

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL, PRINCIPAL BENCH,
AT NEW DELHI

ORIGINAL APPLICATION No. 726/2024

IN THE MATTER OF:-

NDOA-3/3/2025

NEWS ITEM TITLED "NEARLY 6 MILLIANS TREES DISAPPEARED FROM FARMLANDS : STUDY" APPEARING IN THE HINDU DATED 18.05.2024

.....**APPLICANT**

VERSUS

PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FOREST
MAHARASHTRA & ORS.

.....**RESPONDENT S**

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S.No.	Particulars	Pages
1.	Reply Affidavit filed, on behalf of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Respondent no.4.	

NEW DELHI

FILED BY

Wd 01/03/2025
RAVINDER KUMAR GUPTA
ADVOCATE
D-314/1986

DATED

01/03/2025

COUNSEL FOR RESPONDENT NO.4
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST
AND CLIMATE CHANGE.
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BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI

Original Application No. 726/2024

IN THE MATTER OF:

News Item titled "*Nearly 6 million trees disappeared from farmlands: study*" appearing in The Hindu dated 18.05.2024

**AFFIDAVIT ON BEHALF OF THE MINISTRY OF
ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(RESPONDENT No. 4)**

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:

1. I, Jitesh Kumar, S/o Late Shri Hari Narayan Prasad, aged about 43 years working as the Assistant Commissioner (Forestry) in Survey & Utilisation Division of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (hereinafter referred to as MoEFCC) at New Delhi do hereby solemnly affirm and say on oath that, I am competent and authorized to swear this affidavit for and on behalf of the Respondent No.-4.

2. That, I have read and understood the contents of the present Affidavit, the contents thereof are true, and no part of it is false, and nothing material has been concealed therefrom.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Jk", with a horizontal line underneath.

3. That the matter pertains to the news item published in the Hindu on 18.05.2024 titled "Nearly 6 million trees disappeared from farmlands". As per contents of the news item, the states of Telangana, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, particularly the area around Indore experienced massive loss of trees and disappearance of mature farmlands.

4. It is submitted that Respondent No. 4, is the nodal agency of the Central Government for the planning, promotion, co-ordination and overseeing the implementation of India's environment and forest polices. The primary concern of the Ministry is the implementation of policies and guidelines relating to the conservation and protection of the country's forests, biodiversity, natural resources and environment.

5. That the Forest Survey of India (hereinafter referred as FSI), Dehradun, an organization under the Ministry, carries out the assessment of forest resources including the forest and tree cover of the country biennially and the findings are published in the India State of Forest Report (hereinafter referred as ISFR). FSI carries out wall-to-wall forest cover mapping of the country using remote sensing satellite data. FSI also undertakes sampling base national forest inventory to asses information tree cover, growing stock in



forest and tree outside forest, bamboo resource, carbon stock along with several other parameters.

6. The information on area under agro-forestry, important species prevalent in agro-forestry, and their volume was first attempted by Forest Survey of India and the results of this exercise were presented in ISFR 2013. The findings in ISFR 2013 were based on 21,543 rural tree outside forest plots of block and scattered stratum (having private ownership) inventory in 179 districts across the country during 2006-2012. As per ISFR 2013, the total number of trees in agro-forestry systems were estimated at 373.14 crores.

7. The FSI has again published the trees in agro-forestry systems in India after a decade in ISFR 2023. The estimates area based on 42,972 sample plots rural tree outside forests inventoried during 2016 to 2022. As per the methodology, satellite data of Sentinel-2 having a spacial resolution 10 m has been used for stratification of trees outside forest plots. As per ISFR 2023, the total number of trees in agro-forestry systems is estimated at 828.9 crores. This indicates a net increase of 455.76 crores trees between ISFR 2013 and ISFR 2023. Therefore, based on the information provided in ISFR 2013 and ISFR 2023, there is net increase in number of trees during the period.



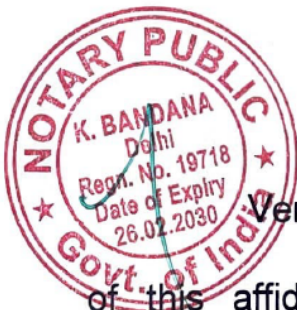
8. The management of forests by the States/UTs is done as per working plans approved by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

9. That the management of the trees in agro-forestry system on farm land is subject to the regulations of the local Act/Rules/Guidelines issued by concerned State Government/Territory Administration.

10. That in view of the aforementioned facts and circumstances, this Hon'ble Tribunal may kindly be pleased to pass appropriate order(s).


DEPONENT

(जितेश कुमार/JITESH KUMAR)
सहायक आयुक्त (बानिकी)
Assistant Commissioner(Forestry)
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
M/o Environment, Forest and Climate Change
भारत सरकार, नई दिल्ली
Govt. of India, New Delhi




IDENTIFIED

VERIFICATION

28 FEB 2025

Verified at _____ on this day _____ of 2025 that the contents of this affidavit based on official record(s) maintained and information available in the office are true and correct, no part of it is false and nothing has been concealed there from.

28 FEB 2025

ATTESTED
NOTARY PUBLIC DELHI
Govt. of India
Mob.: 9654768498


DEPONENT

(जितेश कुमार/JITESH KUMAR)
सहायक आयुक्त (बानिकी)
Assistant Commissioner(Forestry)
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
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