 2.
2. It is respectfully submitted that I have carefully perused the Order, dated 08.07.2024 passed by this Hon'ble Tribunal. With regard to the subject matter issue, I have the following submissions to make:
  - a) I submit that I took charge as the Collector of the Nilgiris District on 17.07.2024. Therefore, I have no personal knowledge regarding the news item purported to have appeared in The Hindu, dated 27.05.2024. However, immediately after the receipt of a copy of the Order supra, passed by the Hon'ble Tribunal, I instructed the Tahsildar, Udhagamandalam to conduct an investigation.
  - b) The Tahsildar, Udhagamandalam has made investigation into the matter and submitted his Report, dated 21.10.2024. The following facts were summarized out from the report of the Tahsildar, Udhagamandalam:-
    - i. The lands comprised in Survey No. 149/1A5, 149/2, 150, 151 and 178/1 in Sholur Revenue Village are ryotwari patta lands, situated at Bokkapuram area, Udhagai Taluk. A resort called M/s "Jungle Hut" is existing in these patta lands. The said extent of land and the resort stood constructed thereon belong to Mr. Vikram Mathias. There are nine (09) buildings in the Jungle Hut Cottage. Out of nine (09) buildings, six (06) buildings have requisite proper approvals. The remaining three (03) buildings were locked and sealed by the District Collector in 2018 for the reason that it was run without commercial approvals. These three buildings are continue to be sealed and not in use.

ii. During the investigation, it has been discovered that the rooms bearing D/Nos. 4/43A1 and 4/43B in the said resort have been booked in the name of one Mr. R. Mayavan, resident of Door No. 60/65, Rangar Sannathi Street, Namakkal for the period from 25.05.2024 to 29.05.2024. The above booked D/Nos of 4/43A1 and 4/43B are having proper approvals for running commercially. None of the locked and sealed rooms were allotted to him. As per the approvals and the room bills for the stay are proving that there is no illegal stay happened. Further Thiru. Vikram Mathias of M/s. Jungle Hut stated that Mr. Mayavan and Co. only stayed in the commercially approved buildings and did not enter any of the sealed buildings.

(Copies of the approvals of the concerned Executive Officer of the Sholur Town Panchayat, Bills of M/s. Jungle Hut and other tax receipt copies enclosed herewith)

iii. There is no official record available at the District Collectorate that the then Forest Minister, Thiru. Mathiventhan has undertaken any official visit for matters in connection with the Forest Department of the Tamil Nadu Government during the period from 25.05.2024 to 29.05.2024.

iv. The said R. Mayavan has admitted that the then Forest Minister, Thiru Mathiventhan is his close relative and that the said Minister has visited and met him at Jungle Hut Resort in the commercially approved rooms only.

(v). During the relevant period, since the said Minister made a personal visit to the District, the District Administration was not aware of his visit. Hence, District Administration has no knowledge of the Minister's personal visit.

3. It is respectfully submitted that as per the directions issued by the Hon'ble "Segur Plateau Elephant Corridor Enquiry Committee" constituted by the

-4-

Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in its Judgment dated 14.10.2020 in Civil Appeal No. 3438-3439 of 2020, we have issued Notice dated 16.08.2024 to the said Jungle Hut Resort directing them to demolish the sealed buildings constructed along the lands identified and earmarked as "Elephant Corridor" within 15 days from the date of the receipt of the notice. All the closed and sealed rooms in the resorts were disconnected electricity and water connection.  
(A copy of the notice is enclosed)

4. It is respectfully submitted that immediately after receiving the said Notice of Demolition, the owner of the said Jungle Hut Resort has filed W.P. No. 23536 of 2024 in the Hon'ble High Court of Madras against the orders of the Hon'ble Segur Plateau Elephant Corridor Inquiry Committee. Similar Writ Petitions were also filed by other resort owners, whose resorts were constructed within the Elephant Corridor area. These batch of Writ Petitions have been taken up for hearing by the Hon'ble High Court of Madras as per the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Miscellaneous Application Nos. 2108 – 2109/2024 Dated: 20.12.2024.

(A copy of the order of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Miscellaneous Application Nos. 2108 – 2109/2024 Dated: 20.12.2024 is enclosed)

5. It is respectfully submitted that in the report submitted by the Executive Officer, Sholur Town Panchayat on dated:23.04.2025, it has been stated that all the buildings were inspected by him and proper commercial approval were obtained for the buildings bearing door nos.4/43A1 and 4/43B and the sceptic tanks have been constructed for the waste water and it is being maintained by M/s. Jungle Hut properly.

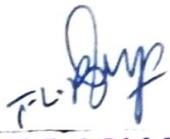
(Copy of the report of E.O. Sholur Town Panchayat along with the bills submitted by M/s. Jungle Hut Resort and the photo copies of the drainage system are enclosed)

6. It is respectfully submitted that the Writ Petitions are filed by the resort owners are pending before the Special Bench constituted by the Hon'ble High Court to deal with the cases relating to protection of forest and wildlife. The above is the present state of affairs in respect of the compliance of the directions of the Segur Plateau Elephant Corridor Enquiry Committee, constituted as per the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.
7. I humbly prayed that this Hon'ble Tribunal to consider the report and passing orders as may deem fit.

Solemnly affirmed at Udhagamandalam

On this day of 04.08 2025

And signed in my presence.

  
**DISTRICT COLLECTOR**  
**THE NILGIRIS**

  
**Addl. Personal Assistant (Lands)**  
**to Collector of the Nilgiris,**  
**Udhagamandalam.**