

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

APPLICATION NO. 159 OF 2024

**In the matter on its own motion –SUO MOTU based on the : Applicant
news item published in the Hindu Newspaper dated 10.01.2024
entitled “VACB unearths large-scale unauthorized mining in
Idukki”**

Versus

**Member Secretary, Kerala State Pollution Control Board and : Respondent(s)
others**

**REPORT ON OA 159/2024 FILED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER,
KERALA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD, IDUKKI**

STANDING COUNSEL FOR 1ST RESPONDENT

Adv. Jogy Scaria

Standing Council

NGT Principal Bench

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Versus

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Dated this the 22nd day of February 2024

STANDING COUNSEL FOR THE 1st RESPONDENT

Adv. Jogy Scaria

Standing Council

NGT Principal Bench

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI

Original Application : 159/2024
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 10.01.2024 entitled “VACB unearths large-scale unauthorized
 mining in Idukki”

Vs.

**REPORT ON OA 159/2024 FILED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER,
 KERALA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD ON BEHALF OF THE
 MEMBER SECRETARY KERALA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
 BEFORE THE HONORABLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL AS PER THE
 NOTICE DATED 14.02.2024.**

1. I, Eby Varghese, aged 52 years, S/O T. V. Varghese working as Environmental Engineer, Kerala State Pollution Control Board, District Office, Idukki do solemnly affirm and State as follows.

2. This report is submitted as per the notice dated 14.02.2024 regarding illegal quarrying in an area at Chathurangapara village, Udumbanchola Taluk, Idukki District, Kerala State.

3. It is most respectfully submitted that an inspection was conducted by the Board on 20.02.2024. Since no information regarding the exact location of the quarrying site was available, assistance was sought from Revenue Department. Inspection was conducted



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accompanied by the Village Officer, Chathurangapara. The Village Officer reported that the nature of land is Government revenue land.

4. During the inspection it was noticed that granite mining operation had been conducted in an area of around 50m x 30m having an average height of approximately 10m. On verifying records, it was noticed that no permission has been granted by the Pollution Control Board for quarrying in that area.

5. Since there are no records regarding this mining with the Board, letter has been sent to the Thahasildar Udumbanchola and the Geologist, Mining and Geology Department, Idukki for getting more documents/ details of said activity. Copies of the letters sent to the respective departments in this regard are produced here with and marked as **Annexure R1(a)** and **Annexure R1(b)**.

6. It is most respectfully submitted that on receiving the reply/ records from the concerned departments and further enquiry, actions as per the statutes will be initiated against the illegal mining.

All that stated above are true to the best of my knowledge information and belief.

Dated this the 22nd day of February 2024



The Environmental Engineer

On behalf of the 1st Respondent

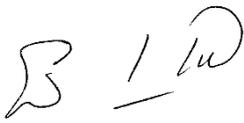
Kerala State Pollution Control Board

District Office Idukki



VERIFICATION

I, Eby Varghese, aged 52, S/o T.V. Varghese now working as Environmental Engineer in the District Office- Idukki of the Kerala State Pollution Control Board at Idukki, duly authorized to file this reply on behalf of the Kerala State Pollution Control Board do hereby verify on this, the 22nd day of February 2024, that all what is stated above is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief and is borne out from the records maintained in our office.



Eby Varghese, Environmental Engineer
District Office- Idukki
Kerala State Pollution Control Board

ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER
Kerala State Pollution Control Board
District Office, Idukki
Essaren Building, Anakoodu Jn,
Thodupuzha PIN-685 584



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Versus

Member Secretary, Kerala State Pollution Control Board and others : Respondent(s)

AFFIDAVIT

I, Eby Varghese, aged 52 Years, S/o T.V Varghese, residing at Perumbavoor do hereby solemnly affirm and state as follows:

I am now working as Environmental Engineer in the District office- Idukki of the Kerala State Pollution Control Board at Idukki. I am competent to and duly authorized to represent the 1strespondent in the above case. Copy of the authorisation dated 21.02.2024 is attached.

I know the facts and circumstances of the cases. The factual submission made here under in paragraphs 1 to 6 of the reply are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief. The legal submissions made there in are made on advice received from Counsel.

In these circumstances, it is just and necessary that this Hon'ble Tribunal may be pleased to



accept the accompanying report on file it is so humbly prayed in the interests of justice in this case.



ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER
Kerala State Pollution Control Board
District Office, Idukki
Essaren Building, Anakoodu Jn,
Thodupuzha PIN-685 584

EBY VARGHESE, DEPONENT

Solemnly affirmed and signed before me by the literate deponent

Personally known to me on this the 22nd day of February 2024 at my office in Idukki.



STANDING COUNSEL FOR THE 1ST RESPONDENT

Adv. Jogy Scaria

Standing Council

NGT Principal Bench

Annexure R1(a)

Phone : 04862 221590

Website: www.kspcb.kerala.gov.in

E-mail: kspcbidukki221590@gmail.com/kspcbidukki@yahoo.com

KERALA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

കേരള സംസ്ഥാന മലിനീകരണ നിയന്ത്രണ ബോർഡ്

DISTRICT OFFICE, IDUKKI

ജില്ലാ ആഫീസ്, ഇടുക്കി

ESSAREN BUILDING, AANAPOODU JN, THODUPUZHA, IDUKKI - 685 584

എസ്സാരൻ ബിൽഡിംഗ്, ആനപ്പുഴ് ജംഗ്ഷൻ, തൊടുപുഴ, ഇടുക്കി - 685 584



PCB/IDK/GEN/NGT/08/2013

Date : 21.02.2024

From

The Environmental Engineer



To

The Thahasildar
Udumbanchola Thaluk,
Mini civil station
Nedumkandam
685553

Sub :- Complaint of illegal quarrying of Chathurangapara, Udumbanchola Taluk, Idukki District

- Ref :-
1. OA No.159/2024 of Hon'ble National Green Tribunal on Sue Motu basis Principal bench, New Delhi
 2. Inspection conducted by the Board officials on 20/02/2024

Sir,

Please see the references cited above. During inspection conducted by Board officials on 20/02/2024, it was noticed that Granite quarrying was done in an area near Thookupalam-Ramakkal Medu Road at a distance of around 150m from the above mentioned road. Board is the first respondent in the original petition as per reference(1). Hence I request you to share the documents related to the issue urgently for the purpose of filing report before the Hon'ble NGT.

Yours faithfully,



Environmental Engineer.

True copy



EBY VARGHESE
ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER

Annexure R1(b)

Phone : 04862 221590

Website: www.kspcb.kerala.gov.in

E-mail: kspcbidukki221590@gmail.com/kspcbidukki@yahoo.com

KERALA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

കേരള സംസ്ഥാന മലിനീകരണ നിയന്ത്രണ ബോർഡ്

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PCB/IDK/GEN/NGT/08/2013

Date : 21.02.2024

From
The Environmental Engineer



To
The Geologist
Department of Mining and Geology,
Civil Station,
Thodupuzha
Idukki

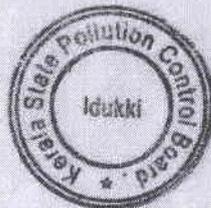
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[Signature]
Environmental Engineer.

True copy



[Signature]
EBY VARGHESE
ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER