

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL, PRINCIPAL BENCH

NEW DELHI

Subject: Notice of hearing in Suo Moto matter in

Re: News item appearing in Babushahi dated 07.02.2024 entitled "Gurdaspur Video of illegal sand mining goes viral probe on". Email of Hon'ble Green Tribunal dated 02.03.2024

Reply in Shape of Affidavit of Sh. Vishesh Sarangal, Deputy Commissioner, Gurdaspur.

I, the above named deponent, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as under:-

Respectfully Showeth ;

1. That, to examine the matter, reports from concerned XEN, Gurdaspur Canal and Groundwater Division WRD, Punjab, Gurdaspur, Sr. Superintendent of Police, Gurdaspur and Sub Divisional Magistrate, Dinanagar, Distt Gurdaspur were taken.
2. That, in reply to above cited subject, XEN, Gurdaspur Canal and Groundwater Division WRD, Punjab, Gurdaspur submitted report after visiting the said place vide letter no. 2621/900-E dated 23.04.2024 that "It has been observed that no mining has taken place at this place. An inspection was also conducted by the Executive Engineer Pollution Control Board and an inspection was also conducted by the district SHO Purana Shala in which they also said that the department was strengthening the canal bank by depositing silt/sand at the site. Here you are told that MANREGA labor consists mostly of women and considering the urgency of the work, JCB machine was installed by the department to finish the work quickly. The news that has gone viral on Babusahi channel is completely false and beyond the facts. So you are again requested to file this complaint in the complaint office."
3. That, a report from SSP Gurdaspur also has been taken in which he said vide his office letter no. 13188/ACC Dated 19.03.2024 that "as per the report of SP/Investigation, Gurdaspur and it is observed that on a video going viral related to the illegal mining at Upper Bari Doab Canal located at Vill. Dhariwal Khichian, then posted SI Karishma, SHO PS Purana Shalla moved to the spot of occurance and took JCB Machine in Police Custody and also recorded same on the spot. Thereafter Sh. Sajan Sharma, SDO, UBDC, Gurdaspur initimated vide letter No. 4/SPL dated 06.02.2024 that on the basis of complaints received from local residents for the repair of canal track of Upper Bari Doab Canal passing through Vill. Dhariwal Khichian to avoid any unpleasant occurances, the repair work was under going on 06.02.2024 at 2.00 PM. Some miscreats has misinformed that the illegal mining was under going but infact there was the work for repair of tracks

was under going and there was no occurrence of illegal mining. After finding the information regarding illegal mining being false, SHO PS Purana Shalla recorded DDR No. 24 dated 07.02.2024 and released the JCB Machine to Baljit Singh s/o Sukhdev Singh r/o Ghot Pokhar."

4. That, A report from Sub Divisional Magistrate Dinanagar, Distt Gurdaspur also has been taken in which he said vide his office letter no. 465 dated 22.04.2024 after visiting the said place village Gazikot that "SDO and JE of the department UBDC Tibri was summoned on the spot. On the right side of UBDC canal Near Village Dhariwal Khichian, during the floods of last year 2023, a huge gap (loop) was formed on the road along the canal, which could prove to be a danger to the surrounding villages during the coming rains. Under the MANREGA scheme, the bank of the canal was being paved by filling sandbags from the dry canal and installing reversion. Because the loop was much bigger and it was taking a lot of time and effort to fill the sandbags from the canal bed via human labor, they tried to fill the loop by the help of JCB machine, which was only a scheduled work to pave the bank of the canal and save the road from collapsing. During this time, a photo of the sand being filled by JCB machine was taken by a journalist and put on Facebook and other channels under the name of illegal mining and went viral. According to SDO UBDC Tibri, the edge of the road is in an alarming condition near village Dhariwal Khichian. Its work is incomplete because after the complaint, the police had captured the JCB machine, the work of paving the road through MANREGA labor was left incomplete which could prove dangerous for the villages during monsoons. According to the situation of the spot, there is no such sign from which it can be assumed that illegal mining has been done here, but the work of paving the road at the spot is incomplete due to the this false news."

After considering the above facts, it's clear that the aforementioned news item dated 07.02.2024 as reported by Babushahi doesn't represent the actual facts. Therefore, it is humbly requested that the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal doesn't consider this news article at all. Any instructions issued by Hon'ble Tribunal will be duly complied with.

Place:- Gurdaspur

Dated

VERIFICATION:-

Verified that the contents of the para of the reply are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief as derived from the official record. Nothing has been concealed therein.

Place:- Gurdaspur

Dated

Deponent

Deponent

To,

The Deputy Commissioner,
Gurdaspur.

Sub:- Notice of hearing on SUO Motu matter in re. News item appearing in babushahi dated- 07-02-2024 entitled "Gurdaspur video if illegal sand Mining goes viral, probe on."

Ref:- Your Office Letter No-2301/F.R.C Dated- 16-04-2024

Regarding the above subject and reference, you are requested whether the complaint has been examined by the undersigned at the relevant venue. In which it has been observed that no mining has taken place at this place. An inspection was also conducted by the Executive Engineer Pollution Control Board and an inspection was also conducted by the district SHO Purana Shala in which they also said that the department was strengthening the canal bank by depositing silt/sand at the site. Here you are told that MNREGA labor consists mostly of women and considering the urgency of the work, JCB machine was installed by the department to finish the work quickly. The news that has gone viral on Babusahi channel is completely false and beyond the facts. So you are again requested to file this complaint in the complaint office.

Executive Engineer/Gurdaspur,
Canal and Ground Water Division,
WRD, Punjab.

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08/05/2024

From

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The Sr. Superintendent of Police,
Gurdaspur.

To,

The Deputy Commissioner,
Gurdaspur.

No. 13188/ACC Dated 19-03-2024

Subject:

Notice of hearing in Suo Motu matter in re: News item appearing in Babushahi dated 07.02.2024 entitled "Gurdaspur Video of illegal sand mining goes viral, probe on".

Memo

Kindly refer to your office letter No. 1737/FRC dated 18.03.2024, on the subject cited above.

In this regard, it is submitted that as per the report of SP/Investigation, Gurdaspur and it is observed that on a video going viral related to the illegal mining at Upper Bari Doab Canal located at Vill. Dhariwal Khichian, then posted SI Karishma, SHO PS Purana Shalla moved to the spot of occurrence and took JCB Machine in Police Custody and also recorded same on the spot. Thereafter Sh. Sajan Sharma, SDO, UBDC, Gurdaspur intimated vide letter No. 4/SPL dated 06.02.2024 that on the basis of complaints received from local residents for the repair of canal track of Upper Bari Doab Canal passing through Vill. Dhariwal Khichian to avoid any unpleasant occurrences, the repair work was under going on 06.02.2024 at 2.00 PM. Some miscreants has misinformed that the illegal mining was under going but infact there was the work for repair of tracks was under going and there was no occurrence of illegal mining.

On finding the information regarding illegal mining being false. SHO PS Purana Shalla recorded DDR No. 24 dated 07.02.2024 and released the JCB Machine to Baljit Singh s/o Sukhdev Singh r/o Ghot Pokhar.

Report submitted please.

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Sr. Superintendent of Police,
Gurdaspur.

Office of Sub Divisional Magistrate Dinanagar District Gurdaspur.

From:

Sub Divisional Magistrate,

Dinanagar.

To,

Deputy Commissioner

Gurdaspur.

Number. 465 Dated 22.04.24

Subject: Sumo moto notice hearing in NGT regarding illegal mining UBDC canal Ghazipur news published in babusai.com.

Sir,

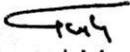
In reference to your letter number 2300 dated 16 April 2024 undersigned visited the spot at village Gazipur where SDO and JE of UBDC Tibri have been summoned. As per the spot there became a big loop on bank of UBDC canal towards village Dhariwal Khichian during the flood season of year 2023 which might be a big danger for surrounded villages in the coming rainy season.

Due to this the UBDC authorities started the work to fill this loop under MGANREGA scheme to fill the bags with sand from dried canal to create revertment and to strengthen the bank of canal. As the size of loop was very big and it was very difficult to fill bags with manual labour, the canal authorities had engaged a JCB machine to fill the bags for strengthening bank of canal where one press reporter has clicked the photos of JCB machine in the canal bed and published to viral under the subject of illegal mining.

As per report of SDO UBDC the bank of the canal at present is in very dangerous condition and work has been left incomplete because JCB machine was confiscated by the police. Abandoned and incomplete work can be become a big problem for surrounded villages in coming rainy season.

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07/05/2024

There is no sign on the spot to assess the illegal mining but incomplete reversion work proved that the news was wrong. Reporter is submitted.



Sub Divisional Magistrate,

Dinanagar.





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