

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL SOUTHERN ZONE
BENCH AT CHENNAI

ORIGINAL APPLICATION No.284 of 2024 (SZ)

IN THE MATTER OF:

Tribunal on its own motion SUO MOTU based on the news item published
in The Eenadu, Chennai Edition dated: 28-10-2024,
under the caption "Rampant illegal sand mining in Munneru River".

And

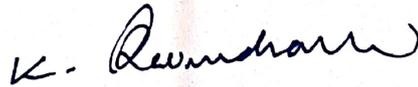
Director Mines and Geology,
Andhra Pradesh and 2 Others

....Respondent(s)

COUNTER AFFIDAVIT FILED BY THE FIRST RESPONDENT

(Director of Mines & Geology Department Andhra Pradesh)

Date: 04.12.2025



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

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI
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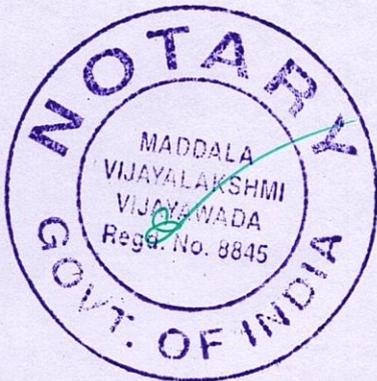
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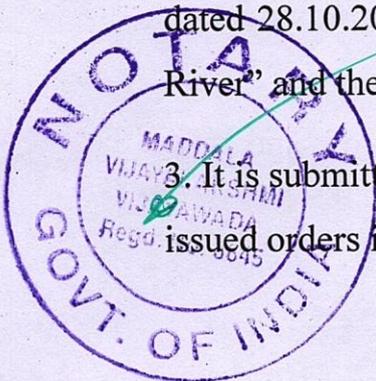
COUNTER AFFIDAVIT FILED BY THE 1ST RESPONDENT

I, W. B. Chandra Sekhar, S/o W.V. Krishna Murthy (late), Age: 61 years,
Occ: Director of Mines and Geology, Andhra Pradesh do hereby solemnly and
sincerely affirm and make oath and state as follows:

1. It is respectfully submitted that I am the 1st Respondent herein and as such I
am well acquainted with the facts of the case.

2. It is submitted that news item was published in Eenadu, Chennai Edition
dated 28.10.2024 under the caption "Rampant illegal sand mining in Munneru
River" and the Hon'ble Tribunal on its own motion taken as SUO MOTU.

3. It is submitted that, the National Green Tribunal, Southern Zone, Chennai has
issued orders in Original Application No.284 of 2024 (SZ), dt.24.09.2025:



“1. The reports from the Department of Mines and Geology and the District Collector – NTR District are still awaited..

2. List the matter on 05.01.2026”.

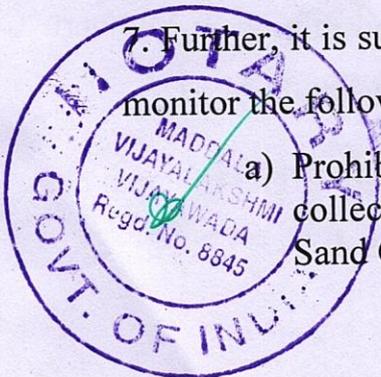
4. It is submitted that the Commissioner & Director of Mines and Geology vide Lr. No.INC04-26022/3/2024-Sand Section-Dmg, dt: 20.11.2024 has requested the District Authorities to furnish report on the news item published in the Eenadu, Chennai Edition, so as to submit same to the Hon'ble NGT.

5. It is submitted that the District Mines & Geology Officer, NTR District has informed regarding the news item published in Eenadu on 28.10.2024 that the photograph pertains to the proclains forming the path in the river from the Stockyard to the reach for movement of vehicles to carry the sand excavated in the reaches till the stockyards through tractors. The tippers collecting the over burden derived while formation of ramps. Further, it is submitted that the reach in the photograph is Kanchela-2 reach in Munneru River; the reach was handed over to the agency on 25.10.2024 i.e. three (03) days before the news item publication i.e. on 28.10.2024. Moreover, the flood water in the reach was not reduced and the question of illicit quarrying in the reach does not arise.

6. It is submitted that, during the earlier days of October 2024, the sand was made available to the public from three (03) stockyards only and no reach was in operation in the entire Krishna and Munneru Rivers (Krishna and NTR District areas) till 15.10.2024 as the flood was not receded in Krishna River. It is submitted that the adverse news item published in Eenadu news paper, Chennai Edition on 28.10.2024 is far away from the truth.

7. Further, it is submitted that it was instructed to the District Administration to monitor the following issues on sand:

a) Prohibited excess collection: No excess amounts of sand should be collected at Stockyards beyond the price fixed by the District Level Sand Committees (DLSCs).

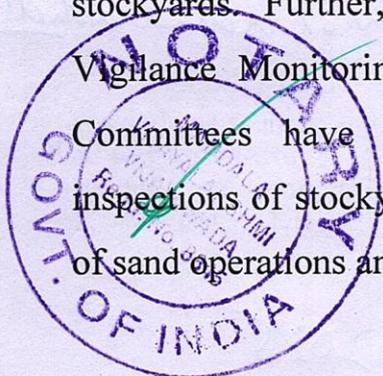


- b) First Come First Serve: The vehicles should be loaded on a first – come – first served basis to maintain fairness and order.
- c) No overloading: Overloading of sand while transporting is strictly prohibited.
- d) Mandatory of way bills: Sand should not be transported without proper way bill to maintain transparency and accountability.
- e) Display of sand Price Board: The Agency responsible for the stock yard must display sand price boards at the stock yards to provide transparency for the customers.
- f) CC TV surveillance: Monitoring the CCTV surveillance at reaches and stock yards is mandatory to ensure security and to prevent any malpractices.

8. It is submitted that in NTR District, fifteen (15) manual sand reaches and three (03) semi-mechanized sand reaches are in NTR District and five (05) semi-mechanized sand reaches in Krishna District having with all statutory clearances as per the existing sand policy in the State of Andhra Pradesh, and suspended all sand mining operations as per MoEF&CC guidelines during monsoon period (from 01.06.2025 to 15.10.2025) in notified open sand reaches.

9. It is submitted that the District Administration is taking each and every step to curtail the illicit quarrying in the reaches for establishing CCTVs in the reaches and approach road as well as in the stockyards. The illicit transportation in state border is being curtailed by establishing 16 border check posts in NTR District with CCTVs by the Police and also is being monitored 24/7 by PMU established in the O/o Commissioner of Police Office as well as in Collectorate, NTR District.

10. Further, it is submitted that in NTR District, Mandal level teams constituted at stock points for smooth functioning of sand operations and sand sales in the stockyards. Further, District Level Task Force (DLTF), Divisional Level Vigilance Monitoring Committee and Mandal Level Vigilance Monitoring Committees have been constituted with line departments for periodic inspections of stockyards as well as sand reaches to ensure smooth functioning of sand operations and to curb illegal mining and transportation of sand.



11. The penalties imposed in illicit quarrying and transportation of sand in both NTR and Krishna District to ban the usages of machinery are as detailed below:

S. No.	District	No of Cases booked	Penalty Amount Collected in Rs
1	Krishna	27	1,89,055/-
2	NTR	13	3,34,000/-
3	Total	40	5,23,055/-

12. In view of the above facts, it is humbly prayed that the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, South Zone, Chennai may be pleased to consider the above report and dismiss the O.A.No.284/2024(SZ) and to pass such other order or orders as are deemed fit and proper in the circumstances of the case and thus render justice.

W. Balachandrasekhara
DEPONENT
Director of Mines and Geology (FAC)
Govt. of Andhra Pradesh
Ibrahimpatnam, Vijayawada
N.T.R. District.

VERIFICATION:

I, the above-named deponent, do hereby verify that the contents of this counter affidavit as true and correct to the best of my knowledge and that no part of it is false and nothing material is concealed there from.

Verified at Ibrahimpatnam on this 03rd day of December, 2025.



Maddala Vijayalakshmi
MADDELA VIJAYALAKSHMI, B.A., B.L.
ADVOCATE & NOTARY
FLAT No. 103, RAMYA TOWERS
IBRAHIMPATNAM (Village & Mandal)
VIJAYAWADA-521 456.
KRISHNA Dist., ANDHRA PRADESH.

W. Balachandrasekhara
DEPONENT
Director of Mines and Geology (FAC)
Govt. of Andhra Pradesh
Ibrahimpatnam, Vijayawada
N.T.R. District.

04/12/2025

OA NO 284 OF 2024

NGT/PB/Judl./18/2020



**NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI**

It is submitted that the following news item published in the News paper duly approved by the Hon'ble Judicial as well as Expert Member of SZB, Chennai has been sent to Principal Bench vide Note dated 07.11.2024 for seeking approval of Hon'ble Chairperson to register as Suo Motu case:-

The Eenadu, Chennai edition dated 28.10.2024 titled "Rampant illegal sand mining in Munneru River"

As per direction dated 02.05.2022 of the then Competent Authority read with Circular dated 29.05.2024, such matter in the first instance has to be placed before Hon'ble Chairperson for seeking direction.

In view of the above, the matter may be placed before Hon'ble Chairperson for seeking further direction regarding taking-up the matter as suo-motu.

Section Officer

[Signature]
7-11-24

Consultant (Judicial)

[Signature]
7/11/2024

Ld. Dy. Registrar

Submitted for approval please.

[Signature]
7/11/24

HCP Sir

[Signature]
7/11/2024

Ld PR - Fa mat

[Signature]
7/11/24

Consult (Judicial)

[Handwritten mark]
8-11

- 6 -

**F.No.NGT/SZB/Jud/59/2019/2024
NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE CHENNAI
CHENNAI,**

This is to submit that the following matter of environmental importance was highlighted, published in the newspaper namely The Eenadu, Chennai edition dated 28th October 2024, titled " Rampant illegal sand mining in Munneru River". It is reported in the news paper that mechanized sand mining is very rampant in the Munneru River of Krishna and the illegally mined sand is being transported in lorries. This has caused huge ecological disturbance in the area.

Being matter of environmental importance, Hon'ble Members, NGT SZB recommended that the above same may be taken up by the Tribunal as suo-motu

In terms of NGT, Principal Bench office Circular No NGT(PB)/ Judicial/18/2020/247 dated 29.05.2024, the above proposal may be forwarded to Hon'ble Chairperson for approval.

Accordingly we may forward the above (as aforementioned) to the NGT, Principal Bench along with the copy of the news item and the case details for further necessary action for approval of Hon'ble Chairperson to register the same as suo motu.

Submitted please,

Geetha P D
06/11/2024
Assistant Judicial
06.11.2024

Section Officer (on leave)

Deputy Registrar

Registrar

Hon'ble Expert Member

Hon'ble Judicial Member

నాడు.. నేడు ఆయునదే ఊయక!

• నదుల్లో యంత్రాలతో తవ్వకం • హైదరాబాద్ కు అగ్రను రవాణా • ఉమ్మడి కృష్ణాజల ప్రజాప్రతినిధులతో ఆచారపాఠం



అదివారం కంపెనీల తవ్వకాలు

నూతన ఐసుక విద్యుదు ప్రకారం గుర్తించిన తల్లి నూత్రాన్ని, అదీ యంత్రాలు లేకుండా కూడలతానే ఐసుక లోడింగ్ చేయాలి అంది. ప్రాకృతిక, ఎర్రబండలో ఉపరితంగా తినుకొన్న వానానాటిలోడింగ్ నిల్వ కేంద్రాల వరకు రవాణా ధార్యల మాత్రమే వ్యసాలు చేయాలి! మరి ఈ చిత్రం మాకా...? ఇది మున్నేరు నదిలో కంపెనీల సేవలలో ఆదివారం కంపెనీలను దృశ్యం. రెండు వారీ చేసేవీలు వెళ్లి చాలలకు ఐసుక లోడింగ్ చేస్తున్నారు.

యంత్రాలతో తవ్వకంపై నిషేధం ఉన్నా అక్కడ వరా మూమూలే ఒక్క చారిత్ర లోడ్ చేసినందుకు రూ. 10 లక్షలు తరల వసూలు చేస్తున్నారు. ముందుగా విజయవాడ నగరంలో నగదు వెళ్లింది లోకేష్ తీసుకుంటే ఆ లోకేష్ ప్రకారం ఐసుక లోడింగ్ చేస్తున్నారు. ఇక్కడ లోడ్ చేస్తున్న ఐసుక వేరుగా జాతీయ రహదారి ఎక్కడ వైద రాజాధిపతి తరలిపోతేంది లోడ్ ప్రాజెక్టు ఎక్కడగా లోడింగ్ జరుగుతోందని సాధించులు చేయవచ్చు.

అయిన కైకాపా నాయకుడు గత ఐదేళ్లు కాడపల్లి స్ట్రాటెజీలో రివైజ్ చేశారు గన ప్రభుత్వంలో రెండేళ్లు పాటు... ఉమ్మడి కృష్ణా జలం ఐసుక కాల్వలకు ఆయన తవ్వకం చేశారు. అదేవికారే కృష్ణం. నెంకు రూ. 18 కోట్లు చెల్లించే విధంగా ఆంగీకారం ఉమ్మడి కృష్ణా జలంలో 1 ప్రజాప్రతినిధిని అంతుడందలు సృష్టించాలంటేలు జేసేవీలు ఉన్న ఆ నాయకుడు ఇప్పటివరకం తవ్వకాలు జరిపి హైదరాబాద్ కు ఐసుక తరలించారు. ప్రభుత్వం మూలం. ఆయన ప్రార్థి మార్గం: ప్రభుత్వం 1 మంత్రి మద్దతు ఉంది అంతే మళ్ళీ ఐసుక కష్టం కష్టం. యంత్రాలతో తవ్వకాలు జరుపుతూ హైదరాబాద్ కు తరలిస్తున్నారు. స్థానిక నేతలు ప్రశ్నిస్తుంటే కొంత మంది ప్రజాప్రతినిధులు అడ్డుకుంటున్నారు. నాకు తెలిసినంతగా ఐసుక వ్యాపారం మీకు తెలియదు. హైదరాబాద్ ఎలా రవాణా చేయాలి నాకు అవగాహన ఉంది మీరు మానంగా ఉండండి అంటూ స్థానిక నేతల నోళ్లు మూయించేశారు. ఎన్ని అంతు జేయకు చెందిన ప్రజాప్రతినిధులు ఆయన చెప్పినదానికే సై అన్నారు. ఇంకేముంది రోజూనూ 1500 తారలు హైదరాబాద్ తరలిపోతున్నారు.

విజయవాడలో లోకేష్... నదిలో లోడింగ్... ఐసుక లోడింగ్ అంతా లోకేష్ విదానంలో చేసేవి స్తున్నారు ఆ నాయకుడు విజయవాడలోని 6 కార్యాలయంలో ఐసుక లోడింగ్ కోసం తారల యజమానులు సొమ్ములు వెళ్లిచార్చి ఉంటుంది. ఒక్క తారితే రూ. 10 వేలు చెల్లించాలి. వార్షిక తారితే రూ. 20 వేలు దర నిర్ణయించారు దీనికి లోకేష్ ఇస్తారు. 65

లోకేష్ ప్రకారం రేపటి, నిలువ కేంద్రాల్లో లోడింగ్ చేస్తున్నారు. గత కొంతకాలంగా ఇదే పద్ధతి జరుగుతోంది ప్రభుత్వం కృష్ణా నదిలో వరద ఉండడంతో కేవలం మున్నేరు నుంచి తవ్వకాలు చేస్తున్నారు. జాతీయ రహదారి పక్కనే ఉండడంతో హైదరాబాద్ కు వాతా సులభంగా తరలించేస్తున్నారు. కంపెనీల పెద్దలూ 1, 2 రేవులు మూగలుతురు. కీసర్, పెనుగం విస్తోలలో తవ్వకాలు చేస్తున్నారు. కీసర్ లో 2, 12 లక్షల ఐస్సులు, మూగలుతురు నిలువ కేంద్రంలో 98 వేల ఐస్సులు. ఐసుక ఉండేది ఇందులో ఒక్క ఐస్సులు మాత్రమే విత్తయించారు. మిగిలిన ఐసుక మొత్తం 64 నాయకుడు మాత్రమే ఆలోచనలు వినిపిస్తున్నాయి. ఆయనకు 1 మంత్రి అనుచరుడిగా గుర్తింపు ఉంది. అధికారంకు మంత్రి ఆదేశాలు ఇవ్వడంతో ఆయన తారలను ఏవీలో నిలుపువలసి చేయడం చేసిన ప్రచారం జరుగుతోంది.

కృష్ణా నది దిగువన వరద తగ్గడంతో రేపటి ప్రాకృతిక రక్షణ పల్లి తారల్లో నింపుతూ రవాణా చేస్తున్నారు. అవనిగడ్డ నియోజకవర్గంలో రివేలు చేసి ప్రాంతాలకు సైతం తప్పేస్తున్నారు. హైదరాద్ నియోజకవర్గ పల్లి రిలో ఐస్సులు వచ్చి మిమిమిమిమి మండలాల వరకు రిలో మంటసాల మండలంలోనూ ప్రాకృతిక ద్వారా తరలిస్తున్నారు. గనుల శాఖ, పోలీసు అధికారులు మున్నేరులో శనివారం ప్రోన్సు ఎగరవేసి హాల్ పేజీ వేశారు. కానీ ఎక్కడా గుర్తించలేకపోవడం, జాతీయ రహదారికి వచ్చిన తవ్వకాలు జరుగుతున్నా నిమా కళ్లు కనిపించలేదు.

— ఈనాడు, అనురాగ్ పది

అయిన మాట్లాడుతూ... నేర పరిధి ఉన్న వారు రాజకీయాల్లో ఉండరాదు, అలాంటి వారికి టీకెట్లు ఇవ్వరాదు గాల్ ప్రధాన సార్థిలకు సూచించారని, అంతే కాకుండా ఏలకల్ వాడ ద్వారా అలాంటి వారికి టీకెట్లు రాకుండా చేశారన్నారు. ఆయన నిజాయితీకి నిలువునా ఉన్నాను. మానవతా నిలువలతో తననం సాగుచేసారని కొనియాడారు. ఇప్పటి లక్షణాలానూ సైన్య కుమారుడు దా రామ్ పాపారావు, విశ్రాంత న్యాయమూర్తులు ఇప్పటి గ్రంథి టివారి ప్రసాద్, ఆస్ట్రేలియాలో ఉన్న వీర మాడ వీరకం కమిషనర్ నిమ్మగడ్డ రమే కృతసూర్, శ్రీ 6 లక్షలవారులు. తమతరులు సాగారారు.

సంతోషనే 'వెలు' పెట్టే శారు!



తమకు సంత మార్చి వీ వద్ద మధ్యం విత్తలుస్తున్న వ్యక్తి

తమకు గ్రామీణులు, స్థానికులు, వ్యతిరేకంగా ఉండే తమకు మట్టిన కృప జెట్లు దుకాణాలులు జరి తెలుస్తున్నారు. నూతన మధ్యం పాతల అమ్మ లలో బాగంగా మధ్యం దుకాణాల సంఖ్య తగ్గవడం... వీలు గ్రామాల్లో దుకాణాలు లేకపోవడం, కొందరు అదనుగా తీసుకున్నారు. పాతకూరు, సంతమాల్కి, సజ్జాపురం, కోనాల, దివ్య తదితర ప్రాంతాల్లో జెట్లు దుకాణాలు ఎక్కడా వర్గాలులేవు. ఈ సేవల్లోనే సంత మార్కెట్ వద్ద జాలు ఎక్కడా వర్గాలులేవు. ఈ సేవల్లోనే సంత మార్కెట్ వద్ద మధ్యం అమ్మకాలు చేస్తున్న వైలాల్లో ఆదివారం 1 వస్త్రీ లోకి సామాజిక కో మాన్యువల్లో పోస్టు చేయడంతో వైరల్ అయింది దీంతో మధ్యం విత్తలు అయిన వ్యక్తి జాగ్రత్తగా ఉండాలి ఆ ప్రాంతానికి చేరుకునేసరికి ఇంటికి తాళం వేసి ఉంది. దీనిపై ఎక్స్ ప్రెస్ సేవ ముతకం మాట్లాడుతూ జెట్ల దుకాణాలను కొలగొనవచ్చానో చర్చలు తీసుకుంటామని చెప్పడం వారు.

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TRANSLATION:

Excavation with JCBs at Kampala Dock of Munneru river

This is the scene seen on Sunday near the fences in Munneru river. Two heavy JCBs are loading sand to the lorries. Even though there is a ban on digging of sand with machines, they are charging Rs. 10,000 for loading a single lorry. First, you pay cash and get a token in Vijayawada, sand is loaded according to the token. Locals say that there is no sand being loaded here and it is moving to Hyderabad by travelling through the national highway and loading is taking place at night. All the sand loading is being conducted under the token system. The owners of the lorries have to pay Rs. 10 thousand per lorry for sand loading at a work site in Vijayawada. Big lorry Rs. 20 thousand has been fixed.

* Mechanized excavation in rivers •

* Awareness with joint Krishna district public representatives

People's representative in Krishna district, who has plenty of trucks and JCBs, excavated and transported sand to Hyderabad as per the wish of the leader. The government changed and he changed the party. Currently there is a minister's support. And again, they are carrying out excavations with machines and moving them to Hyderabad. When the local leaders ask questions, some people's representatives stop them. 'You don't know the iron business as well as I do. You should keep silent about how to transport Hyderabad' - the local leaders were silenced by the people's representatives from NTR district. Soon 150 lorries are moving to Hyderabad every day. There is awareness.

According to the log books, loading is being done at docks and depots. The practice has been going on for some time now. At present, excavations are being done from only three places as there is flood in Krishna river. Being next to the National Highway, Hyderabad is easily accessible. Excavation is being done in 12 docks of Kanchela, Pendyala, Moogalur, Keesara and Penugam chiprolu. 2.12 lakh tonnes in Keesara and 89 thousand bales of sand in Moogalur value center sold only one lakh tonnes.

As the flood recedes below the Krishna River, sand is being loaded into lorries with tractors at the docks and transported. Areas without reaches are also being dug in Avaniigadda Constituency, Thotlavallur in Palmeru Constituency and Ghantasala Mandal in Pamidimukkala Mandal are also being moved by tractors. Drones were flown in Munneru on Saturday. - Today, Amaravati He said that it was done to such people through election bad rather than criminal history.

The following parties may be included as respondents.

They are

1. Director Mines and Geology
Sri Anjaneya Towers, D.No. 7-104, B-Block,
5th & 6th Floors, Vijayawada, Ibrahimpatnam,
Andhra Pradesh 521456
2. Collector/District Magistrate,
Collectorate, Near P.W.D Grounds, Vijayawada
Email: jc-ntrdist@ap.gov.in
3. Andhra Pradesh State Pollution Control Board Rep by its Member Secretary
Dr.Y.S.R.Paryavaran Bhavan,
APIIC Colony Road, Gurunanak Colony,
Autonagar, Vijayawada- 520007

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND GEOLOGY::IBRAHIMPATNAM

Lr.No. INC04-26022/3/2024-SAND SECTION-DMG dt: 20/11/2024

From
The Commissioner &
Director of Mines and
Geology,
5th& 6th Floor, Block - B,
Anjaneya Towers,
Ibrahimpatnam, NTR
District.

To
The Collector and District Magistrate & Chairman
DLSC, NTR District.

Sir,

Sub:Mines & Minerals - Sand-OA.No.284/2024 filed before the
Hon'ble NGT, Chennai- On New Item published in Eenadu News
Paper, Chennai edition dt:28.10.2024-The case was taken Suo-
moto and posted on 03.01.2025- report called for - Reg.

Ref:OA.No.284/2024 received from Advocate on Record (AoR) NGT
Chennai.

I invite attention to the subject and reference cited, wherein, the Advocate on Record (AoR) NGT Chennai has informed that the OA.No.284/2024 came up for admission (Suo-moto) on 12.11.2024 and has been posted for filing report/counter on 03.01.2025. Further, it was informed to send parawise remarks immediately to prepare a counter and file it before the Hon'ble Tribunal on or before the next hearing date.

In view of the above, it is requested the Collector and District Magistrate & Chairman DLSC, NTR District to furnish report on the news item published in the Eenadu News Paper, Chennai edition dated 28.10.2024, to take further necessary action in the matter.

Yours faithfully,

PRAVIN KUMAR IAS, DIR(PK), O/o DIRECTOR-DMG

Encl:Ref

Commissioner and Director of Mines and Geology,
Ibrahimpatnam

Copy to DM&GO, Vijayawada with a direction to appraise the matter before the Collector and expand your cooperation in this matter for speedy completion of report.

**GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND GEOLOGY**

From:
A.Sreenivas Kumar,
District Mines and Geology Officer,
NTR District.

To:
The Commissioner & Director of
Mines & Geology.

Lr.No:1635/NGT/2024, Dated:01.01.2025.

Sir,

Sub:- Mines & Minerals - National Green Tribunal (NGT), South Zone -
- O.A.No.284/2024 - News item published in Eenadu News Paper titled
"Rampant Illegal Sand mining in Munneru River" Dt:28.10.2024 -
Detailed report called for - Submitted - Regarding.

- Ref:-**
1. Lr.no.INC04-26022/3/2024-Sand Section-Dmg, Dt:20.11.2024 of the Commissioner & Director of Mines & Geology.
 2. G.O.Ms.No: 43, Inds & Com (MINES-III) Department, dated: 08.07.2024.
 3. G.O.Ms.No: 66, Inds & Com (MINES-III) Department, dated: 25.10.2024

-oOo-

I invite kind attention to the subject cited and references cited, in the reference 1st cited, the Director of Mines and Geology has requested the Collector & District Magistrate and Chairman of DLSC, NTR District to furnish report on the News item published in the Eenadu News Paper Chennai edition dt:28.10.2024 titled "Rampant Illegal Sand mining in Munneru River".

In this connection it is respectfully submit that, the Government after careful examination decided and introduced Free Sand Mining Policy 2024 with the aim of ensuring the smooth and uninterrupted supply of sand to consumers without charging any fees from the consumers except the charges related to cost of operations and statutory taxes vide G.O.Ms.No.43, Free Sand Mining Policy 2024, dated: 08.07.2024. Subsequently, Hon'ble CM during various review meetings on the status of sand supplies under Free Sand Policy noted that there are certain areas related to sand supplies which need to be improved and further digitalized to enhance Ease of Booking for consumers, facilitate transportation, streamline operations and strengthen vigilance mechanism.

Further, it is submitted that the Director of Mines and Geology, Ibrahimpatnam has instructed the District Level Sand Committee (DLSC) to fix the sale price of sand in stocks yards/ depots duly considering the district to stock yards/ Depots from nearest reaches. The sale of price of sand at depots in NTR District shall be fixed as follow.

S. No	Sources Sand Reach	Name of the Stockyards/ Depots	Distance from Reach to stock yard Yards in Km	Sales price of sand in stock yards/ Depots in Rs.
1	Kunikinapadu (Kanchala)	Pendyala	20 KM	Uniform Rate of Sand per ton of Rs.290/- in NTR District
2	Senagapadu-2	Magallu	06 KM	
3	Kasarabad -1	Kodavatikallu	10 KM	
4	Kanniveedu-1	Allurupadu	07 KM	
5	Malkapuram	Anumachipalli	20 KM	

6	Kanneveedu-1	Polampalli	03 KM
7	Ganiathkuru-3	Keesara	22 KM
8	Chevitikallu -1	Moguluru	08 KM

Further it is submitted that the District Level Sand Committee (DLSC) meeting held on 04.07.2024, has resolved that the Mandal level teams constituted at above stock points for smooth functioning of Sand operations and sales in the stockyards. The Mandal level tahsildars have appointed stockyard in-charges for monitoring of sand activity. The sand sales have been started i.e., 08.07.2024 to 31.08.2024. Due to recent floods triggered by exceptionally heavy rains in the Krishna, Munneru and Budameru the sand sales have been stopped upto 20.09.2024. The District Level Sand Committee (DLSC) has dispatched 3,46,988 Metric tons of sand to the consumers as on date through AP Sand Monitoring System (APSMS).

The Government in the New Sand Policy has instructed the District Collector vide Proc.No. 6275/sand/2022, Dt: 23.08.2024 has constituted District Level Task Force (DLTF), Divisional Level Vigilance Monitoring Committee & Mandal Level Vigilance Monitoring Committee with all the line departments for periodic inspections of all stock yards and sand reaches to ensure smooth functioning of sand operations and to curb illegal mining and transportation of sand. The Joint Collector will be the special officer for sand monitoring.

Further it is submitted that, the Special Enforcement Bureau and Mines and Geology department have conducted surprise route checks and booked 10 cases on the illegal transportation of sand in the NTR District.

Further it is submitted that, the District Mines and Geology Office Technical staff of NTR district has seized illegal stocking of sand for a quantity of 622.93 tons in Tiruvuru mandal. The District Level Sand Committee to levy, collect penalty for seizure of vehicle from the persons involved stocking/hording/selling/black marketing of sand.

Further it is submitted that, the sand excavation in River streams of IV, V & higher order streams will be permitted subject to obtain all the applicable approvals, permissions and compliance of APMMC Rules, 1966, EIA Notification 2006, guidelines issued by the MoEF&CC, orders of the Hon'ble NGT and Supreme Court.

Further it is submitted that, The District Level Sand Committee, NTR District have issued Notice inviting Tenders for seeking individual/firms for excavation, transportation, stocking and loading of sand from 15 Open Sand Reaches identified by the line departments.

As per the Sustainable Sand Mining Management Guidelines, 2016 the open reaches were stopped w.e.f. 01-07-2024 to 30-09-2024. The 15 open reaches in NTR District are in existence till 06-02-2025 with all statutory permissions like AMP, EC, CTE and CTO.

In this connection it is submitted that the DLSC NTR District vide notification No. 831/Sand/2024, Dt. 07.10.2024 has issued notification inviting Sealed Tenders for identification of agencies for manual excavation, transportation to stock yards, formation and maintenance of ramps and loading at stock yards for the following 15 open sand reaches. The DLSC has conducted sealed tender process on 11.10.2024 and announced the successful bidders and issued LoIs for commencement of work for the following reaches. The details are below:

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Sl. No	Reach Name	Extent in Hects	Quantity in Mt.	Name of Agency
1	Indugupalli- 1	4.93	73,950	M/s Sri Vardhan Constructions
2	Allurupadu-1	4.98	74,700	Sri Lakshmi Dhanunjeya Constructions
3	Pendyala-1	4.94	74,100	Sri Gude Veera Venkata Nageswara Rao
4	Pendyala-2	4.89	73,350	Sri Gude Venkateswara Rao
5	Vemulapalli-1	4.97	74,550	M/s MSR Edifice
6	Vemulapalli-2	4.95	74,250	M/s Lotus Constructions
7	Pokkunuru-1	4.88	73,200	M/s Quantract Infra Private Limited
8	Pokkunuru-3	4.98	74,700	M/s Lotus Constructions
9	Ustepalli-1	4.98	74,700	M/s Sri Lakshmi Dhanunjeya Constructions
10	Kasarabada-2	4.98	74,700	Sri Malempati Prasada Rao
11	Eturu-1	4.93	73,950	Sri Gude Venkateswara Rao
12	Venganayakunipalem-1	4.52	67,800	Sri Garimella Nageswara Rao
13	Senagapadu-1	4.91	73,650	Sri Pavuluri Vamsi Krishna
14	Penuganchiprolu-2	4.97	74,550	M/s SK Lubricants
15	Penuganchiprolu-1	4.95	74,250	M/s Volks Med Health Care Pvt Ltd

Further it is submitted that the Government has announced modified free sand policy 2024 guidelines to enhance availability augment supply of sand and boost the construction sector, to improve the processes for hassle-free supply of free sand duly exempting seigniorage fee, DMF & MERIT as per G.O.Ms.No: 66, Dt: 25.10.2024.

Further it is submitted that as on date 09 sand reaches are in Operation and dispatched the quantity of 1,50,876 MT as per the sale price fixed by the DLSC, NTR District exempting seigniorage fee, DMF & MERIT and 6 Reaches are inundated with flood water, local villagers' objections and some of the reaches are under path/ramp work.

Further it is submitted that, as per Go. Ms.No.66, Dt:25.10.2024 the DLSC shall establish appropriate monitoring mechanism including maintenance of CCTV Cameras and the concerned DMGOs shall monitor the functioning of the stockyard as per the direction of DLSC and DLSC shall ensure to establish CCTV Cameras at sand supply points. Accordingly, the agency has established the CCTV Cameras at all open sand reaches and sand supply points.

Further it is submitted that, the police department has established 16 border checkposts in the NTR district as per New Sand Policy 2024 to enhance availability augment supply of sand and boost the construction sector, to improve the process of hassle-free supply of free sand. In this regard, the Government has issued certain directions to strengthen the Vigilance and other measures to streamline the procedure to prevent illegal transportation of sand.

Further it is submitted that, during the implementation of sand policy the district administration has taken all preventive steps to curb the illegal excavation and transportation of sand and also to prevent the indiscriminate mining of sand. Hence, the DLSC have issued orders and constituted the district officers as a reach level in-charges. The concerned officers should submit their compliance report for every 15 days to the Collector and District Magistrate and Chairman of DLSC, NTR District.

The District Officer are directed to monitor the following issues:

1. Prohibited excess Collection: No excess amounts of Sand should be collected at Stock yards beyond the price fixed by the DLSC in the NTR District.
2. First-Cum-First-Serve: The Vehicles should be loaded on a first - come - first-served basis to maintain fairness and order.
3. No Overloading: overloading of sand while transporting is strictly prohibited.
4. Mandatory of way bills: Sand should not be transported without proper way bill to maintain transparency and accountability.
5. 24/7 Stock Yard Operations: The Stock Yards should be operated 24/7 to facilitate smooth and uninterrupted transportation.
6. Display of sand Price Board: The Agency responsible for the stock yard must display sand price boards at the stock yards to provide transparency for the customers.
7. CC TV surveillance: Monitoring the CCTV surveillance at reaches and stock yards is mandatory to ensure security and to prevent any malpractices.

Regarding the news item published in the Eenadu on 28-10-2024 it is submitted that the photograph pertains to the proclains forming the path in the river from the stockyard to the reach for movement of vehicles to carry the sand excavated in the reaches till the stock yards through tractors. The tippers collecting the over burden derived while formation of ramps. Further, it is submitted that the reach in the photograph is **Kanchela -2** in Munneru River, The reach has handed over to the agency on 25-10-2024 i.e.. 3 days before the news item publication i.e.. on 28-10-2024. Moreover, the flood in the reach was not completely reduced at that time. As there is no approach road and flood water in the reach was not reduced the question of illicit quarrying in the reach does not arise.

It is submitted that, during that period i.e during later days of October, 2024 the sand was made available to the public from three stock yards only no reach was in operation in the entire Krishna (Either in NTR or Krishna District) and Munneru Rivers. Especially in the downstream reaches i.e., in the Krishna River were not started operations till 15-12-2024 as the flood was not receded in Krishna River.

The Government is taking each and every step to curtail the illicit quarrying in the reaches for establishing CCTVs in the reaches and approach road as well as in the stock yards. The illicit transportation in state border is being curtailed by establishing 16 border check posts with CCTVs by the Police and also is being monitored 24/7 by PMU established in the O/o Commissioner of Police Office as well as in Collectorate.

The penalties imposed in illicit quarrying and transportation of sand in both NTR and Krishna District to ban the usage of machinery are as detailed below:

Sl No	District	No of Cases booked	Penalty Amount Collected in Rs
1	Krishna District	27	1,89,055/-
2	NTR District	13	3,34,000/-
3	Total	40	5,23,055/-

However, three reaches with semi-mechanized operations are being opened in NTR District within a week and about 5 reaches are going to open in Krishna District.

In view of the above, I request the Commissioner & Director of Mines of Geology to appraise the above facts to the Hon'ble NGT, it is strongly refute the adverse news published in the Eenadu news paper on 28.10.2024, which is far away from the truth and seems to be based on misinformation.

Yours faithfully,


District Mines & Geology Officer,
NTR District.

Copy submitted to the Collector and District Magistrate and Chairman of DLSC, NTR District for favour of information.

Item No.13:

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

[Through Physical Hearing (Hybrid Option)]

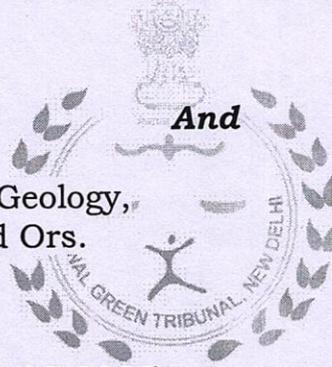
Original Application No.284 of 2024(SZ)

IN THE MATTER OF:

Tribunal on its own motion **SUO MOTU**
based on the news item published in
The Eenadu, Chennai Edition dated:
28-10-2024, under the caption
**"Rampant illegal sand mining in
Munneru River"**.

And

Director Mines and Geology,
Andhra Pradesh and Ors.



...Respondent(s)

Date of hearing: 24.09.2025.

CORAM:

HON'BLE Smt. JUSTICE PUSHPA SATHYANARAYANA, JUDICIAL MEMBER

HON'BLE Dr. PRASHANT GARGAVA, EXPERT MEMBER

For Applicant(s): Suo Motu.

For Respondent(s): Mrs. Madhuri Donti Reddy for R1 to R3.

ORDER

1. The reports from the Department of Mines and Geology and the District Collector – NTR District are still awaited.
2. List the matter on **05.01.2026**.

Sd/-
Smt. Justice Pushpa Sathyanarayana, JM

Sd/-
Dr. Prashant Gargava, EM

O.A. No.284/2024(SZ)
24th September, 2025. Mn.

