

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI**
Original Application No. 425/2023

IN THE MATTER OF:

Deepika Khari.

...Applicant

Versus

State of Uttarakhand & Ors.

...Respondent(s)

N.D.O.H. – 22.01.2025

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THROUGH



SUHASINI SEN
(COUNSEL FOR MOEF&CC)
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New Delhi
Date: 06.01.2025

IN THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL, PRINCIPAL
BENCH, NEW DELHI

IN
ORIGINAL APPLICATION No. 425/2023

IN THE MATTER OF :

Deepika Khari

-----Applicant

Versus

State of Uttarakhand &Ors.

-----Respondent(s)

**REPLY AFFIDAVIT ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT NO. 1,
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE,
NEW DELHI**

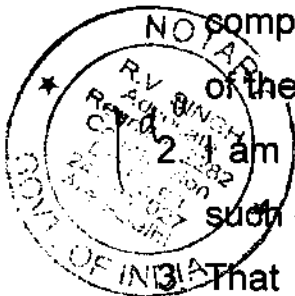
MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:

1. I, Sanjay Kumar Chauhan, S/o Shri A.S.Chauhan, aged about 41 years working as the Assistant Inspector General of Forests (Forest Protection Division) in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (hereinafter referred to as MoEF&CC) at New Delhi do hereby solemnly affirm and say on oath that, I am

competent and authorised to swear this affidavit for and on behalf of the Respondent No.-1.

I am duly authorised and competent to swear this affidavit and as such conversant with the facts of the present case.

That the present Original Application was registered through a letter from the petitioner Ms. Deepika Khari complaining about the burning of dry leaves in Badkot Forest Range on Rishikesh-Dehradun Road.



(संजय कुमार चौहान)
(SANJAY KUMAR CHAUHAN)
Assistant Inspector General of Forests
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Govt. of India, New Delhi

9. That in reply to the above letters, a report of DFO, Dehradun Forest Division dated 13.12.2024 has been forwarded by the office of Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Environment, Uttarakhand, Dehradun vide its letter dated 24.12.2024.

10. That as per the report of DFO, Dehradun dated 13.12.2024, it has mentioned that Dehradun-Rishikesh (NH-24) is listed as the most important Fire Line in the existing Working Plan of Dehradun Forest Division. Referring to Para No. 19.22.12 of the existing Working Plan, the DFO, Dehradun has mentioned that annual cleaning & burning of fire lines should be given top priority. Hence, it is prescribed that all the fire lines should be cleared of all trees and bushes (lantana & other) and should be controlled effectively every year well before the start of the fire season.

11. It has also been mentioned that heavy traffic and movement of pilgrims is found during Chardham Yatra and especially summer season in NH- 24 (Rishikesh-Dehradun). In addition, the report reveals that the video submitted by Ms. Deepika Khari in which people were seen doing the burning, was the official of Badkot Forest Range. In their supervision control burning was carried out in the Rishikesh-Dehradun (NH- 24). A copy of the letter dated 24.12.2024 along with a report of DFO, Dehradun dated 24.12.2024 is annexed herewith as **ANNEXURE R-3**.

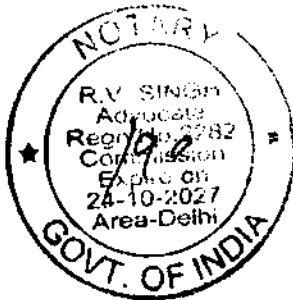
12. That the Answering respondent MoEF&CC had also requested the Forest Survey of India (FSI), Dehradun to provide comments on the matter and FSI has also opined that the burning of dry leaves in the Badkot Forest Range on Rishikesh-Dehradun Road was a part of control burning being carried out under the supervision of an official of the State Forest Department. A copy of the FSI letter dated 03.01.2025 is annexed herewith as **ANNEXURE R-4**.



(Sanjay Kumar Chaudhary)
 Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
 Environment, Forest and Climate Change
 Govt. of India, New Delhi

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- 13. It is submitted that it is evident from the report of the Uttarakhand Forest Department that the burning of dry leaves in the Badkot Forest Range on Rishikesh-Dehradun Road was carried out by Forest Department personnel, as part of the annual cleaning and burning of forest fire lines in Dehradun Forest Division, in accordance with the approved working plan.
- 14. That in view of the foregoing submissions, this Hon'ble Tribunal may be pleased to dismiss the present application or pass such order as it may deem fit in the given circumstances of the case.



VERIFICATION:

[Signature]
DEPONENT

(संजय कुमार चौहान)
 (SANJAY KUMAR CHAUHAN)
 सहायक जन प्रहरी/Asst. Inspector General of Forests
 पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
 (Mo Environment, Forest and Climate Change)
 भारत सरकार, नई दिल्ली
 Govt. of India, New Delhi

Verified at _____ on this ~~6 JAN 2025~~ **6 JAN 2025**, 2025 that the contents of the above affidavit are true and correct to my knowledge and are based on official records, no part of it is false and nothing material is concealed there from.

I identified the deponent/executioner who has signed in my presence

[Signature]
DEPONENT

(संजय कुमार चौहान)
 (SANJAY KUMAR CHAUHAN)
 सहायक जन प्रहरी/Asst. Inspector General of Forests
 पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
 (Mo Environment, Forest and Climate Change)
 भारत सरकार, नई दिल्ली
 Govt. of India, New Delhi

CERTIFIED THAT THE DEPONENT
Sanjay Kumar Chauhan
 S/O. *[Name]*
 Identified the *[Name]* R/o *[Address]*
 has made the affidavit at Delhi
 on **6 JAN 2025** at *195*
 that the contents of the affidavit have been
 read over & explained to him/me
 to his/me knowledge and the contents are true & correct

[Signature]

- 6 JAN 2025

ANNEXURE-R-1

5

File No. 8/47/2024-FPD
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change
(Forest Protection)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi: 110003,
Dated: 13.11.2024

To,

**Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF),
State of Uttarakhand,
85-Rajpur Road, Hath barkala Salwala,
Dehradun – 248001**

**Sub.- Original Application No. 425/2023 titles as Deepika Khari Vs.
State of Uttarakhand & Ors. before National Green Tribunal, NGT ,
(PB), New Delhi-reg**

Sir,

This is in reference with the above stated matter. In this context, I am directed to enclose a copy of the application wherein the MoEF&CC is arrayed as the Respondent No.1 along with the State Government of Uttarakhand. The case is regarding burning of dry leaves in Badkot Forest Range on Rishikesh-Dehradun road.

2 . In this regard, it is requested to kindly look into the matter and provide a detailed factual status report for perusal of the Ministry.

This issues with the approval of Competent Authority

Encl: As above

Signed by Sanjay Kumar Chauhan
Yours faithfully,
Chauhan
Date: 13-11-2024 02:57:02

(Sanjay Kumar Chauhan)
Assistant Inspector General of Forests
E-mail: fpd-moefcc@gov.in

Copy to :

True copy
SS

6

The Deputy Director General (C), Regional Office, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Integrated Regional Office 25, Subhash Road Dehradun -248001- ***With a request to kindly prepare a draft affidavit based on the inputs/comments of State Forest Department Uttarakhand and same may be sent for approval of the Ministry.***

True copy
S

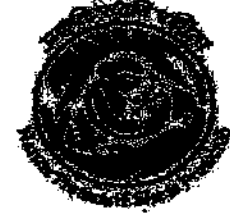
Reminder-I

7



सत्यमेव जयते

भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय /
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, देहरादून /
Regional Office, Dehradun



25, सुभाष रोड, देहरादून-248001/25, SUBHASH ROAD, DEHRADUN-
248001, उत्तरांचल / PHONE- 0135-2650809, टेली/E-mail-
mofcd@nic.gov.in

पत्र सं०- NGT/15/2024/ 1047

Dated: As per e-sign.

सेवा में,

प्रमुख वन संरक्षक (डीएफ),
वन विभाग, उत्तराखंड, 85,
राजपुर रोड, देहरादून

विषय:- माननीय एन 0 जी0 टी0 (प्रधान पीठ), नई दिल्ली के समक्ष विचारधीन मूल आवेदन सं0 425/2023, शीर्षक दीपिका खत्री बनाम उत्तराखंड राज्य एवं अन्य के संबंध में।

संदर्भ:- इस कार्यालय का पत्र दिनांक 11.11.2024.

महोदय,

उपरोक्त विषय पर कृपया इस कार्यालय के संदर्भित पत्र का अध्ययन प्रहण करने का कष्ट करें, जिसके माध्यम से राज्य वन विभाग उत्तराखंड से प्रकरण में विस्तृत सथ्यात्मक स्थिति आख्या (detailed factual status report) मंत्रालय, नई दिल्ली को प्रेषित कराते हुये कृत कार्यवाही से इस कार्यालय को भी सूचित करने विषयक लेख किया गया था, जिसका प्रतिउत्तर अभी तक अपेक्षित है।

अतः इस संबंध में मुझे पुनः आपको यह अनुरोध करने का निर्देश हुआ है कि प्रकरण से संबंधित वांछित आख्या अविलम्ब मंत्रालय, नई दिल्ली को प्रेषित कराते हुये कृत कार्यवाही से इस कार्यालय को भी सूचित करने का कष्ट करें।

संलग्न-यथोपरि।

Signed by Neelima Shah

Date: 23-12-2024 10:44:47

भवदीया,

(नीलिमा शाह, भा0 व 0 से0)
सहायक महानिरीक्षक वन (के0)

प्रतिलिपि-

1. प्रमुख मुख्य वन संरक्षक एवं नोडल आफिसर (वन संरक्षण), इन्दिरा नगर फारेस्ट कालोनी, उत्तराखंड, देहरादून।
2. सहायक महानिरीक्षक (वन), पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, (एफ 0 पी0 डी0 प्रभाग), इन्दिरा पर्यावरण भवन, अलीगंज, जोर बाग रोड, नई दिल्ली- 110003 (सूचनार्थ)।



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Environment

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कार्यालय अपर प्रमुख वन संरक्षक, पर्यावरण, उत्तराखण्ड, देहरादून। 8

4th Floor, 85 Rajpur Road, Dehradun, Pin - 248001

E-mail : ncfenrulk@gmail.com

पत्रांक- 144 / 29-5 देहरादून, दिनांक, 24 दिसंबर, 2024

सेवा में,

सहायक महानिरीक्षक वन (के०)
भारत सरकार, पर्यावरण, वन एवं
जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय,
क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, देहरादून।

विषय:- मा० राष्ट्रीय हरित अधिकरण में योजित मूल आवेदन संख्या - 425/2023 Deepika Khari
Vs State of Uttarakhand & Ors के सम्बन्ध में।

संदर्भ :- आपके कार्यालय की पत्र सं०- NGT/15/2024/902 दिनांक 11.11.2024

महोदया,

कृपया उपरोक्त संदर्भित पत्र का संदर्भ ग्रहण करने का कष्ट करें। संदर्भित पत्र के क्रम में आप द्वारा प्रकरण के संबंध में तथ्यात्मक स्थिति आख्या उपलब्ध कराये जाने हेतु लिखा गया था।

अतः उक्त प्रकरण के संबंध में प्रभागीय रनाधिकारी, देहरादून वन प्रभाग, देहरादून के कार्यालय पत्रांक - 2653/29-3 दिनांक 13-12-2024 द्वारा प्रकरण की वांछित आख्या प्राप्त हुई है, जिसे संलग्न कर सूचनार्थ एवं आवश्यक कार्यवाही हेतु प्रेषित किया जा रहा है।

संलग्नक :- उपरोक्तानुसार।

भवदीय,

✓

अपर प्रमुख वन संरक्षक,
पर्यावरण,
उत्तराखण्ड देहरादून।

True copy
A/E

संख्या: 0135-2027012

E-mail: dindoon@gmail.com

कार्यालय प्रभागीय वनाधिकारी देहरादून वन प्रभाग, देहरादून।
पत्रांक-2653/29-3, देहरादून, दिनांक- 13 दिसम्बर, 2024.

सेवा में

अपर प्रमुख वन संरक्षक,
वनाग्नि एवं आपदा प्रवन्धन,
उत्तराखण्ड।

विषय:- मा० राष्ट्रीय हरित अधिकरण नई दिल्ली में योजित मूल आवेदन सं०- 425/2023, दीपिका खारी
बनाम यू०पी० राज्य के सम्बन्ध में।

सन्दर्भ:- आपका पत्रांक-415/29-3, दिनांक-03.12.2024.
महोदय,

उपरोक्त विषयक संदर्भित पत्र के क्रम में सादर अवगत कराना है कि मा० राष्ट्रीय हरित अधिकरण नई दिल्ली में वादी दीपिका खारी द्वारा योजित वाद (आवेदन सं०-425/2023) के सम्बन्ध में वन क्षेत्राधिकारी, बड़कोट रेंज से (Details factual status report) मांगी गयी थी, वन क्षेत्राधिकारी, बड़कोट रेंज द्वारा अपने पत्रांक-14/29, दिनांक-01.07.2024 से उक्त प्रकरण के सम्बन्ध में वस्तुस्थिति से अवगत कराया गया, जिसके अनुसार विषयांकित प्रकरण से सम्बन्धित (Details factual status report) निम्न प्रकार प्रेषित की जा रही है:-

1. देहरादून वन प्रभाग की वर्तमान प्रवन्ध योजना के 19 वें अध्याय वनाग्नि सुरक्षा कार्यवृत्त (आच्छादित) में दी गई तालिका सं० 19.9.4 में देहरादून-ऋषिकेश (राज्यमार्ग-24) को महत्वपूर्ण अग्नि पट्टी (Fire Line) के रूप में चिह्नित कर सूचीबद्ध किया गया है। (तालिका की छायाप्रति संलग्न है) उपरोक्त नियंत्रित दाहन आरक्षित वन क्षेत्रों के अति संवेदनशील क्षेत्रों (राजमार्ग के किनारे) सैनकोट कक्ष सं० 09 में वर्तमान प्रवन्ध योजना में निर्देशित सावधानियों व सतर्कता के साथ सम्पन्न किया गया।
2. देहरादून वन प्रभाग की वर्तमान प्रवन्ध योजना में अग्नि पट्टियों (Fire Lines) के विधिवत रखरखाव को सुनिश्चित करने हेतु पैरा सं० 19.22.1.2 (Maintenance of Fire Lines) में स्पष्ट उल्लेख किया गया है:- Annual cleaning & burning of fire lines should be given top priority. Hence, it is prescribed that all the Fire Lines should be cleared of all trees and bushes (lantana & other) and should be control burnt effectively every year well before the start of the fire season.
3. ऋषिकेश-देहरादून राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग-24 में वर्षभर व विशेषतया: ग्रीष्मकाल व चार धाम यात्रा की अवधि में भारी यातायात व बड़ी संख्या में श्रद्धालुओं का आगमन व आवाजाही होती है। फलतः उनके द्वारा फेंकी गई जलती वीडि/सिगरेट तथा राहगीरों द्वारा लापरवाही व जानबूझकर मार्ग के किनारे गिरे हुए सूखे पत्तों में आग लगने तथा इसके समीप वन क्षेत्रों में फैलने की प्रबल आशंका बनी रहती है। वन वर्धनिक, वानिकी एवं वन्य जीव सुरक्षा एवं संरक्षण की दृष्टि से भी नियंत्रित दाहन (Control burning) भीषण दावानल की रोकथाम को Preventive technique/measure है।
4. इसी क्रम में यह भी प्रमाणित करना है कि वादी दीपिका खारी द्वारा जो वीडियो प्रस्तुत की गई है उसमें जो व्यक्ति नियंत्रित दाहन/फुँकान (Control burning) कार्य करवाते हुए दृष्टिगत हो रहे हैं वे व्यक्ति देहरादून वन प्रभाग की बड़कोट रेंज के मुख्यालय अनुभाग/घाट के कर्मचारी हैं जो अपनी उपस्थिति/देख-रेख में देहरादून-ऋषिकेश (राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग-24) के किनारे वनाग्नि गरी रोकथाम हेतु नियंत्रित दाहन/फुँकान (Control burning) कार्य सम्पन्न करवा रहे हैं।

उक्त याचिका में सम्बन्ध में मा० राष्ट्रीय हरित अधिकरण नई दिल्ली के आदेशों के अनुपालन में इस कार्यालय के पत्रांक-2056/29-3, दिनांक-06.11.2024 द्वारा पूर्ण में उक्त रत्तर को आख्या प्रेषित की गयी है, जिसकी एक प्रति सुलग संदर्भ हेतु आपको प्रेषित की जा रही है। अतः उपरोक्तानुसार (Details factual status report) महोदय की सेवा में सूचनाार्थ सादर प्रेषित है।

संलग्न-उपरोक्तानुसार।

भवदीय,


(नीरज कुमार)

प्रभागीय वनाधिकारी,
देहरादून वन प्रभाग, देहरादून।

O/C

Lambirau-57	20.2000	Lambirau-55	17.8000
Lambirau-61	14.5000	Lambirau-58	15.8000
Lambirau-62	14.5000	Lambirau-59	26.7000
Lambirau-63	21.8000	Lambirau-60	15.4000
Nahi-3	150.6000	Lambirau-64	17.0000
Nahi-4	180.5000	Lambirau-65	25.9000
Ramnagar-28	25.5000	Lambirau-69	23.9000
Ramnagar-29	17.4000	Malkot-1	122.0000
Ramnagar-31	15.4000	Malkot-2	124.0000
Ramnagar-19a	17.0000	Malkot-3	189.1000
Ramnagar-19b	10.9000	Malkot-9	221.5500
Sinsarukhala-1	176.9000	Nahi-5	258.9000
Song-4	102.6400	Paled-1	144.9100
Song-5	250.1000	Ramnagar-26	26.0000
Bhogpur-1b	54.7000	Ramnagar-27	27.1000
Bhogpur-2	187.3000	Ramnagar-30	31.2000
Thano-1c	10.6000	Sinsarukhala-2	105.6000
Lambirau-71	12.1000	Song-3	100.0000
Nahi-2	187.5000	Bhogpur-1a	35.0000
		Ladwakot	53.6300
		Nahi-1	258.1250
Total	2788.1138		2844.2434
Grand total	6679.7094		6138.9854

Map 19.5 Control Burning Coupe

19.22.1.2 Maintenance of fire lines: Annual cleaning & burning of fire lines should be given top priority. A list of fire lines existing in the division is given in Appendix. Fire lines have not been maintained properly in the past years due to financial & other constraints. As a result, regeneration have been established & in the fire lines well grown trees of various species are present. Hence, it is prescribed that all the fire lines should be cleared of all trees (of any species & any diameter class) and bushes (lantana & others) and should be control burnt effectively every year well before the start of the fire season. The yield from the clearance of the fire line will not be included in the prescribed yield of the Sal working circle and miscellaneous working circle.

Table 19.9.4 List of important roads which work as fire line

S.No.	Range	Name of road	Length (in km)
1	2	3	4
1	Asharori	Dehradun-Sahranpur N.H Road	1.01
2	Barkot	Dehradun-Rishikesh N.H. 24 Road	17.00
3		Dehradun-Haridwar N.H. 72 Road	16.00
4		Ranipokhari-Laltappar PWD Road	16.00
5		Ranipokhari-Rishikesh N.H Road	6.00
6		Bhaniawala-Haridwar by pass N.H Road	2.50
7		Jhajhra	Dehradun-Herbetpur-Paonta sahib N.H Road
8	Sidhuwala-Bhauwala PWD Road		1.50
9	Manduwala-Bhauwala PWD Road		1.00
10	Manduwala-Doonga-Bidholi PWD Road		4.00
11	Kotra santoor-Aamwala PWD Road		3.00
12	Nanda ki chowki-Kandoli PWD Road		2.00
13	Polytechnic School-Kandoli Tarli PWD Road		4.00
14	Lachiwala	Mothrowala-Dudhli-Doiwala PWD Road	5.00
15		Dehradun-Lachiwala-Doiwala N.H 72 Road	7.00
16	Malsi	Galjwari-Rikholi PWD Road	4.00
17		Masandawala-Jhadiwala PWD Road	2.00
18	Rishikesh	Doiwala-Rishikesh N.H Road	2.00
19		Dehradun-Rishikesh N.H. 24 Road	4.00
20		Rishikesh-Haridwar bypass Road	9.00
21		Rishikesh-Bairaj-Haridwar PWD Road	4.00
22		Rishikesh- Haridwar PWD Road	9.00
23	Thano	Raipur-Thano PWD Road	10.00

19.22.1 Preventive measures: A well-executed preventive plan before the onset of fire season and during the fire season are most crucial to reduce the incidences of forest fire in forest areas. There are many age-old measures and practices that are used by the division before the fire season. Some of the important measures are, control burning, fire line clearance etc.

19.22.1.1 Control Burning: The main objective of control burning is to reduce the fuel load from the forest floor so that during fire season the forest area will be less prone for serious forest fire. In the present scenario of 'Global warming & Climate change' control burning in the forest area has become a debatable issue. Control burning releases large quantity of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases in to the atmosphere. So, there must a serious thought and effort for alternate measures to remove fuel load from the forest floor without burning it. It is suggested that the leaf litter may be converted into compost with the active participation of local people & Gujjars. It is prescribed that DFO must try this on 'pilot basis' and if found to be successful, may be taken up on large scale. However, it is also a fact that control burning is necessary to maintain the forest ecosystem. In the following paragraphs the details about control burning has been given.

- i. In Sal areas where regeneration is deficient, burning is effective at two stages. First to obtain recruits and second to stimulate the growth of stagnating seedling. A good burn prior to seeding is very helpful. This may have to be repeated for two years in succession but it should not be done continuously and unless a good seed year is expected. Control burning for stimulating the growth of seedling in small woody stage is required only in the later stages. Therefore, the control burning is very useful if it is done under a strict control regime.
- ii. In other areas, cleaning & burning of existing fire lines should be done before the fire season, so that these can act as fire breaks & can be clear passages for fire control during fire season. Control burning in 10 meters belt on both sides of forest & PWD roads will helps in prevention of any accidental fire.

19.22.1.1.1 Methods of Annual Control Burning: Following broad guide lines should be followed for annual control burning:

- i. Normally control burning should be done in the month of December/January and before 15th February. However, depending on the winter rainfall pattern and moisture level of forest floor the DFO can regulate the time of control burning.
- ii. In hilly areas the burning should be done from top to bottom along the slopes and it should be carried out in the night or late evening.
- iii. Areas where young regeneration (recruitment, whippy & sub whippy stages) which cannot with stand fire, and un regenerated patches where seed bearers have been left for inducing regeneration, should be avoided or protected during control burning.
- iv. Slash produced during felling should be disposed off before control burning.
- v. A 10-meter belt on both side of the roads passing through forest should be freed from inflammable material.
- vi. While doing control burning the patches of fruit species and medicinal plants existing in compartment should be protected from fire.

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ANNEXURE R-4

No. 22-433/2024-(pt-4)-FGD - 779
Forest Survey of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
Govt. of India
Kaulagarh Road, PO - IPE
Dehradun - 248195



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Dated: 2 January, 2025

To

The Inspector General of Forests
SU Division
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi- 110003

Kind Attention: IGF, Forest Protection Division, MoEF&CC

Sub: Original Application No. 425/2023 titled as Deepika Khari Vs. State of Uttarakhand & Ors. filed before National Green Tribunal, NGT, (PB), New Delhi.

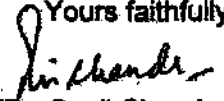
- Ref: 1. Email dated 24th October, 2024 received from Sh. Ravi Kumar, Legal Associate, SU Division of MOEF&CC.
2. FSI Letter no. 22-433/2024-FGD-620 dated 11th November, 2024 to IGF, SU Division, MoEF&CC.
3. FSI Letter no. 22-433/2024-FGD-619 dated 11th November, 2024 to PCCF, HoFF, Uttarakhand State Forest Departments.
4. Email dated 2nd January, 2025 from Sh. Ravi Kumar, Associate Legal-C, FPD Division, MoEF&CC.

Sir,

Kind attention is invited to the subject and references cited above, it is to inform that in response to FSI's request (Ref: 3) a detailed factual report has been received from Additional Chief Conservator of Forests, Environment, Uttarakhand, Dehradun. FSI has perused the report and as stated in the report, the burning of dry leaves in Badkot Forest Range on Rishikesh-Dehradun Road was a part of control burning being carried out under the supervision of an official of the State Forest Department. The report is being enclosed for your kind perusal.

FSI team has no further comments on the above matter. This is for your kind information.

Encl: As above

Yours faithfully,

(Dr. Sunil Chandra)
Deputy Director (FGD)

True Copy