

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

in

Original Application No. 49/2025 (PB)

(earlier OA No. 200/2023/CZ)

IN THE MATTER OF:

Vinod Kumar Sharma

.... APPLICANT

Versus

State of Rajasthan & Others

.... RESPONDENT(S)

INDEX

S. No.	Particulars	Page No.
1.	Reply on behalf of CPCB, Respondent No. 35, in compliance with Hon'ble NGT Order dated 30.10.2025, in O.A. No. 49 of 2025.	
2.	ANNEXURE-I A copy of the Hon'ble NGT order dated 30.10.2025.	



Place: Delhi

Filed by: Adv. Atif Suhrawardy

Date: 19.12.2025

On behalf of Central Pollution Control Board

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

in

**Original Application No. 49/2025 (PB)
(earlier OA No. 200/2023/CZ)**

IN THE MATTER OF:

Vinod Kumar Sharma

....**APPLICANT**

Versus

State of Rajasthan & Others

....**RESPONDENT(S)**

**REPLY ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT NO. 35: CENTRAL POLLUTION
CONTROL BOARD (CPCB)**

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:

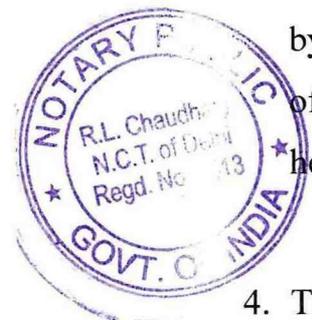
1. That the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench (hereinafter referred to as "NGT") vide order dated 30.10.2025 in Original Application (hereinafter referred to as "OA") No. 49/2025 has sought the reply from respondents. Thereby, the reply of Respondent No. 35, Central Pollution Control Board (hereinafter referred to as CPCB) is made in this instant OA in succeeding paragraphs. A true copy of the Order dated 30.10.2025 passed by this Hon'ble Tribunal has been marked and annexed hereto as **ANNEXURE-I.**



2. That the present Original Application has been filed by the applicant alleging illegal operation of Saw Mills in various villages of Tehsil – Lalsot, District - Dausa, Rajasthan which is further alleged to be leading to felling of trees both in forest area and revenue area. As reported by the applicant, owners of these saw mills are continuously flouting the environmental principles by illegally carrying out sawing activities in the area in question. The Applicant has also prayed for stopping the alleged ongoing illegal saw milling activities in the district of Dausa with immediate effect until the final adjudication of the matter.

3. That at the outset, the Answering Respondent denies all claims, contentions, allegations and averments against the Answering Respondent i.e. CPCB in the above OA contrary to anything stated or submitted in expressly in this reply. Nothing in the OA may be deemed to have been accepted or admitted by the Answering Respondent for want of a specific denial or on the ground of non-traverse, save any averment which has been expressly admitted hereinafter.

4. That the CPCB is constituted under Section 3 of The Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution), Act 1974 (hereinafter referred to as the "Water Act, 1974"). It performs its functions under the Water Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution), Act 1981 (hereinafter referred to as the "Air Act, 1981") and under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. It is further submitted that the State Pollution Control Boards/Pollution Control Committees (hereinafter referred to as "SPCBs/PCCs") have been constituted in States/UTs under the Water Act, 1974 and the Air Act, 1981,



to perform their functions and implement the provisions of these Acts in respect of territories falling in their respective territorial jurisdiction.

5. That, as per the modified direction dated 07.03.2016 issued by CPCB under section 18(1)(b) of the Water Act, 1974 and the Air Act, 1981 to all the SPCBs/PCCs regarding harmonization of classification of Industrial Sectors under Red/Orange/Green/White "Saw mills" are categorized under "Green" Category. Recently, during February, 2025, CPCB has revised the methodology for classification of sectors. As per the revised classification also, "Saw Mills" are categorized under "Green" category. The said revised classification-2025 has been circulated to all the SPCBs/PCCs for implementation vide CPCB direction dated 12.02.2025 under Section 18(1)(b) of the Water Act, 1974 and the Air Act, 1981. The "Green" category of industrial sectors are required to obtain Consent to Establish (hereinafter referred to as 'CTE') and Consent to Operate (hereinafter referred to as 'CTO') from the concerned SPCB/PCC. The Saw Mills should operate only after obtaining prior CTE and CTO from the concerned SPCB/PCC and shall comply with the conditions laid down in CTE and CTO.



PARAWISE-REPLY

6. That no comments are offered over the averments made in Paragraph Nos. 1 and 2 of the OA being introductory in nature.
7. That averments made in Paragraph No. 3, Sub-Para nos. 3.1 and 3.2 under "Facts of the case" of the OA are regarding the importance of trees for

various industrial purposes as well as their role in mitigating pollution and hence require no comments from the Answering Respondent herein being matter of record.

8. That the averments made in Paragraph No. 3, Sub-Para no. 3.3 under “Facts of the case” of the OA are about the process involved and associated environmental issues in saw-milling . In reply, it is humbly submitted that saw-mill operations generate fugitive emissions such as wood dust and particulate matter during sawing and handling activities. Based on the pollution potential, Saw Mills are categorized under "Green" category and required to obtain CTE and CTO from the concerned SPCB/PCC. The Saw Mills should operate only after obtaining prior CTE and CTO from the concerned SPCB/PCC and shall comply with the conditions laid down in CTE and CTO.
9. That the averments made in Paragraph No. 3, Sub-Para no. 3.4 under the “Facts of the case” relate to the allegation of illegal saw-mill operations being undertaken in Tehsil Lalsot, District Dausa, and the alleged cutting of trees for supplying raw material to such units. In this regard, it is humbly submitted that the submissions made in para 5 & 8 of the reply stand reiterated and are not repeated herein for the sake of brevity.
10. That the averments made in Paragraph No. 3, Sub-Para no. 3.5 under “Facts of the case” are regarding reference of letter addressed to Deputy Conservator of Forest, Lalsot, by regional forest officer about the licensed saw mills. In reply, it is humbly submitted that the averments does not refer

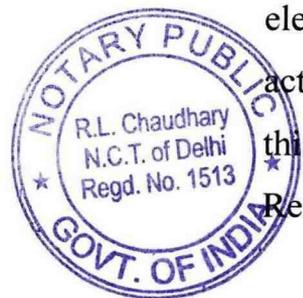


to this Answering Respondent and hence need no comments from Answering Respondent.

11. That the averments made in Paragraph No. 3, Sub-Para no. 3.6 under "Facts of the case" are regarding reference to OA No. 133/2015 concerning illegal saw-mill operations in other districts of Rajasthan and in pursuance to same the issuance of letters by various departments with respect to illegal saw mills including for Tehsil Lalsot as well. In this regard, it is humbly submitted that the submissions made in para 5 & 8 of the reply stand reiterated and are not repeated herein for the sake of brevity.

12. That, the averments made in Paragraph No. 3, Sub-Para no. 3.7 under "Facts of the case" are regarding the allegation that government agricultural land is being used for the operation of saw mills by members of Respondent No. 8, and that such operations are being carried out using allegedly illegal electricity connections while the concerned authorities have not taken any action. In this regard, it is humbly submitted that averments does not refer to this Answering Respondent and hence need no reply from the Answering Respondent.

13. That, the averments made in Paragraph No. 3, Sub-Para no. 3.8 under "Facts of the case" are regarding allegations that the Regional Forest Officer, Lalsot, failed to take action pursuant to the directions of the Deputy Conservator of Forest, Dausa. In this regard, it is humbly submitted that averments does not refer to this Answering Respondent and hence need no reply from the Answering Respondent.

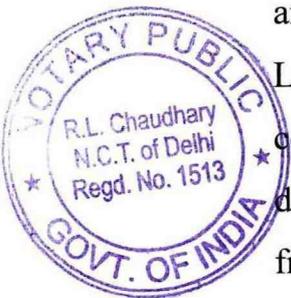


14. That, the averments made in Paragraph No. 3, Sub-Para no. 3.9 under “Facts of the case” are about allegations of a huge-number of tree cuttings in District Dausa, without any permission from the concerned authorities and hence require no comments from this Answering Respondent.

15. That the averments made in Paragraph No. 3, Sub-Para no. 3.10 under “Facts of the case” are regarding the allegation that members of Respondent No. 8 in order to acquire personal gain at the cost of un-sustainability and ecological imbalance are continuously violating the environmental norms by operating the unauthorized saw mills. In this regard, it is humbly submitted that the submissions made in para 5 & 8 of the reply stand re-iterated and are not repeated herein for the sake of brevity.

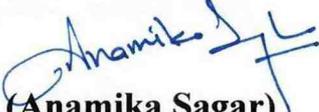
16. That the averments made in Paragraph No. 3, Sub-Para no. 3.11 under “Facts of the case” are regarding grievance w.r.t illegal tree-cutting activities and illegal operation of saw mills by members of Respondent No. 8 in Tehsil Lalsot, District Dausa, as well as the alleged inaction on the part of the concerned authorities. In this regard, it is humbly submitted that averments does not refer to this Answering Respondent and hence need no comments from the Answering Respondent.

17. That, the averments made in the Para 4, Para 6 and para 7 under reply are related to grounds for filing of this instant OA, the interim relief and Reliefs sought by the applicant through the instant OA. In this regard it is humbly submitted that the submissions made in preceding paragraphs of this reply are re-iterated and are not being repeated herein for the sake of brevity.



18. That, in light of the above submission, it is respectfully submitted that this answering respondent, i.e. CPCB, shall abide by all the order(s) or direction(s) passed by this Hon'ble Tribunal in this original application.
19. The Answering Respondent seeks liberty to file an additional affidavit if the same is considered necessary at a later stage.




(Anamika Sagar)

Scientist 'E'

Central Pollution Control Board

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

in

Original Application No. 49/2025 (PB)

(earlier OA No. 200/2023/CZ)

IN THE MATTER OF:

Vinod Kumar Sharma

....APPLICANT

Versus

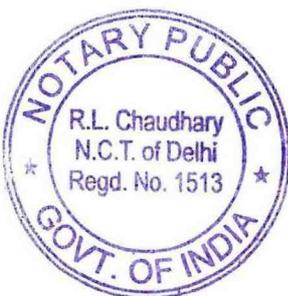
State of Rajasthan & Others

....RESPONDENT(S)

AFFIDAVIT

I, Anamika Sagar, aged about 54 in the capacity of Scientist 'E', having office at the Delhi, Central Pollution Control Board, Respondent No.35, Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi, do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state on oath as follows: -

1. That I, the deponent herewith is well conversant with the facts and circumstances of the present case based on the information derived from the official records, and hence, competent to verify, sign and swear this affidavit on behalf of the Respondent CPCB.
2. That the accompanying reply may be read part and parcel of the present affidavit, as I am competent to swear this affidavit.



3. That the accompanying reply has been drafted and filed under my instructions and authority, the contents thereof are true and correct on the basis of the record maintained during the ordinary course of business of CPCB and available records and documents and the contents of the same are read over and explained to me and are not repeated herein for the sake of brevity.



VERIFICATION

I, Anamika Sagar, working as Scientist 'E' in Central Pollution Control Board, Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi-110032, the respondent No. 6 herein, do hereby verify that the contents above are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and are based on the records maintained during the ordinary course of business of CPCB.

19 DEC 2025

Verified at New Delhi on this the Day of December 2025.



ATTESTED
NOTARY PUBLIC
GOVT. OF INDIA
19 DEC 2025

Anamika Sagar
DEPONENT

अनामिका सागर / Anamika Sagar
वैज्ञानिक 'ई' / Scientist 'E'
केंद्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड
Central Pollution Control Board
(पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)
(M/o Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India)
परिवेश भवन, पूर्वी अर्जुन नगर, दिल्ली-110032
Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi-110032

Anamika Sagar
DEPONENT

अनामिका सागर / Anamika Sagar
वैज्ञानिक 'ई' / Scientist 'E'
केंद्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड
Central Pollution Control Board
(पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)
(M/o Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India)
परिवेश भवन, पूर्वी अर्जुन नगर, दिल्ली-110032
Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi-110032

Item No. 14

Court No. 1

**BEFORE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI**Original Application No. 49/2025
(IA No. 513/2025)

Vinod Kumar Sharma @ Brijmohan

Applicant

Versus

State of Rajasthan & Ors.

Respondent(s)

Date of hearing: 30.10.2025

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE PRAKASH SHRIVASTAVA, CHAIRPERSON
HON'BLE DR. A. SENTHIL VEL, EXPERT MEMBER**

Applicant: Mr. Naveen Ahuja, Adv. for Applicant (Through VC)

Respondent: Mr. Saurabh Rajpal & Ms. Awanitika, Advs. for the State of Rajasthan
Mr. Nishant Awana, Adv. for RSPCB (Through VC)
Ms. Mrinmoi Chatterjee & Ms. Kriti Lal, Advs. for R - 6
Mr. Namit Saxena & Mr. Awnish Maithani, Advs. for R - 8
Ms. Sonu Kumari, Mr. Kanishk Devesh Sharma, Mr. Deepak Kumar Kori
& Mr. Raja Ujjwal, Advs. for Intervenor**ORDER**

1. I.A. No. 513/2025 has been filed by the Applicant seeking to implead the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Central Pollution Control Board as Respondents No. 34 and 35. On due consideration, the IA is allowed.
2. Counsel for the Applicant is directed to amend the cause title of the OA and serve the newly added respondents and file affidavit of service atleast one week before the next date of hearing.
3. List on 22.12.2025.

Prakash Shrivastava, CP

Dr. A. Senthil Vel, EM

October 30, 2025
dv