

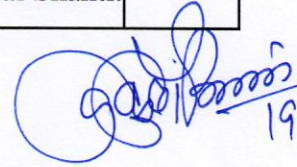
BEFORE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI

Original Application No. 785/2023

NEWS ITEM TITLED "KASAULI DISTILLERY DUMPS EFFLUENTS INTO WATER
SOURCE SUPPLY AFFECTED" APPEARING IN TRIBUNE DATED 15.12.2023

INDEX

S.no.	Particular	Page no.
1.	Reply on behalf of respondent no.7 i.e. Ministry of Jal Shakti.	


19.02.2026

Through



GIGI C. GEORGE, ADVOCATE
STANDING COUNSEL (UOI)
CH. NO. 457, LAWYERS BLOCK -1,
DELHI HIGH COURT, NEW DELHI
Gigicgeorge.adv42@yahoo.in
M-9810625315

DATED 19.02.2026

(For Respondent No. 7/ Ministry of Jal Shakti)

BEFORE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI

Original Application No. 785/2023

NEWS ITEM TITLED "KASAULI DISTILLERY DUMPS EFFLUENTS INTO WATER
SOURCE SUPPLY AFFECTED" APPEARING IN TRIBUNE DATED 15.12.2023

REPLY ON BEHALF OF THE MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI/ RESPONDENT NO. 7

It is most respectfully showeth that:

1. I, Vinod Kumar Dhaundiya, aged about 51, working as Administrator, Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA), Govt. of India, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation having office at 18/11, Jam Nagar House, Man Sing Road, New Delhi-110011, do hereby solemnly affirm and state on oath as under on behalf of **Respondent No. 7 i.e. The Ministry of Jal Shakti (MOJS)** hereinafter referred to as Answering Respondent.
2. That I am in my aforementioned official capacity, well conversant with the facts and circumstances of the present case on the basis of the documents and records available in the department. As such, I am competent and authorized to swear this counter affidavit on behalf of answering respondent.
3. That, I have perused the contents of the above captioned Original Application and I am duly authorized to depose by way of the present affidavit.

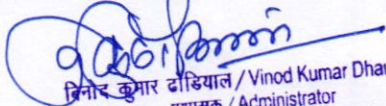
BRIEF SUBMISSIONS

4. That the Hon'ble Tribunal, in exercise of its suo motu jurisdiction, registered the present Original Application on the basis of a news item published in The Tribune

dated 15.12.2023, titled "*Kasauli Distillery dumps effluent into water source, supply affected*".

5. That the Hon'ble Tribunal, vide order dated 09.01.2024, constituted a Joint Committee comprising representatives of the Member Secretary, CPCB; Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Himachal Pradesh; Member Secretary, HPPCB; and the District Magistrate, Solan.
6. That as per para -1 of the order dated 08.12.2025, Hon'ble Tribunal considered the Joint Committee report dated 20.08.2024, wherein it was disclosed that the Respondent-Project Proponent was utilizing spring water without obtaining requisite permission. The Project Proponent contended that no permission from the Ground Water Authority was required for use of spring water, as no regulation existed mandating such approval. Consequently, Hon'ble Tribunal impleaded the MoEF & CC as respondent and directed to file affidavit disclosing if any rules, regulation and circular exists for regulating the drawal of spring water for commercial purposes.
7. That the Hon'ble Tribunal, vide para 4 of its order dated 08.12.2025, impleaded the Ministry of Jal Shakti as an additional respondent in the matter.
8. That it is most respectfully submitted that the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) regulates ground water management and development in the country by issuing 'No Objection Certificates' for extraction of ground water by industries, infrastructure projects, mining projects, etc., in accordance with the Ministry of Jal Shakti Guidelines, 2020 followed by amendment dated 29.03.2023. Regulation of natural flowing spring water does not come under the extant guidelines for regulation of ground water extraction.

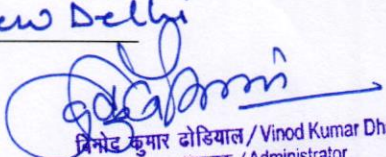
9. Furthermore, in the State of Himachal Pradesh, regulation, management, and control of groundwater is vested with the Himachal Pradesh Ground Water Authority (HPGWA).
10. That the present reply on behalf of the answering respondent may kindly be taken on record and into consideration and the Hon'ble Tribunal may pass appropriate order(s), direction(s) as deemed fit and proper under the facts and circumstances of the present case.


 विनोद कुमार दोडियाल / Vinod Kumar Dhaundiya
 प्रशासक / Administrator
 केन्द्रीय भूमि जल प्राधिकरण / Central Ground Water Authority
 जल संसाधन, नदी विकास एवं गंगा संरक्षण
 Deptt of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenat
 जल शक्ति मंत्रालय / Ministry of Jal Shakti
 नई दिल्ली / Government of India
DEPONENT

Verification

I, the abovenamed deponent, do hereby verify that the contents of above affidavit are true to my knowledge derived from official record. No part of the same is false and nothing has been concealed therefrom.

Verified on 19th Day of February, 2026 at New Delhi


 विनोद कुमार दोडियाल / Vinod Kumar Dhaundiya
 प्रशासक / Administrator
 केन्द्रीय भूमि जल प्राधिकरण / Central Ground Water Authority
 जल संसाधन, नदी विकास एवं गंगा संरक्षण
 Deptt of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuv
 जल शक्ति मंत्रालय / Ministry of Jal Shakti
 नई दिल्ली / Government of India
DEPONENT