

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
(PRINCIPAL BENCH)
OA 52/2024**

IN THE MATTER OF:

Navjot Singh Sidhu & Ors.

...Applicants

Versus

State of Punjab & Ors.

...Respondents

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Through Counsel



Divyam Nandrajog
Advocate for Respondent No.1
103/1, Hans Bhawan,
1 Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg,
New Delhi- 110002
+91 9711350679
divyamnandrajogadv@gmail.com

Place: New Delhi
Date: 04.09.2024

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

(Court No.1)

Original Application No. 52 of 2024

In the matter of

Navjot Singh Sidhu & Ors

..... Applicant(s)

V/s

State of Punjab & Ors

..... Respondent(s)

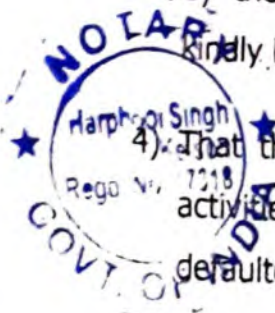
Reply by way of Affidavit of Rahul Tewari, Secretary to Government of Punjab, Department of Science, Technology and Environment on behalf of Chief Secretary to Government of Punjab (Respondent No. 1) in compliance to order dated 21.05.2024.

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



RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH

- 1) That briefly submitted, the applicant raised grievance related to illegal sand mining in District Rupnagar. The applicant has taken the plea that the District Survey Report (DSR) for Rupnagar published in 2023 under the Sustainable Sand Mining Management Guidelines-2016 (SSMMG) and Enforcement & Monitoring Guidelines for Sand Mining (EMGSM-2020) failed to incorporate the basic measures to be undertaken to stop illegal mining.
- 2) That the deponent is presently working as Secretary to Government of Punjab, Department of Science, Technology and Environment and as such is conversant with the facts and circumstances of the case and is authorized by the Chief Secretary to Government of Punjab (Respondent No. 1) to file the present affidavit on his behalf.
- 3) That the detailed reply of the allegations raised by the applicant in its Original Application regarding measures taken to stop illegal sand mining in Rupnagar, Punjab, preparing revised District Survey Report for Rupnagar under Sustainable Sand Mining Management Guidelines-2016 (SSMMG) and Enforcement & Monitoring Guidelines for Sand Mining (EMGSM-2020), recovery of compensation from contractors and stone crushers involved in illegal sand mining etc., have been given in the preliminary submissions as well as in the foregoing paras of the reply filed by Respondent No. 2 (Department of Mines & Geology), Respondent No. 3(Chairman, Punjab Pollution Control Board), Respondent No. 4(District Magistrate, Rupnagar) and Respondent no. 5 (District Mining Officer, Rupnagar). The reply filed by the Department of Mines and Geology and other stakeholders may kindly be read as reply on behalf of the State of Punjab.
- 4) That the State is taking all the necessary steps to check illegal mining activities in District Rupnagar and is taking stringent action against the defaulters found indulged in the illegal mining in District Rupnagar.



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- 5) That the State has followed the Sand Mining Management Guidelines-2016 (SSMMG) and Enforcement & Monitoring Guidelines for Sand Mining (EMGSM-2020) issued by MoEF&CC for preparing the District Survey Report(DSR) of District Rupnagar



Deponent

(Rahul Tewari)

Secretary to Government of Punjab
Department of Science Technology
and Environment, Chandigarh

(On behalf of Chief Secretary, Punjab)

Date: 04.09.2024

Place: Chandigarh

Rahul Tewari, IAS
Secretary to Govt. of Punjab
Deptt. of Science, Technology & Environment
Chandigarh

Verification

Verified that the contents of para no. 1 to 5 of the above affidavit are true and correct to my knowledge as derived from the official record. No part of the above affidavit is false and nothing material has been kept concealed therein.



Deponent

(Rahul Tewari)

Secretary to Government of Punjab
Department of Science Technology
and Environment
Chandigarh

(On behalf of Chief Secretary, Punjab)

Date: 04.09.2024

Place: Chandigarh

Rahul Tewari, IAS
Secretary to Govt. of Punjab
Deptt. of Science, Technology & Environment
Chandigarh



ATTESTED



Es. Chandigarh

04 SEP 2024