BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL,

WESTERN ZONE BENCH PUNE AT PUNE .

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 108 OF 2025 (WZ)

DNYANESHWAR MARGAJE ... APPLICANT

V/s

M/s MUKTA STONE CRUSHER
AND OTHERS ... RESPONDENTS

INDEX

SR NO	ANNEXURE	PARTICULARS	PAGE NOS.	
1.		Index	167	168
2.		Reply	169	177
3.		Affidavit in Support	-	178
4.	**R-1**	Copy of the Judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Uday Welfare Trust	179	199
5.	**R-2**	Copy of the Consent to Operate dated 24th January 2003	200	205
6.	**R-3**	Copy of the renewal of consent dated 5th February 2025	206	215
7.	**R-4**	Copy of the Photographs of the measures taken by the Respondent No.1	216	233
8.	**R-5**	Copy of the Google Image of the distance between the Respondent No.1 and National Highway 'NH-965DD'	-	224

9.	**R-6**	Copy of the letter dated 17th January 2025	-	225
10.	**R-7**	Copy of the letter dated 14th February 2025 and receipt	226	227
		Last Page		**227**

PUNE

DATE : 4/02/2026

ADVOCATE FOR THE RESPONDENT NO.1

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

WESTERN ZONE BENCH,PUNE

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 108 OF 2025

DNYANESHWAR MARGAJE

… APPLICANT

VERSUS

M/S MUKTA STONE CRUSHER & ORS

… RESPONDENTS

REPLY ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT NO.1

MAY IT PLEASE THE HON'BLE TRIBUNAL

1. At the outset, the Respondent No.1 in the present proceedings denies everything that is contrary to what is stated herein and/or inconsistent herewith as if the same is set out in extenso and specifically traversed. The Respondent No.1 submits that, nothing not expressly admitted herein ought to be taken as admitted by the Respondent No.1 or be deemed to have been admitted by the Respondent No.1 for want of specific traverse. The Respondent No.1 states that for the purpose of brevity, the Respondent No.1 has not denied each and every allegation, statement and contention of the Applicant which is ex- facia contrary the contention of Respondent No.1 and its stand in the present case except to the extent that such allegation, statement or contention necessitate,

cogent, warrant or reply. The Respondent No.1 also further reserves it's right to file any additional reply if at all any affidavit filed by the Applicant or any other Respondent.

2. It is alleged in the Original Application that there is a continuous non compliances by the Respondent No.1 and hence environmental damage compensation and closure of the unit of the Respondent No.1 is sought by the Applicant. It is submitted that the Original Application filed by the Applicant is baseless, misconceived, and liable to be dismissed on the following grounds, which are without prejudice to one another and the fact that the present application is not maintainable under the provisions of the NGT Act, 2010. The Applicant has failed to substantiate the substantial question relating to the environment under the provisions of Section 2 (m) of the NGT Act, 2010.

3. The present Reply is being filed on behalf of this Respondent to the Original Application filed by the Applicant. The Respondent No.1 reserves it's right to file an additional reply at a later stage if required.

PRELIMINARY OBJECTIONS

4. The Respondent No.1 submits that the present Original Application has been filed by the Applicant without any proof substantiating his claim. The Applicant in the entire Original Application has failed to make out a case that how he is aggrieved by the operation of the Respondent No.1 only.

5. The Respondent No.1 further submits that the Applicant in para 12 has made an averment that there are 5 to 6 stone crusher units situated near the village of Kanhawadi. The Applicant has failed to show how is he aggrieved by the operations of the Respondent No.1 only. The other units have not been made a party to the present Original Application. Thus, the present application is liable to be dismissed for non-joinder of parties. **(Ref Paras 7, 8 of OA, Pg No.8, Para 12 of OA, Pg No.11).**

6. The Respondent No.1 submits that the location of the farm of the Applicant is 0.9 Kms away from the location of the Respondent No.1. It is further submitted by the Respondent No.1 that the Applicant is residing at the Pune City, which is 60 Kms away from the location of the Respondent No.1.

7. The Respondent No.1 submits that the Applicant has failed to substantiate his claim regarding his grievance pertaining to the operations of the Respondent No.1; as the Applicant does not reside or does any occupation near the vicinity of the Respondent No.1 and thus, the issue of locus of Applicant is to be decided by this Hon'ble Tribunal.

8. The Hon'ble Supreme Court in the Judgement of *' State of U.P. Vs Uday Welfare Trust'* has clearly held that, this Hon'ble Tribunal has to consider the bonafide of the litigant approaching the Hon'ble Tribunal as the question of operation of Industry and employment of numerous employees is depending on the order of this Hon'ble Tribunal. Copy of the Judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the Judgement of *'State of U.P. Vs Uday Welfare Trust'* is annexed herewith and marked as **ANNEXURE-R-1**.

FACTS OF THE PRESENT CASE

9. The Respondent No.1 is a proprietorship firm having its address at Gat No.500, Kanhawadi, Tal. Khandala, District- Satara, Maharashtra 412 802.

10. The Respondent No.1 is running and operating a unit of Stone Crusher in the name of M/s Mukta Stone Crusher and Crush Sand since 24th

January 2003. The Respondent No.1 had received the Consent to Operate for the first time on 24th January 2003 from the Respondent No.3. Copy of the Consent to Operate dated 24th January 2003 is annexed hereto and marked as **ANNEXURE – R-2.**

11. The Respondent No.1 has received renewal of its consent from the Respondent No.3 dated 5th February 2025 which is valid for the period upto 31st December 2028. Copy of the renewal of consent dated 5th February 2025 is annexed and marked as **ANNEXURE-R-3**.

PARA-WISE REPLY

12. The Respondent No.1 submits that averments made in Para 1 to Para 8 are matter of record and does not warrant reply of the Respondent No.1.

13. The Respondent No.1 submits that averments made in Para 9 are denied by the Respondent No.1. The Respondent No.1 has provided adequate measures to curb the dust pollution. Copy of the Photographs of the measures taken by the Respondent No.1 are annexed and marked as **ANNEXURE-R-4**.

14. The Respondent No.1 submits that averments made in Para 10 is denied by the Respondent No.1. As per Circular of the Respondent No.3 dated 4.03.2020; ‘Following siting criteria shall be considered

for newly establishing of Stone Crusher Unit. -1. Minimum distance shall require from the nearest National Highway: 1.0 Km.' (**refer page 83 to 86 of Original Application.**)

15. The Respondent No.1 further submits that the Respondent No.1 is in existence since year 2002 and the National Highway 'NH-965DD' was built in the year 2025; that is after the Respondent No.1. It is further submitted by the Respondent No.1 that even after the construction of the said National Highway; the location of the Respondent No.1 is at 2.8 Kms away from the National Highway. Copy of the Google Image of the distance between the Respondent No.1 and National Highway 'NH-965DD' is annexed and marked as **ANNEXURE-R-5**.

16. The Respondent No.1 submits that averments made in Para 11 is denied by the Respondent No.1. The Respondent No.1 is conducting its operations as per the terms and conditions of the Schedule I and II of the consent. The Respondent No.1 holds a valid consent which was renewed by the Respondent No.3 on 5.02.2025 and the said consent is valid till 31.12.2028.

17. The Respondent No.1 submits that averments made in Para 12 is matter of record and does not warrant reply of the Respondent No.1.

18. The Respondent No.1 submits that averment made in Para 13 are denied for want of knowledge.

19. The Respondent No.1 submits that averments made in Para 14 to Para 16 are matter of record and does not warrant reply of the Respondent No.1.

20. The Respondent No.1 further submits that the Respondent No.1 replied through a letter dated 17th January 2025 to the proposed directions issued by the Respondent No.3 dated 9th January 2025. In the said letter the Respondent No.1 have stated following :-

    I. Provided wind breaking wall with tin sheet metal wall along with the periphery of the crusher unit.

    II. Provided fogger system/water sprinkler arrangement at entry and exist point of the crusher unit.

    III. Provided tar road to movement of vehicles with the stone crusher area/premises.

    IV. Respondent No.1 is taking all necessary precaution to fugitive dust emissions i.e. fogger system/water sprinkler arrangement and we had installed noise pollution free stone crusher unit.

Copy of the letter dated 17th January 2025 is annexed and marked as **ANNEXURE-R-6**.

21. The Respondent No.1 submits that averments made in Para 20 is denied by the Respondent No.1. The Respondent No.1 further submits that the Respondent No.1 submitted bank guarantee of Rs. 25,000/- on 14th February 2025. Copy of the letter dated 14th February 2025 and receipt is annexed and marked as **ANNEXURE-R-7.**

22. The Respondent No.1 submits that averments made in Para 20 is denied by the Respondent No.1.

23. The Respondent No.1 submits that averments made in Para 21 to Para 22 are denied by the Respondent No.1. The Respondent No.1 further submits that the Respondent No.1 was granted Consent to Operate and it was renewed from time to time by the Respondent No.3. The Respondent No.1 is conducting its operations of the RMC Plant according to the terms and conditions of the consent.

24. The Respondent No.1 further submits that the Applicant in the entire Original Application has failed to demonstrate his case. The Applicant has not annexed any documentary evidence or photographs which evince that any environmental damage was caused due to the Respondent No.1. The Applicant has only relied upon the complaints filed by the Gram Panchayat and Directions issued by the Respondent No.3; but has turned his blind eye towards replies filed by the Respondent No.1 to the directions issued by the Respondent No.3.

25. The Respondent No.1 submits that averment made in Para 22 to Para 24 are denied for want of knowledge.

26. It is most respectfully submitted that in view of the submissions made hereinabove, the Applicant is not entitled for any relief from this Hon'ble Tribunal. It is prayed that this Hon'ble Tribunal may kindly be pleased to dismiss this present application with heavy costs as the same is an abuse of the process of law. The present Application is not maintainable in eyes of law. It is therefore, submitted that, nothing survives in the present OA, and the present Applicant needs to be dismissed. The Respondent No.1 reserves it's right to file a detailed reply if necessitated.

PUNE

DATE: 4/02/2026

ADVOCATE FOR RESPONDENT NO.1

178

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL,

WESTERN ZONE BENCH, PUNE AT PUNE

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 108 OF 2025 (WZ)

DNYANESHWAR MARGAJE

...APPLICANT

Versus

M/S MUKTA STONE CRUSHER AND ORS

--- RESPONDENTS

AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF REPLY

MAY IT PLEASE THE HON'BLE TRIBUNAL

I, Dnyaneshwar Margaje, Age- adult, Occu.: business, having its address at Gat No. 500, At Post: Kanhawadi, Taluka- Khandala, District- Satara, Maharashtra, Pin Code- 412206, herein above, do hereby state on solemn affirmation as under: -

1. The Respondent No.01 is filing the reply to the Original Application. I say that the contents of the said reply may kindly be treated as part and parcel of this Affidavit.
2. I say that whatever stated in the Reply and the present Affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief and the legal advice, which I believe to be true.

NOTARY GOVERNMENT OF INDIA SUVARNA SANTOSH BADAK BHOR, DIST. PUNE REG.NO. 19458/2020 EXP. DT. 2/2/2030

Solemnly affirmed at 4th on Feb day of February 2026.

Mukta Stone Crusher
Proprietor

NOTED AND REGISTERED
SERIAL NUMBER 61/2026
4/2/2026

Deponent

NOTARIAL NOTARIAL NOTARIAL NOTARIAL NOTARIAL

BEFORE ME

SUVARNA SANTOSH BADAK
NOTARY GOVT OF INDIA
PUNE

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ANNEXURE-R-1

2022 SCC OnLine SC 1469

In the Supreme Court of India
(BEFORE B.R. GAVAI AND B.V. NAGARATHNA, JJ.)

Civil Appeal Nos. 2407-2412 of 2021
State of Uttar Pradesh and Others ... Appellant(s);
Versus
Uday Education and Welfare Trust and Others ... Respondent(s).
With
Civil Appeal Nos. 3144-3146 of 2022
Civil Appeal Nos. 3132-3134 of 2022
Civil Appeal Nos. 3135-3137 of 2022
Civil Appeal No. 3138 of 2022
Civil Appeal Nos. 4061-4062 of 2022
Civil Appeal No. 3141 of 2022
Civil Appeal Nos. 2547-2548 of 2020
Civil Appeal Nos. 3142-3143 of 2022
Civil Appeal Nos. 3147-3149 of 2022
Civil Appeal Nos. 2407-2412 of 2021, Civil Appeal Nos. 3144-3146 of 2022, Civil Appeal Nos. 3132-3134 of 2022, Civil Appeal Nos. 3135-3137 of 2022, Civil Appeal No. 3138 of 2022, Civil Appeal Nos. 4061-4062 of 2022, Civil Appeal No. 3141 of 2022, Civil Appeal Nos. 2547-2548 of 2020, Civil Appeal Nos. 3142-3143 of 2022 and Civil Appeal Nos. 3147-3149 of 2022
Decided on October 21, 2022

The Judgment of the Court was delivered by

B.R. GAVAI, J.:— A For the reasons stated in the applications for impleadment/intervention, the same are allowed.

2. This bunch of appeals challenges the order dated 18th February 2020, passed by the learned National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi (hereinafter referred to as "the learned NGT") in Original Application Nos. 313, 335 and 396 of 2019, thereby quashing and setting aside the notice dated 1st March 2019 issued by the State of Uttar Pradesh for establishing new wood based industries (hereinafter referred to as "WBIs") and also setting aside all the provisional licenses given in pursuance thereof.

3. The appeals also challenge the orders dated 18th March 2020, 2nd December 2020, and 21st December 2020 vide which the review applications filed by the State of Uttar Pradesh and the provisional license holders have been rejected.

4. Civil Appeal Nos. 2407-2412 of 2021 are filed by the State of Uttar Pradesh. The rest of the Civil Appeals are filed by the provisional license holders, who were granted licenses in pursuance of the notice dated 1st March 2019, issued by the State of Uttar Pradesh.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

5. For the sake of convenience, we will refer to the facts as found in Civil Appeal Nos. 2407-2412 of 2021 filed by the State of Uttar Pradesh.

6. There are series of orders passed by this Court and the Central Empowered Committee (hereinafter referred to as "CEC") appointed by this Court, issuing various directions for prohibiting/regulating the felling of trees as well as the establishment of

WBIs. We will refer to them extensively in the subsequent paragraphs.

7. In pursuance of the order passed by this Court dated 5th October 2015 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 202 of 1995 (*T.N. Godavarman Thirumalpad* v. *Union of India*), the Ministry of Environment and Forest and Climate Change ("MOEFCC" for short) issued Wood Based Industries (Establishment and Regulation) Guidelines 2016 (hereinafter referred to as "2016 Guidelines") vide Notification No. S.O. 3456 (E) dated 11th November 2016.

8. Subsequent to the 2016 Guidelines, timber assessment for Trees Outside Forest ("TOF" for short) in the State of Uttar Pradesh for WBIs was done for the period between February 2017 and December 2017 by the Forest Survey of India ("FSI" for short). The FSI thereafter submitted its report, which contains district wise, species wise and diameter class wise number of stems (trees), volume and annual potential production of timber from TOF in rural areas of all the districts of the State.

9. In pursuance of the 2016 Guidelines, the matter was placed before the State Level Committee ("SLC" for short) for grant of licenses to various WBIs. The SLC in its meeting held on 4th May 2018, considered the matter about the grant of licenses to various WBIs after taking into consideration the availability of wood in the State of Uttar Pradesh for determining the amount of timber available for new WBIs. In the said meeting, it was also decided that, in order to determine the correct number of new licenses to be issued to WBIs under different categories against the timber available in the State, a reassessment may be done by the Indian Plywood Industries Research and Training Institute ("IPIRTI" for short).

10. In the meeting of the SLC, held on 7th September 2018, since it was found that the capacity of plywood units is taken as fixed by the 2016 Guidelines, which, in turn, was based on the assessment of IPIRTI, a decision was taken that there was no need for the fresh assessment of the capacity by IPIRTI.

11. In pursuance of the aforesaid decision, E-lottery was held on 12th December 2018 for grant of licenses to various WBIs for the establishment of WBIs in 8 categories. Between 12th December 2018 and 31st December 2018, online letters of offer were issued to 1348 successful applicants. Subsequently, in the months of February and March 2019, provisional licenses were issued to 1215 successful applicants in the 8 categories to set up their WBIs. Subsequent thereto, on 1st March 2019, a notice was issued by the Government of Uttar Pradesh communicating the grant of provisional licenses to the newly selected WBIs.

12. Being aggrieved thereby, Original Application No. 313 of 2019 came to be filed by Uday Education and Welfare Trust before the learned NGT in March 2019. Vide order dated 28th March 2019, the learned NGT directed the State Government to submit a report from the Joint Committee comprising of the representative of Principal Secretary (Forest), U.P. and the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, U.P. to examine the issues.

13. Being aggrieved by the notice dated 1st March 2019 issued by the State Government, Original Application Nos. 335 and 396 of 2019 also came to be filed by Samvit Foundation and U.P. Timber Association respectively before the learned NGT.

14. In pursuance of the directions issued by the learned NGT, the Joint Committee Report came to be submitted on 3rd August 2019. Vide order dated 6th August 2019 passed in Original Application nos. 313, 335 and 396 of 2019, the learned NGT directed the State Government to review the notice dated 1st March 2019 with regard to the establishment of new WBIs by 1350 units strictly in terms of the judgment of this Court in the case of *T.N. Godavarman* v. *Union of India*. Vide order dated 1st October 2019, the learned NGT directed the status quo to be maintained.

15. The State of Uttar Pradesh filed an Interlocutory Application No. 732 of 2019 in O.A. Nos. 313, 335 and 396 of 2019, seeking modification of the order dated 6th

August 2019 and the order dated 1st October 2019. Vide order dated 18th December 2019, the learned NGT issued directions to the State Government to provide certain data. Subsequently, vide the impugned order dated 18th February 2020, the learned NGT allowed the said Original Applications and quashed and set aside the notice dated 1st March 2019 issued by the State Government for establishing new WBIs and all the provisional licenses given.

16. Being aggrieved thereby, Civil Appeal (Diary) No. 12004 of 2020 was filed before this Court. Vide order dated 26th October 2020, this Court dismissed the said appeals as withdrawn with a liberty to file review application before the learned NGT. Vide orders dated 18th March 2020, 2nd December 2020, and 21st December 2020, the learned NGT rejected the Review Applications.

17. The appellants, therefore, approached this Court being aggrieved by the orders passed by the learned NGT in the Original Applications as well as in the Review Petitions.

SUBMISSIONS

18. We have heard Shri Vikas Singh, Shri P.S. Patwalia and Mr. Rana Mukherjee, learned Senior Counsel appearing on behalf of the State of Uttar Pradesh, Shri V. Giri, Shri Syed Waseem Qadri, Shri V.K. Uniyal, Shri Vinay Navare, Shri V.K. Shukla, learned Senior Counsels, Ms. Prerna Singh, and Mr. Rudraksh Gupta, learned counsels appearing on behalf of the appellants, who were granted provisional licenses. We have also heard Shri Dhruv Mehta and Shri Brijender Chahar, learned Senior Counsels appearing on behalf of the respondent No. 1.

19. Shri Vikas Singh, learned Senior Counsel, submitted that the decision of the State Government to establish WBIs is in accordance with the 2016 Guidelines issued by the MOEFCC. He submits that the timber requirement by 1215 new WBIs, which were issued provisional licenses is only 12.35 lakh cubic meters per year, whereas the total timber available in the State is 80.30 lakh cubic meters per year. It is, therefore, submitted that, as such, the requirement is not even 20% of the total availability of timber. Learned Senior Counsel submitted that the only authorized agency in the country to conduct a survey of the forest as well as TOF is FSI. It is submitted that the object of IPIRTI is not to conduct a survey of either forest or TOF. It is submitted that, as a matter of fact, the learned NGT itself has directed such a study to be conducted by FSI, who has already undertaken similar studies for many States like Punjab, Maharashtra and others. It is submitted that when the survey with regard to availability of timber in the State of Uttar Pradesh was done by the very same agency, the learned NGT fell in gross error in again directing the State Government to conduct such a survey through the FSI.

20. It is submitted that even the MOEFCC had supported the stand taken by the State of Uttar Pradesh and, therefore, the learned NGT ought not to have interfered with the decision of the State Government.

21. Shri P.S. Patwalia, learned Senior Counsel also submitted that the decision of the State Government was in tune with the decision of this Court dated 18th May 2007 and 5th October 2015 passed in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 202 of 1995 (*T.N. Godavarman Thirumulpad* v. *Union of India*). It is submitted that when an expert body like the FSI had done an elaborate study, there was no reason for the learned NGT to have sat in appeal over the same. He further submits that though a detailed affidavit has been filed on behalf of the State of Uttar Pradesh in compliance with the order of the learned NGT dated 18th December 2019, regarding the availability of timber, the learned NGT has totally ignored the same.

22. Shri V. Giri, learned Senior Counsel, submits that the learned NGT erred in passing orders which have vitally affected the rights of the citizens who were granted provisional licenses. He submits that the order impugned is totally in breach of the

principles of natural justice. It is submitted that, from the perusal of the record, it is clear that the State of Haryana while calculating its requirement for wood also takes into consideration the import from the State of Uttar Pradesh. It is submitted that when there is excess wood available in the State of Uttar Pradesh, there is no reason why the same should be permitted to be exported to the State of Haryana at the cost of entrepreneurs in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

23. Shri Vinay Navare, learned Senior Counsel, submitted that the timber used in the WBIs is from the trees which are agro-based. He submits that though the State of Uttar Pradesh had adopted an elaborate procedure right from June 2018 till the grant of licenses, the applicants before the learned NGT had taken no steps. Shri Navare submits that only after the provisional licenses were issued and 632 out of 1215 WBIs provisional license holders had already been established and commenced operations, the applications were entertained and the orders were passed to the prejudice of the WBIs. It is submitted that Section 19(1) of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010 (hereinafter referred to as "the NGT Act") mandates following of the principles of natural justice. It is submitted that though the applications for impleadment were made by the WBIs, the applicants were not granted an opportunity of being heard.

24. Shri V.K. Uniyal, learned Senior Counsel submitted that the learned NGT had erred in using the word "allotted". It is submitted that there is no question of allotment of timber to the WBIs and they are required to purchase the same from the open market.

25. Shri V.K. Shukla, learned Senior Counsel submitted that the State Government decided to grant provisional licenses for 8 different categories of WBIs. The requirement of raw material for different categories of WBIs is different. It is submitted that the learned NGT has grossly erred in considering all categories of WBIs together and setting aside the licenses granted to all of them. It is submitted that the said industries are established in pursuance of the National Agro Forestry Policy of 2014 and as such the learned NGT ought not to have interfered.

26. Ms. Prerna Singh, learned counsel appears for the appellants, who have been granted provisional licenses for plywood (press only) category. She submits that for plywood (press only) industries, there is no requirement of consumption of timber directly. It is submitted that initially veneer is manufactured out of round/fresh timber. Veneer then so manufactured is glued and pressed together to manufacture plywood. It is submitted that the learned NGT has considered the requirement of timber as twice the actual requirement. She submits that in the State of Uttar Pradesh, veneer is manufactured in surplus, which is exported to the State of Haryana.

27. Shri Rudraksh Gupta, learned counsel, submits that the learned NGT has failed to take into consideration the report of the National Poplar Commission of India.

28. All the learned counsel appearing on behalf of the appellants, in unison, submit that the original applicants before the Court were not *bonafide* litigants. It is submitted that there are reasons to believe that the proceedings were initiated at the instance of either the existing WBIs in the State of Uttar Pradesh to prevent competition or they were filed at the instance of the WBIs in the State of Haryana who were importing timber from the State of Uttar Pradesh at cheaper rates.

29. Shri Dhruv Mehta, learned Senior Counsel appearing on behalf of the respondent No. 1, on the contrary, submits that this Court has repeatedly held that the principles of sustainable development, the precautionary principle and the polluter pays principle are to be followed consistently. He raised a preliminary objection on the ground that in view of Section 22 of the NGT Act, the scope of an appeal before this Court could be limited to that of Section 100 of the Civil Procedure Code, 1908. It is, therefore, submitted that unless a substantial question of law is raised, the appeal could not be tenable.

30. Shri Dhruv Mehta submits that this Court vide order dated 12th December 1996 has specifically prohibited the felling of trees in any forest, public or private. He further relies on the report of CEC dated 15th March 2005 to buttress his submission that WBIs can be permitted only if they exclusively use timber derived from poplar and eucalyptus species or agriculture waste products. It is submitted that the said guidelines also specifically provided that if the unit is found to have used any timber other than poplar and eucalyptus whether from a legal source or otherwise, the license granted to the unit shall be liable to be cancelled. He further relies on the report of CEC dated 12th October 2006. He submits that an assessment has to be done on the basis of the district-wise survey about timber availability from the TOF category. He submits that the said report of CEC itself would reveal that the assessment of the State is much less than what was initially projected by the State Government. He submits that unless the timber availability for the new WBIs is assessed and the SLC examines and recommends its approval, it is not permissible to establish new WBIs.

31. Shri Mehta further submits that the report of CEC dated 18th April 2007, accepted by this Court vide its order dated 18th May 2007, would show that the availability of timber for WBIs in the State of Uttar Pradesh is only 45.70 lakh cubic meters per year. Learned Senior Counsel submits that taking into consideration the fact that presently many imported machines from China are being used, the capacity of the existing units has gone much higher and, therefore, the timber which is available in the State of Uttar Pradesh would not be sufficient to meet the demand of the existing industries.

32. Shri Mehta submits that when SLC in its meeting dated 4th May 2018 had decided to get a report from IPIRTI, there was no occasion for it to review its decision in its subsequent meeting dated 7th September 2018. He submits that the Senior Officer of the Forest Department of the rank of Chief Conservator of Forest, Kanpur Division, Kanpur recommended that the report from IPIRTI should be obtained before deciding to issue the new licenses. It is submitted that the letters of the said officer dated 11th September 2019 and 20th April 2018 have been ignored by the SLC.

33. Shri Dhruv Mehta further submits that Annexure-I to the 2016 Guidelines is in contravention of the recommendations of CEC, which takes the requirement of timber for plywood unit as "NIL".

34. The learned Senior Counsel submits that vide Notification dated 20th July 2012, the State of Uttar Pradesh had notified 7 species of trees in the prohibited category. However, vide another Notification dated 31st October 2017, the said trees were taken out of the prohibited category. The learned NGT had set aside the said Notification of 2017 by order dated 11th September 2018. It is submitted that the said order of the learned NGT has been accepted by the State of Uttar Pradesh and a fresh notification has been issued on 7th January 2020, again bringing the said trees in the prohibited category. The learned Senior Counsel submits that while assessing the availability of timber, the trees under the said prohibited category have also been taken into consideration. He submits that if 20.75 lakh cubic meters is deducted from the availability of the timber, then the timber available in the State would be much less.

35. The learned Senior Counsel further submits that the survey has not been conducted for all the districts and has been conducted only for 30 districts and, therefore, the survey itself is erroneous.

36. The learned Senior Counsel further submits that FSI, while conducting the survey, has not taken into consideration the rotation period and, therefore, the survey is erroneous on the said count also. Learned Senior Counsel, in support of his submissions, relies on the judgment of this Court in the cases of *Common Cause* v. *Union of India*[1], *Mantri Techzone Private Limited* v. *Forword Foundation*[2], *Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai* v. *Ankita Sinha*[3] and *Pragnesh Shah* v. *Dr. Arun Kumar*

Sharma[4].

37. Shri Dhruv Mehta, relying on the judgment of this Court in the case of *Ankita Sinha* (supra), submits that this Court itself has considered the learned NGT to be a special Tribunal and held that it will even have jurisdiction to take suo motu cognizance of the environmental issues. He, therefore, submits that the arguments made on behalf of the appellants with regard to locus are without substance.

38. Shri Vikas Singh, learned Senior Counsel, in rejoinder, submits that the only distinction between the prohibited trees and non-prohibited trees is that the non-prohibited trees can be felled without permission, whereas prohibited trees can be felled only in certain circumstances and only after the requisite permission is granted. He submits that the perusal of the FSI survey would reveal that even after the timber requirement for 1215 new units is taken into count, the State, still, will have 26.36 lakh cubic meters in reserve. He submits that if the new WBIs are permitted, it would result in more farmers going in for agro forestry in the State, which, in turn, will increase the forest cover. It is submitted that said 1215 units are likely to give employment to around 80000 people. Learned Senior Counsel, therefore, submits that the impugned orders deserve to be quashed and set aside.

EARLIER ORDERS OF THIS COURT

39. For appreciating the rival submissions, it will be apposite to refer to certain orders passed by this Court.

40. This Court in the case of *T.N. Godavarman* (supra) passed an order on 12th December 1996. The relevant part thereof is as under:

> "6. Each State Government should within two months, file a report regarding -
> (i) the number of saw mills, veneer and plywood mills actually operating within the State, with particulars of their real ownership;
> (ii) the licenced and actual capacity of these mills for stock and sawing;
> (iii) their proximity to the nearest forest;
> (iv) their source of timber.
>
> 7. Each State Government should constitute within one month, an Expert Committee to assess:
> (i) the sustainable capacity of the forests of the State qua saw mills and timber based industry;
> (ii) The number of existing saw mills which can safely be sustained in the State;
> (iii) The optimum distance from the forest, qua that State, at which the saw mill should be located."

41. Vide subsequent order dated 4th March 1997[5], this Court directed thus:

> "6. All unlicensed saw mills, veneer and plywood industries in the State of Maharashtra and the State of Uttar Pradesh are to be closed forthwith and the State Government would not remove or relax the condition for grant of permission/licence for the opening of any such saw mill, veneer and plywood industry and it shall also not grant any fresh permission/licence for this purpose. The Chief Secretary of the State will ensure strict compliance of this direction and file a compliance report within two weeks."

42. Vide order dated 9th May 2002, this Court constituted CEC for monitoring of the implementation of the orders passed by this Court and for placing non-compliances of the cases before it.

43. Vide order dated 29th October 2002[6], this Court further directed thus:

> "44. No State or Union Territory shall permit any unlicensed sawmills, veneer, plywood industry to operate and they are directed to close all such unlicensed unit forthwith. No State Government or Union Territory will permit the opening of any sawmills, veneer or plywood industry without prior permission of the Central

Empowered Committee. The Chief Secretary of each State will ensure strict compliance with this direction. There shall also be no relaxation of rules with regard to the grant of licence without previous concurrence of the Central Empowered Committee.

45. It shall be open to apply to this Court for relaxation and or appropriate modification or orders qua plantations or grant of licences."

44. Vide order dated 1st September 2006, this Court allowed licenses to be issued to the closed sawmills, Veneer and Plywood units as per availability of timber and eligibility and seniority as per CEC recommendation.

45. In pursuance of the orders passed by this Court, SLC was constituted by the State of Uttar Pradesh for verification and compilation of information about closed WBIs.

46. The FSI conducted its assessment and assessed the annual availability of wood from TOF in the State of Uttar Pradesh at 55.61 lakh cubic meters vide report dated 3rd April 2007.

47. On the basis of the report of the FSI, the SLC assessed the annual availability of timber for WBIs from TOF at 53.01 lakh cubic meters. CEC further reduced the same to 43.70 lakh cubic meters. However, it added 2.00 lakh cubic meters per year as timber available from government forests, and, therefore, assessed the annual availability of timber at 45.70 lakh cubic meters.

48. It is to be seen that in its report itself, the CEC included 17.77 lakh cubic meters of timber from the prohibited species. This Court considered the report of CEC and passed the following order on 18th May 2007:

"The matters relate to Saw Mills, Plywood and Veneer Units.

The CEC has considered the availability of wood for the industries, which was assessed as 43.70 lakh cu. mt from trees outside forests and 02.00 lakh cu. mt from Government Forests.

It has also assessed the units into four categories.

We accept the CEC's recommendations. The Saw Mills, Plywood and Veneer Units may be permitted, on the basis of the recommendations made by the CEC. Licences may be given by the State Level Committees.

If there are any objections regarding grant of licences, the parties would be at liberty to submit their applications before the CEC for consideration."

49. It could thus be seen that in 2007 itself, this Court had accepted the recommendations of the CEC wherein the CEC had computed the total availability of timber and had also taken into consideration the availability of timber from the prohibited category.

50. Vide order dated 29th February 2008, this court considered the issue regarding the manufacturing of Medium Density Fiber board (MDF) and Particle board in the States of Punjab, Uttarakhand and Karnataka. While considering the same, this Court passed the following order:

"The matter relates to the manufacturing of Medium Density Fiber board (MDF) and Particle Board in the States of Punjab, Uttarakhand and Karnataka. CEC has filed its report and stated that there is a growing trend to use more and more MDF/Particle Board in place of industrial timber. The MDF/Particle Board help in reducing the pressure on natural forests. The lops and tops and small wood available from the plantations of eucalyptus, poplar, etc. raised on the non-forest can be used by MDF/Particle Board plants."

51. In view of the permissions granted by this Court, the licenses were granted to the unlicensed sawmills which were closed on account of the orders passed by this Court taking into consideration the availability of timber between 2007 and 2010.

However, it is to be noted that the said licenses were granted only to the units which were closed and not to the new units.

52. The matter again came up for consideration before this Court on 30th April 2010, when this Court passed the following order:

> "(II) after meeting the requirement of the licensed wood based industry, the units permitted by this Hon'ble Court and the units whose category is yet to be finalised, the plywood/veneer units falling in category IV may be considered for grant of license to the extent of timber availability and strictly in the order of seniority, subject to the one-time payment of Rs. 9 lakhs per press in respect of the veneer units and compliance of the other conditions that have been stipulated. The one-time payment of penalty will be in addition to the normal licence fee and the other charges, if any, payable to the U.P. Forest Department. As decided earlier, the above said amount should be kept in a designated interest bearing bank account and should be utilized only after the scheme in this regard is approved by this Hon'ble Court;"

53. It could thus be seen that this Court permitted granting of additional licenses if additional timber was found to be available.

54. The CEC in its meeting held on 26th May 2010 with the SLC and representatives of WBIs Associations in the State of Uttar Pradesh, after taking into consideration the capacity of timber for Vertical Band Saw (VBS) sawmill, modified/reduced the value of capacity of timber for VBS sawmills upto 10 Horse Power from 540 to 270 cubic meters per year for the State of Uttar Pradesh in line with other States. As such, additional 9,58,230 cubic meters of timber became available for licenses from 3,549 such VBS units. In view of this position between 2010 and 2015, licenses came to be issued by the State of Uttar Pradesh to unlicensed WBIs, which were closed earlier by the order of this Court, as per the criteria recommended by the CEC and accepted by this Court.

55. The matter again came up for consideration before this Court on 5th October 2015 with regard to WBIs, when this Court passed the following order:

> "<u>CATEGORY I - MATTERS RELATING TO WOOD BASED INDUSTRIES:</u>
>
> We have heard Shri Harish Salve, learned *amicus curiae,* Shri Ranjit Kumar, learned Solicitor General of India, Shri K.K. Venugopal, learned senior counsel and other learned senior counsel/counsels. Accordingly, we pass the following orders:
>
> (i) The State Level Committees for Wood-Based Industries ("SLCs") are, subject to the compliance of the prescribed guidelines and procedure, authorized to take decisions regarding the grant of license/permission to the wood-based industries;
>
> (ii) In each State/UT for which the SLC has so far not been constituted, the SLC under the Chairmanship of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests with a representative of the Ministry of Environment and Forest and Climate Change ("MoEFCC") and an officer of the State Forest Department/Industries Department not below the rank of the Chief Conservator of Forests/equivalent rank will immediately be constituted;
>
> (iii) The MoEF is authorized to issue appropriate guidelines in conformation with the orders and directions issued by this Court and also the existing guidelines to the SLCs relating to assessment of timber availability for wood-based industries and grant of license/permission to the wood-based industries including addition of new machineries and also utilization of amounts recovered from the wood-based industries and connected matters;
>
> (iv) Any person aggrieved by the decision taken by the SLC may file an appeal before the MoEFCC seeking appropriate relief within 60 days' time. If, for any

reason, any person is aggrieved by the orders so passed in the appeal, he may prefer an appropriate petition/application/appeal before the appropriate forum/Court for grant of appropriate relief(s).

We also permit the MoEFCC to condone the delay, if any, in filing an appeal, if sufficient cause is made out by the applicant(s)/appellant(s)"

56. It is thus seen that vide the said order, SLCs were authorized to take decisions regarding the grant of license/permission to the WBIs. Vide the said order, it was also directed to constitute SLC under the Chairmanship of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest with a representative of MOEFCC and an officer of the State Forest Department/Industries Department not below the rank of the Chief Conservator of Forests/equivalent rank. This Court further directed the SLCs to be constituted in each State/Union Territory for which the SLC was not yet constituted. The MOEF was also authorized to issue appropriate guidelines in conformity with the orders and directions issued by this Court and also the existing guidelines to the SLCs relating to the assessment of timber availability for WBIs. Appeals could be filed before MOEFCC against the decision of the SLC.

MOEFCC GUIDELINES

57. In accordance with the directions issued by this Court vide order dated 5th October 2015, the MOEFCC issued 2016 Guidelines on 11th November 2016. The 2016 Guidelines provided for the constitution of the SLC as well as the powers and functions of SLC. Under clause 4 of the 2016 Guidelines, the SLC was authorised to assess the availability of timber for wood based industrial units in the State/UT every five years. The SLC was also authorised to approve appropriate locations for setting up of wood based industrial units. It was also authorized to approve the name of wood based industrial units which may be considered for grant of fresh license or enhancement of the existing licensed capacity.

58. Clause 5 of the 2016 Guidelines provides for the assessment of the availability of timber for wood based industrial units. It requires that the quantity of timber would be assessed by commissioning the study, preferably in collaboration with institutes/universities of repute, once in five years. Under clause 6 of the 2016 Guidelines, the timber requirement for various units as assessed by IPIRTI was given in Annexure I. The said Annexure I reads thus:

"The Indian Plywood Industry Research and Training Institute (IPIRTI), Bangalore an autonomous body under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has assessed the timber requirement per unit for peeling length of 4 feet and 8 feet size in the plywood/veneer units as 5 cu.mt and 11 cu.mt. respectively per day on an average of 8 working hours per day. By assuming that the peeling units work for 8 hours per day on an average for 300 days in a year the normal timber requirement of the peeling length of 4 feet size in veneer units is 1500 cu.mt. The total timber requirement for the stand alone veneer units may be assessed by calculating the equivalent number of 4 feet length machines and by taking its normal installed capacity as 1500 cu.mt. per annum.

The timber requirement of a plywood unit may be taken as 'nil' on the ground that the round timber is used as timber in the veneer units only and that the plywood units are the secondary users which use the veneer as the raw material produced by the veneer units. The plywood units use presses of various sizes such as 8 × 4 × 6, 8 × 4 × 12, 8 × 4 × 15, 4 × 4 × 7, 4 × 4 × 10. A 8 × 4 × 10 capacity press can produce upto 10 plywood pieces of 8′ × 4′ size per hour whereas a 8 × 4 × 15 capacity press can produce upto 15 plywood pieces of 8′ × 4′ size per hour and so on. The normative installed capacity of the plywood units will accordingly depend upon the number and the type of presses. This number and type of presses installed in each of the plywood unit may be assessed and

thereafter equivalent number or presses of 8 × 4 × 10 capacity may be calculated. The normative annual timber requirement for a integrated plywood unit having a 8 × 4 × 10 capacity press may be taken as 2000 cu.mt. per annum, and accordingly the total requirement of timber for the plywood units should be calculated."

59. It could thus be seen that even as per the assessment of the IPIRTI, the timber requirement of a plywood unit is required to be taken as 'NIL' on the ground that the round timber is used as timber in the veneer units only and that the plywood units are the secondary users which use the veneer as raw material. It could thus be seen that the plywood units use presses of various sizes.

60. In pursuance of the 2016 Guidelines, the SLC was reconstituted in the State of Uttar Pradesh under the Chairmanship of Principal Chief Conservator of Forest/Head of Forest Department on 17th May 2017. Vide Notification dated 11th September 2017, the MOEFCC amended the 2016 Guidelines.

61. Subsequently, in accordance with the 2016 Guidelines, the SLC assessed the availability of timber for WBIs in the State of Uttar Pradesh, through the FSI. For assessing the availability of timber, the FSI conducted a survey and arrived at the annual potential production of timber from TOF in rural areas of all the districts of the State. FSI assessed the annual potential production from TOF at 77.74 lakh cubic meters. Subsequent to the survey and assessment, the SLC in its meeting dated 4th May 2018 considered the matter for grant of license to various WBIs. The SLC decided to get the reassessment done by IPIRTI to determine the correct number of new licenses to be issued to WBIs under different categories against the available timber. However, subsequently, the SLC, in its meeting dated 7th September 2018, found that IPIRTI had not done any new study/assessment of the consumption of timber by various WBIs in any State/Union Territory. It was also found that the State of Haryana had adopted the timber consumption figures based on the CEC figures of 2007. It was therefore unanimously resolved by the SLC that there was no need for any fresh study/assessment for the consumption of timber by WBIs to be conducted by IPIRTI and to adopt the figures for WBIs as were referred to in the 2016 Guidelines. It further found that the CEC in its meeting dated 26th May 2010 had reduced the annual consumption of timber of sawmills upto 10 Horse Power or less HP to 270 cubic meters from 540 cubic meters.

62. On the basis of the decision of the SLC, e-lottery was held. After following the procedure, provisional licenses were issued to 1215 successful applicants in 8 categories of WBIs in February and March 2019. After the issuance of provisional licenses, on 1st March 2019, the State Government issued a Notice with regard to grant of provisional licenses to the newly selected WBIs which came to be challenged before the learned NGT by way of filing the aforesaid Original Applications by the respondents. The learned NGT after passing various interlocutory directions finally passed the impugned order and quashed and set aside the notice dated 1st March 2019 issued by the State Government and provisional licenses given in pursuance thereof. As such we are required to examine the correctness of the decision of the learned NGT.

CONSIDERATIONS

63. The learned NGT while passing the impugned order has set aside the notice of the State of Uttar Pradesh on the following grounds:

(1) that the WBIs can be allowed to operate only after ensuring timber and raw material availability to sustain such industries and this has to be determined in actual terms and not on mere assumptions;

(2) that it is difficult to accept the stand of the State of Uttar Pradesh that there was availability of timber/raw material to sustain the new WBIs;

(3) that it is the stand of the State of Uttar Pradesh that the total potential

availability of timber per year in the State of Uttar Pradesh is 80.30 lakh cubic meters, which includes 2.56 lakh cubic meters from the Government forests and 77.74 lakh cubic meters from TOF. Out of 80.30 lakh cubic meters, 71.8 lakh cubic meters were stated to be available from 22 species and 8.50 lakh cubic meters from the other species. Out of 22 species, there are 10 species that are prohibited from felling and as such, 20.75 lakh cubic meters from these 10 species are liable to be excluded;

(4) that the major contribution is from Eucalyptus (28 lakh cubic meters) and Poplar species (15 lakh cubic meters), a total of which is 43 lakh cubic meters. Thus, the figure is not actual but presumptive;

(5) that the standard error percentage adopted by the FSI is not correct and is much higher;

(6) that the total availability of timber for consumption including that from the government forests would not be more than 40-45 lakh cubic meters per year;

(7) that the potential availability of 77.74 lakh cubic meters from TOF as given in the affidavit has been overestimated.

64. It is to be noted that after this Court allowed the licenses to be issued to the closed sawmills vide order dated 1st September 2006, the SLCs were constituted. The permissions were to be granted on the recommendations of the CEC. Vide order dated 18th May 2007, this Court had also accepted the recommendation of the CEC. Vide another order dated 30th April 2010, this Court permitted additional licenses to be granted if additional timber was available. Accordingly, licenses were granted between 2010 and 2015. Vide subsequent order dated 5th October 2015, this Court allowed the grant of license/permission to unlicensed WBIs in the country. This Court had directed the reconstitution of the SLCs for WBIs. In pursuance of the directions issued by this Court, the 2016 Guidelines were issued by the MOEFCC. As per the 2016 Guidelines, the SLC was reconstituted in the State of Uttar Pradesh on 17th May 2017.

65. One of the duties which was cast upon the SLC was to assess the availability of timber for wood based industrial units in the State. The SLC was to assess the availability of timber by commissioning studies, preferably in collaboration with institutes/universities of repute, once in five years. In accordance with the 2016 Guidelines, the FSI conducted the survey and submitted its report in March 2018. It will be relevant to refer to the relevant part of the Foreword of the said report of the FSI.

> "In the recent past, a number of requests were received for establishment of wood based industries in the state for which the raw material would come from outside the forest areas. Since accurate assessment of TOF is needed for effective planning & management, Uttar Pradesh Forest Department requested FSI to make Agro-Climatic zone wise assessment on the basis of inventory already done during its regular course of inventory conducted in the State. As per the final report, the total stems as estimated from the study is 299.43 million with a volume of 79.40 m. cum. The total yield in the Uttar Pradesh is estimated 7.8 million cum.
>
> The report gives an assessment of the growing stock existing outside state forest reserves. The report has also indicated district-wise, species-wise and girth class-wise number of stems and volume in each Agro-Climatic Zone wise of inventoried districts. I am confident that this report would provide useful data for arriving at informed policy and programme interventions to give a fillip to forestry sector in the state besides providing benchmark data for tree crop in non-forest area."

66. After conducting the survey, the FSI has come to a finding that the State of Uttar Pradesh had an annual potential production of 77,74,521 cubic meters of timber. For conducting the survey, the FSI acquired satellite data for the inventoried districts of Uttar Pradesh State from National Remote Sensing Centre, Hyderabad. The entire

gambit of scientific methodology was applied. The data processing was carried out independently for all the inventoried districts of Uttar Pradesh. It will be relevant to refer to the following part of the report of the FSI:

> "The data processing was carried out independently for all the inventoried districts of Uttar Pradesh. Estimates of stems per ha and volume per ha were generated according to species and diameter class for block, linear and scattered stratum under each district. Estimated stems and their volumes were generated according to species and diameter class by aggregating stem per hectare and volume per hectare over the entire Rural CNF Area of each stratum for each district by combining the estimated stems and volumes under block, linear and scattered stratum. By aggregating the estimates of stems and volume of all the three strata, the estimates of stems and volumes according to species and diameter class has been prepared for Rural area separately."

67. The FSI had also divided the State of Uttar Pradesh into 9 Agro-climatic zones to generate the estimate of growing stock and annual potential production. District-wise production was estimated before concluding that 77,74,521 cubic meters of timber was the annual potential production. The contention of the respondents that the rotation method was not applied is totally incorrect. It will be relevant to refer to paragraph 5.4 of the said report, which reads thus:

> "5.4 Estimates of Annual Potential Production of Wood from TOF (Rural)
>
> Yield of a forest depends on several factors such as its structure, growth, density, productive capacity of site etc. The estimate of yield been generated for rural area using growing stock estimates. The Uttar Pradesh Forest Department was supplied the complete list of tree species which were found in the survey. The Uttar Pradesh Forest Department was asked to indicate tree species being used as 'timber' and 'non timber' and rotation period of specified timber species. *The Uttar Pradesh Forest Department informed that they do not have rotation period of all species and requested Forest Survey of India to use their rotation period used for estimation of annual potential production of wood.* The species are arranged into two groups; one containing the species having timber values and another containing rest by agro-climatic zone wise. The yield has been calculated using Von Mentel formula as given below:
>
> Yield= 2GS/R
>
> Where GS : Growing Stock
>
> R : rotation period
>
> Using the information of timber value, growing stock and rotation period in the above mentioned formulae species wise yield were calculated. The Agro-Climatic Zone wise yield has been given in Annexure-11."

[emphasis supplied]

68. The standard error was also determined by applying the appropriate scientific method.

69. The FSI, hence, considered various aspects before concluding and submitting its 101 page report.

70. It could thus be seen that the estimation as arrived at by the FSI was by applying a proper and adequate scientific method.

71. However, it is surprising that the learned NGT has brushed aside such a scientific exercise by merely observing that the figures arrived at were by estimation and not realistic.

72. The FSI has published a paper on "Trees Outside Forest Resources in India". The contributors to the said paper are (1) Dr. Subhash Ashutosh, DG, FSI; (2) Prakash Lakhchaura, DDG, FI, (3) Kamal Pandey, DD, FI; (4) Dr. Sourav Ghose, Proj. Scientist

D; (5) Sushila Tripathi; and (6) H.K. Tripathi. The paper shows that the timber and panel products of TOF origin have emerged as the major alternative to timber from forests and thus TOF have significantly obviated pressure from forests. The report shows that, the extent of TOF in the country has been assessed at 29.38 m hectare, which is around 8.94% of the total geographical area of the country. The report further shows that based on the recommendations of the National Commission on Agriculture (NCA, 1976), the Government of India launched a social forestry program in the late seventies on a large scale. The paper further shows that, these days satellite data in a wide range of spectral, spatial, radiometric and temporal resolutions are available from various Remote Sensing Agencies of several countries. It further shows that there has been a rapid advancement in the development of digital image processing software. It, therefore, observes that the desired mapping of natural resources with reasonable accuracy is possible. The report refers to the methodology of assessment of TOF in different countries of the world and refers to various authorities. It refers to different types of methodologies used for different periods; the first one being from 1991 to 2001; the second period being from 2001 to 2016; and the third period being from 2016 onwards. The report shows that the State of Maharashtra has the highest potential annual yield of timber in India followed by the States of Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka.

73. It will be relevant to refer to the conclusion of the said paper, which is as follows:

> "5. Conclusion
>
> TOF play a significant role in the socioeconomic lives of people both in rural and urban areas of the country by enriching the people and society at large economically as well as ecologically. The management of TOF assumes high significance in the country for realizing much higher potential which it offers in generating wood based economy and ecosystem services including carbon sequestration. Periodic assessment of TOF resources including its spatial distribution is prerequisite for its scientific management in the country. FSI is mandated with this task however there is need for continuous improvement in the methodology and inclusion of more number of variables in the assessment. The organization will have to be further strengthened particularly in terms of man power, to address the emerging information needs on TOF. There has been regular refinement in methodologies in the last three decades to quantify TOF resources using various statistical designs and estimates with better precision. The advancement of technologies in the field of remote sensing, satellite image processing and availability of high resolution satellite data made the methodology much precise and easier. The progression of science may further refine the existing method of TOF assessment in near future.
>
> TOF also act as an important source for timber and fuel wood to meet the demands of fast growing population of the country. There is a need to put focus on increasing the growing stock per hectare or yield of TOF by better management and planning. There is also a need for a separate policy on TOF to ensure its expansion and sustainable management for multiple ecological benefits, timber production, carbon sequestration and for obviating pressure from the natural forests.
>
> Occupying nearly 9% of the geographical area of the country, TOF are significant natural, renewable resource which make vital contribution to the agro-ecology, socio -economy of the rural areas, environmental amelioration in the urban areas and feed wood based industries with the raw material and thus generate significant employment. TOF form a nearly 38% of the carbon sink in forest & tree cover of the country. TOF offers the path for achieving the national policy goal of 33% of forest & tree cover in the country. Through expansion of TOF, particularly in agro-forestry

and on culturable waste lands, India can substantially increase its carbon sink to achieve its international commitments of NDC and LDN by 2030."

74. It could thus be seen that the FSI has also emphasized the need of promoting TOF. It has been observed that TOF are significant natural, renewable resources which make vital contributions to the agro-ecology, socio-economy of the rural area, and environmental amelioration in the urban area and feed WBIs with raw material and thus generate significant employment.

75. It is our considered view that, when the estimation was done by the FSI by applying the scientific method and had arrived at the conclusion based on satellite data, such a report could not have been brushed aside by the learned NGT lightly.

76. Insofar as the finding of the learned NGT that the survey also takes into consideration the prohibited trees, the felling of which is not permissible, it will be relevant to note that the Notification dated 7th January 2020 issued by the Government of Uttar Pradesh provides that the prohibited trees shall not be felled till 31st December 2025 except under unavoidable circumstances, such as when a tree is dead or dying or it constitutes a danger to persons or property, or its felling is necessary for executing development work approved by the Government, or if the fruit bearing capacity of such tree has declined substantially. Such trees cannot be felled unless permission to fell such tree has been obtained in writing from the competent authority. The tree owners are also required to maintain 10 trees in place of each tree felled. It is thus clear that there is no absolute prohibition for felling the trees which are in the prohibited category. However, the same can be done only in exceptional circumstances.

77. It is to be noted that the prohibited trees also include trees like Mango, Jamun, etc. which are fruit bearing trees. After a particular number of years, the fruit bearing capacity of such trees drastically reduces and as such, the farmers normally fell such trees and go in for replantation of the orchard. Apart from that, it is to be noted that the CEC itself approved the availability of timber for the State of Uttar Pradesh in its report dated 19th April 2007, which included 17.77 lakh cubic meters of prohibited trees. The said report of the CEC was approved by this Court vide its order dated 18th May 2007.

78. It is further to be noted that in pursuance of the order of the learned NGT dated 28th March 2019, a Committee of Experts [Joint Committee comprising of representative of Principal Secretary (Forest), U.P. and Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, U.P.] had submitted its report on 3rd August 2019. Not only this, but in pursuance of the directions issued by the learned NGT on 18th December 2019, another detailed affidavit was filed on behalf of the State Government on 21st January 2020, giving therein the details about the availability of timber. It was specifically stated in the said affidavit that eucalyptus and poplar are the main species of TOF and 80% of the wood is derived therefrom. It was further pointed out that the farmers in the State of Uttar Pradesh were not getting remunerative prices and are forced to sell their produce at a very cheap rate mainly to middlemen. It was also pointed out that there would be an expected investment of about Rs. 3000 crore in the State with the establishment of new WBIs. The same would employ more than 80000 people, mostly in the rural areas of the State. However, all these factors have been ignored by the learned NGT.

79. As such, the learned NGT has grossly erred in deducting the availability of timber from the prohibited trees. By now, it is more than settled that the Courts should not enter into an area that is the domain of the experts. FSI, which is undisputedly an expert body, had arrived at its estimation based on the scientific method. The learned NGT could not have sat in appeal over the opinion of the expert.

80. It is relevant to note that MOEFCC, in pursuance of the directions issued by the

learned NGT had filed its opinion on 18th December 2019. It will be relevant to refer to paragraph 8 of the said opinion.

> "8. That based on the examination of available documents in light of the provisions of the Wood Based Industries (Establishment and Regulation) Rules, 2016, MoEFCC is of the opinion that the State of U.P. has followed the Wood Based Industries (Establishment and Regulation) Guidelines, 2016 (as amended in 2017) issued by MoEFCC. The availability of wood in the State has also been assessed by the SLC through FSI. The Ministry is, therefore, of the view that the SLC may approve setting up of new industries in the State if it is satisfied that sufficient timber is available legally to run the new wood based industries."

81. The learned NGT has failed to take into consideration the stand of the MOEFCC, which also supported the stand of the State that sufficient timber was available legally to run the new WBIs.

82. Insofar as the contention of the learned counsel for the respondents that, though in the meeting of the SLC dated 4th May 2018, it was decided to get the assessment done by IPIRTI, the SLC in its meeting dated 7th September 2018 did a volte-face and decided not to get the assessment done from IPIRTI, the perusal of the minutes of the meeting of the SLC dated 7th September 2018 would reveal that it was found that the IPIRTI had not done any new study/assessment of the consumption of timber by various WBIs in any State/Union Territory. It was noticed that, as per the report of the FSI, the TOF available was 77,74,522 cubic meters. Adding the timber available in the forest area of 2,57,273 cubic meters, the total quantity of availability of timber was 80,31,795 cubic meters. It is to be noted that the SLC had taken note of the letter dated 29th August 2018 issued by the Director, IPIRTI, where he had communicated that no assessment pertaining to the annual consumption of timber by Veneer and Plywood Industries was undertaken by the IPIRTI during the last two years in any State of the country. It was found that the 2016 Guidelines itself provided for annual consumption of timber based on the report of IPIRTI. In this premise, it was found that there was no need to conduct a fresh study/assessment for the consumption of timber by WBIs by IPIRTI. It was decided to accept the figures as provided in the 2016 Guidelines.

83. It can thus be seen that the decision of the SLC for not getting the assessment done by the IPIRTI is based on sound reasons. When the 2016 Guidelines itself provided for the consumption of timber by WBIs based on the report of the IPIRTI, there was no purpose to again get the assessment done by IPIRTI. The scope of judicial review has been succinctly explained by this court in the case of *Tata Cellular* v. *Union of India*[7], which has been consistently followed in a catena of cases. This Court, in the said case, observed thus:

> "77. The duty of the court is to confine itself to the question of legality. Its concern should be:
>
> 1. Whether a decision-making authority exceeded its powers?
> 2. Committed an error of law,
> 3. committed a breach of the rules of natural justice,
> 4. reached a decision which no reasonable tribunal would have reached or,
> 5. abused its powers.
>
> Therefore, it is not for the court to determine whether a particular policy or particular decision taken in the fulfilment of that policy is fair. It is only concerned with the manner in which those decisions have been taken. The extent of the duty to act fairly will vary from case to case. Shortly put, the grounds upon which an administrative action is subject to control by judicial review can be classified as under:

(*i*) Illegality : This means the decision-maker must understand correctly the law that regulates his decision-making power and must give effect to it.

(*ii*) Irrationality, namely, Wednesbury unreasonableness.

(*iii*) Procedural impropriety.

The above are only the broad grounds but it does not rule out addition of further grounds in course of time. As a matter of fact, in *R.* v. *Secretary of State for the Home Department, ex Brind* [[1991] 1 A.C. 696], Lord Diplock refers specifically to one development, namely, the possible recognition of the principle of proportionality. In all these cases the test to be adopted is that the court should, "consider whether something has gone wrong of a nature and degree which requires its intervention"."

84. Applying the aforesaid principle to the present case, it cannot be said that the decision-making process has been vitiated either on account of illegality, irrationality or procedural impropriety.

85. With regard to the contention of Shri Dhruv Mehta, learned Senior Counsel, that Annexure I to the 2016 Guidelines providing the timber requirement of a plywood unit to be taken as "NIL" is contrary to the CEC recommendations is concerned, we do not find any substance in the said submission. Firstly, 2016 Guidelines have been issued by the MOEFCC in pursuance of the directions issued by this Court dated 5th October 2015. In any case, the raw material for plywood industries is 'Veneer' and the raw material for veneer is 'timber'. We find substance in the contention of the appellants that, if timber is to be considered again as a raw material for plywood, then it will amount to showing the consumption of the same timber more than once, which is, in fact, not consumed. It is not in dispute that veneer is a raw material for plywood, which is derived from timber. The same timber is used for deriving veneer and such veneer, which is used for manufacturing plywood, cannot be counted twice. In any case, as long as the 2016 Guidelines which are issued in pursuance of the directions issued by this Court are not set aside, the contention in that regard is without substance.

86. That leads us to consider the contention of the respondents that this Court has repeatedly emphasized the principles of sustainable development, the precautionary principle and the polluter pays principle. No doubt that the protection of the environment is of utmost importance. It is the duty of this generation to protect the environment for future generations.

CONCLUSION

87. It cannot be disputed that Section 20 of the NGT Act itself directs the learned Tribunal to apply the principles of sustainable development, the precautionary principle and the polluter pays principle. Undisputedly, it is the duty of the State as well as its citizens to safeguard the forest of the country. The resources of the present are to be preserved for the future generations. However, one principle cannot be applied in isolation of the other.

88. It is necessary that, while protecting the environment, the need for sustainable development has also to be taken into consideration and a proper balance between the two has to be struck.

89. A body having expertise in the field, i.e. the FSI, upon a scientific study, has concluded that there is sufficient timber available in the State of Uttar Pradesh. Not only that, but the respondents themselves have placed on record a project report on "Study to know the percentage and value of the raw material sourced through U.P. Forests by Plywood and Khair (Kattha) Industries in U.P.". The said report is prepared by RAK Management Consultants on the instructions of the Department of Planning, Economic and Statistics Division, Government of Uttar Pradesh. The said report itself shows that the consultants, during the field survey, observed resentment among the

plywood manufacturers against the process of issuing new licenses to the WBIs by the State Government.

90. The report further goes on to show that on average 1500-1700 trucks/tractor trollies of the eucalyptus and popular wood from all over Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh go to Yamuna Nagar, Haryana daily. Out of the said trucks/trollies, approximately 300-350 tractor trollies and some other small vehicles per day come from Uttar Pradesh. The report shows that approximately 5 to 6 lakh metric tons of timber per year is exported to Yamuna Nagar. The said material belongs to the western districts of Uttar Pradesh, i.e. Muzaffarnagar, Saharanpur, Shamli, Baghpat and Meerut. It is stated that there is no sufficient market for this produce in the said area. The report further finds that the western districts of Uttar Pradesh, i.e. Meerut, Muzaffarnagar, Saharanpur, Baghpat and Shamli, etc. do not have sufficient number of plywood and veneer units and as such, they are not sufficient for the entire farmers' produce available in the said area. The report itself shows that the western districts need around 80-85 plywood and veneer units. The report goes on further to show that there is dissatisfaction among the already existing industrialists about the assessment made by the FSI.

91. It is further to be noted that the State has specifically pointed out before the learned NGT that on the establishment of WBIs, an investment of about Rs. 3000 crore was likely to be attracted in the State; employment opportunities to over 80000 people will be available and the farmers of the State would get a more remunerative price. This would result in more impetus for large-scale plantation and agro-forestry. The State also emphasized that this will reduce dependence on traditional/cash crops and also reduce migration of people to urban areas. It is also emphasized that if the new WBIs are permitted, it will reduce the import of WBIs produce. However, all these aspects have not been taken into consideration by the learned NGT.

92. It will be relevant to note that the Forest Research Institute, Dehradun, Uttarakhand has published 'Country Report of Poplars and Willows Period : 2012-2015'. The report states that the timber from poplar and willow is the backbone of vibrant plywood, board, match, paper and sports goods industries. The report further states that in tune with Indian Agroforestry Policy 2014, the plantation of poplar has been promoted. It further states that the Planning Commission of India has given special grants to certain States for the diversification of agriculture where farmers are advised to move away from paddy cultivation to sustain agricultural production. Poplar and eucalyptus are among the few trees promoted under this diversification plan. The report states that Poplar plays a significant role in rural development by generating employment for many categories of skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled workers.

93. The paper on "Trees Outside Forest Resources in India" published by the FSI, cited supra, also emphasizes that TOF are significant natural, renewable resources which make vital contributions to the agro-ecology, socio-economic improvement of the rural areas, environmental amelioration in the urban areas and feed WBIs with raw material and thus generate significant employment. TOF form nearly 38% of the carbon sink in the forest and tree cover of the country. It states that TOF offers the path for achieving the national policy goal of 33% of forest and tree cover in the country. It states that through the expansion of TOF, particularly in agro-forestry and on culturable waste lands, India can substantially increase its carbon sink to achieve its international commitments of NDC and LDN by 2030.

94. As already discussed herein above, the majority of TOF is from two species, i.e. Poplar and Eucalyptus. These trees are fast growing. If a market is available for the said trees, there will be impetus to the farmers for large scale plantations. The rotation in these species is quite fast. This will, in turn, increase the green coverage. We are of the considered view that the learned NGT has taken a lopsided view. It has failed to

take into consideration the concerns expressed by the State. The learned NGT has committed patent error in ignoring the expert's report and sitting in appeal over the same. The learned NGT has also failed to take into consideration the stand taken by the MOEFCC, which supported the stand of the State. As already discussed herein above, the State had emphasized many advantages of granting new licenses to WBIs. It was also emphasized that the timber from the State of Uttar Pradesh was being exported to the State of Haryana. However, none of these aspects have been considered by the learned NGT. We are, therefore, of the considered view that the impugned orders of the learned NGT are not sustainable in law.

95. There is another reason, in our view, why the order of the learned NGT would not be sustainable. Though, on the date on which the review applications were rejected, 1215 provisional licenses were already granted and 633 units had already been established and commenced production, the learned NGT has passed the impugned order which adversely affects their interest. Either some of such industries ought to have been impleaded in their representative capacity or a public notice should have been given so that such license holders could have represented their case. However, the said contention is lightly brushed aside by the learned NGT by holding that, since the issue is related to the general decision of the State which is applicable uniformly to all the proposed provisional licensees, it is not necessary to consider the issue raised in the impleadment applications. It is more than a settled law that the principles of natural justice are required to be followed even in administrative actions when such actions adversely affect the rights of the citizens. When the learned NGT exercised its judicial powers, it could not have ignored the principles of natural justice, which, even under Section 19(1) of the NGT Act, it is bound to follow.

96. Another aspect that needs consideration is that a serious issue was raised before the learned NGT by the appellants herein with regard to the credentials and *bonafides* of the original applicants.

97. When the matter was heard by us, we too made pertinent queries to Shri Mehta and Shri Chahar with regard to the credentials of the applicants before the learned NGT. One applicant is Uday Education and Welfare Trust; the second applicant is Samvit Foundation and the third applicant is U.P. Timber Association. Undisputedly, the U.P. Timber Association was a litigant interested in the litigation. However, insofar as the other original applicants, i.e. Uday Education and Welfare Trust and Samvit Foundation, for whom Shri Dhruv Mehta and Shri Brijender Chahar, learned Senior Counsel are appearing, specific queries with regard to the activities undertaken by the said original applicants were made as to whether they were involved in any activity with regard to the protection of the environment; had they at least been engaged in promoting plantation; what were the aims and objectives of the said original applicants; and what are the sources of funding, etc. Shri Mehta and Shri Chahar, learned Senior counsel, fairly submitted that apart from the fact that they (original applicants) had previously filed some public interest litigations wherein orders were passed in their favour, they had no other information.

98. Shri Dhruv Mehta, learned Senior Counsel has rightly relied on the judgment of this Court in the case of *Ankita Sinha* (supra) to submit that the learned NGT is empowered to take suo motu cognizance. This Court has held that, taking into consideration the nature of functions of the learned NGT, it cannot be equated with other Tribunals and in environmental matters, it will also have a power to take *suo motu* cognizance. However, when the credentials and *bonafides* of a litigant approaching the learned NGT are seriously raised, the same cannot be ignored.

99. We find that before a litigant is permitted to knock the doors of justice and seek orders which have far reaching effects of affecting the employment of thousands of persons, stopping investment in the State, prejudicing the interests of the farmers;

the credentials and *bonafides* of the applicants must be tested. In the present case, there is scope to infer that the litigation could be at the behest of the existing WBIs who wanted to avoid competition and continue to get raw material at a cheaper rate. There is also scope to infer that it could be at the behest of the WBIs in the adjoining Yamuna Nagar district of Haryana where lakhs of tons of timber is exported from the State of Uttar Pradesh. There is scope to infer that it could be in the interest of middlemen who are engaged in exporting timber from Uttar Pradesh to Haryana. We would, therefore, only request the learned NGT that, when credentials and *bonafides* of such litigants are seriously raised and when entertaining the grievance of such litigants, which is likely to adversely affect the rights of many, it should ensure the *bonafides* and credentials of such litigants.

100. Though we are allowing the appeals, setting aside the orders of the learned NGT, and upholding the action of the State Government in granting licenses, we would like to remind the State and its authorities that it is their duty to protect the environment. The State and its authorities should ensure that necessary steps are taken for arresting the problem of declining forest and tree cover. The State and its authorities should make meaningful and concerted efforts to ensure that the green cover in the State of Uttar Pradesh is not reduced and to ensure that it increases.

101. The conservation of forest plays a vital role in maintaining the ecology. It acts as processors of the water cycle and soil and also as providers of livelihoods. As such, preservation and sustainable management of forests deserve to be given due importance in formulation of policies by the State. In this regard, it will be apposite to refer to certain earlier pronouncements of this Court.

(a) In the case of *Samatha* v. *State of A.P.*[8], a three-Judge Bench of this Court after referring to the earlier judgment in the case of *State of H.P.* v. *Ganesh Wood Products*[9] observed that, even while considering the grant of renewal of mining leases, the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 would apply. This Court held that the MOEF and all the States have a duty to prevent mining operations affecting forests. It further observed that, whether mining operations are carried on within the reserved forest or other forest area, it is their duty to ensure that the industry or enterprise does not denude the forest to become a menace to human existence nor a source to destroy flora and fauna and biodiversity. It has further been held that if it becomes inevitable to disturb the existence of forests, there is a concomitant duty upon the State to reforest and restore the green cover and to ensure adequate measures to promote, protect and improve both man-made and natural environment, flora and fauna as well as biodiversity. It further held that there can be no distinction between government forests and private forests in the matter of forest wealth of the nation and in the matter of environment and ecology.

(b) In the case of *Essar Oil Ltd.* v. *Halar Utkarsh Samiti*[10], this Court discussed the need for a balance between the economic and social needs and development on the one hand and environment considerations on the other. It was observed that laws on environment should be to create harmony between the two since neither one can be sacrificed at the altar of the other. In this regard, the observations of this Court in the case of *Indian Council for Enviro-Legal Action* v. *Union of India*[11] were quoted as under:

> "While economic development should not be allowed to take place at the cost of ecology or by causing widespread environment destruction and violation; at the same time, the necessity to preserve ecology and environment should not hamper economic and other developments. Both development and environment must go hand in hand, in other words, there

should not be development at the cost of environment."

(c) In the case of *Maharashtra Land Development Corporation* v. *State of Maharashtra*[12] reference was made to *Glanrock Estate Private Limited* v. *State of Tamil Nadu*[13] wherein it was observed as under:

> "*27.* .... Forests in India are an important part of the environment. They constitute [a] national asset. In various judgments of this Court delivered by the Forest Bench of this Court in *T.N. Godavarman Thirumulpad* v. *Union of India* (Writ Petition No. 202 of 1995), it has been held that 'intergenerational equity' is part of Article 21 of the Constitution.
>
> *28.* What is intergenerational equity? The present generation is answerable to the next generation by giving to the next generation a good environment. We are answerable to the next generation and if deforestation takes place rampantly then intergenerational equity would stand violated.
>
> *29.* The doctrine of sustainable development also forms part of Article 21 of the Constitution. The 'precautionary principle' and the 'polluter pays principle' flow from the core value in Article 21.
>
> *30.* The important point to be noted is that in this case we are concerned with vesting of forests in the State. When we talk about intergenerational equity and sustainable development, we are elevating an ordinary principle of equality to the level of overarching principle."

(d) Of course, one cannot ignore one of the several dicta of this Court in *T.N. Godavarman Thirumulkpad* v. *Union of India*[14] wherein this Court enunciated the definition of "forest" in the following words:

> "4. The Forest Conservation Act, 1980 was enacted with a view to check further deforestation which ultimately results in ecological imbalance; and therefore, the provisions made therein for the conservation of forests and for matters connected therewith, must apply to all forests irrespective of the nature of ownership or classification thereof. The word "forest" must be understood according to its dictionary meaning. This description covers all statutorily recognised forests, whether designated as reserved, protected or otherwise for the purpose of Section 2(*i*) of the Forest Conservation Act. The term "forest land", occurring in Section 2, will not only include "forest" as understood in the dictionary sense, but also any area recorded as forest in the Government record irrespective of the ownership. This is how it has to be understood for the purpose of Section 2 of the Act. The provisions enacted in the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 for the conservation of forests and the matters connected therewith must apply clearly to all forests so understood irrespective of the ownership or classification thereof..."

102. Though we find that for the sustainable development of the State and on account of the availability of the timber, sanction of granting licenses can be permitted to continue, however, as a responsible State, it needs to ensure that environmental concerns are duly attended to. We, therefore, direct the State Government to ensure that while granting permission for felling trees of the prohibited species, it should strictly ensure that the permission is granted only when the conditions specified in the Notification dated 7th January 2020 are satisfied. The State Government shall also ensure that when such permissions are granted to the applicants, the applicants scrupulously follow the mandate in the said notification of planting 10 trees against 1 and maintaining them for five years.

103. In the result, the appeals are allowed. The impugned orders passed by the learned National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi in Original Application Nos. 313, 335 and 396 of 2019 as well as in the Review Applications are quashed and set aside.

104. Pending applications, if any, shall stand disposed of. No costs.

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[1] (2017) 9 SCC 499

[2] (2019) 18 SCC 494

[3] 2021 SCC OnLine SC 897

[4] 2022 SCC OnLine SC 79

[5] (1997) 3 SCC 312

[6] (2008) 16 SCC 337

[7] (1994) 6 SCC 651

[8] AIR 1997 SC 3297 : (1997) 8 SCC 191

[9] (1995) 6 SCC 363

[10] (2004) 2 SCC 392

[11] (1996) 5 SCC 281

[12] (2011) 15 SCC 616

[13] (2010) 10 SCC 96

[14] (1997) 2 SCC 267 : AIR 1997 SC 1228

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TRUE COPY
ADVOCATE

ANNEXURE-R-2

MAHARASHTRA POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
Regional Office Pune

Phone - (020) 5811694
Fax - (020) 5811701
Gram - Prepoll

2nd Floor "Jog Center"
Wakdewadi Pune - Mumbai Road
Pune - 411 003.

Cat :- ORANGE / SSI ~~MSDXXSK~~ Date : 24/1/2003

Consent No. : ROP/E-25/cc/KIR/STR/
2242/147/2003

Consent to ~~Establish~~/ Operate under Section ~~21~~/26 of The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act. 1974 under Section 21 of The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act. 1981 and Authorisation / Renewal of Authorisation under Rule 5 of The Hazardous Wastes (Management and Handling) & Ammended Rules 2000
(To be referred as Water Act, Air Act and HW (M & H) Ammended Rules respectively).

CONSENT is granted to M/S ...Mukta Stone Crusher.
Gat. No. 500
A.P- Kanhawadi
Tal- Khandala
Dist- Satara

located in the area declared under the provisions of the Water Act / Air and Authorisation under the provisions of HW (M & H) Ammended Rules 2000 subject to the provisions of the Act and the Rules and the Orders that may be made further and subject to the following terms and conditions :-

1. The consent to ~~Establish~~/ Operate is granted for a period upto 31/12/2004
   (1) The validity of the authorisation granted under HW (M & H) Ammended Rules 2000, how ever will be valid for a period of 5 years from the date of issue after which the industry shall submit a fresh application for authorisation.

2. The Consent is valid for the manufacture of -

Sr. No.	Product	Maximum Quantity
1)	Stone Aggrigates	16 Brass/ Day

Bhundhe

3. CONDITIONS UNDER WATER ACT :

(i) The daily quantity of trade effuluent from the factory shall not exceed - NiL

(ii) The daily quantity of sewage effluent from the factory shall not exceed - 0.2

(iii) Trade Effluent :

Treatment :- The applicant shall provide comprehensive treatment system consisting of Primary / Secondary and / or Tertiary treatment as is warranted with reference to incluent quality and operate and maintain the same continuously so as to achieve the quality of the treated effluent to the following standards :-

(1)	pH	Between	-	5.5 to 9.0
(2)	Suspended Solids	Not to exceed	-	200 mg/l
(3)	B. O. D. 3 days 27^{0}C	Not to exceed	-	100 mg/l
(4)	C. O. D.	Not to exceed	-	250 mg/l
(5)	Oil & Grease	Not to exceed		10 mg/l
(6)	T. D. S.	Not to exceed		2100 mg/l
(7)	Chlorides	Not to exceed		600 mg/l
(8)	Sulphates	Not to exceed		1000 mg/l
(9)				
(10)				
(11)				
(12)				

(iv) Trade Effluent Disposal Nil

The treated industrial effluent shall be disposed on land for gardening / irrigation.

(v) Sewage Effluent Treatment - The applicant shall provide comprehensive treatment system is warranted with reference to influent quality and operate and maintain the same continuously so as to achieve the quality of treated effluent to the following standards :

Suspended Solids	Not to exceed	200 mg/l
B. O. D. 3 days 27^{0}C	Not to exceed	100 mg/l

(vi) Sewage Effluent Disposal :

The treated domestic effluent shall be disposed on land for gardening / irrigation.

(vii) Non-hazardous solid waste :

Type of waste	Quantity	Treatment	Disposal
Stone Dust	2B/W	-	Rasale Sale to concrte brick maufacturer

Bmdke

(vii) *Other Conditions :*

--

4. The applicant shall comply with the provisions of The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Act, 1977 (to be referred as Cess Act) and Rules thereunder :
The industry falls in the category Nil of the Act and the Rules made thereunder.
The daily water consumption for the following categories is as under :

(i)	Domestic	... 0.5	...	CMD
(ii)	Industrial Processing	... -	...	CMD
(iii)	Industrial Cooling	... -	...	CMD
(iv)	Agriculture/Gardening	...	...	CMD

The applicant shall regularly submit to the Board the returns of water consumption in the prescribed form and pay the cess as specified under Section 3 of the said Act.

5. CONDITIONS UNDER AIR ACT :

(i) The applicant shall install a comprehensive control system consisting of control equipments as is warrented with reference to generatation of emissions and operate and maintain the same continuously so as to achieve the level of pollutants to the following standards :-

Control Equipments

a) Dust containment Cum supression systems for the equipment;
b) Construction of Wind breaking walls;
c) Construction of metalled roads within the premises;
d) Regular cleaning and wetting of the ground within the premises;
e) Growing of greem belt along the periphery;
f) The Crusher and the Conveyor belt should be closed with adequate arrangements.

Standards for Emissions of Air Pollutants :

(i)	SPM	...	Not to exceed	~~150 mg/NM^3~~
(ii)	SO^2	...	Not to exceed	600.0 Microgramm/M^3
(iii)		...	Not to exceed	(At a distance of
(iv)		...	Not to exceed	40 Mtrs from crusher)
(v)		...	Not to exceed	
(vi)		...	Not to exceed	
(vii)		...	Not to exceed	

Bmdle

(ii) The applicant shall observe the following fuel pattern :

Sr. No.	Type of fuel	Quantity

-- N.A--

(iii) The applicant shall erect the chimney/(s) of the following specifications :

Sr. No.	Chimney attached to	Volume $Nm^3/hr.$	Height in Mtrs

-- N.A--

(iv) The applicant shall provide ports in the chimney/(s) and facilities such as ladder, platform, etc. for monitoring the air emissions and the same shall be open for inspection to/and for use of the Board's staff. The chimney/(s) vents attached to various sources of emission shall be designed by numbers such as S-1, S-2, etc. and these shall be painted/ displayed to facilitate identification.

(v) The industry shall take adequate measures for control of noise levels from its own sources within the premises in respect of noise to less than 75dB (A) during day time and 70dB (A) during night time. Day time is reckoned in between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m. and night time is reckoned between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.

(vi) *Other conditions*

-- Bmudko

6. CONDITIONS UNDER HW (M & H) & Ammended Rules 2000

(i) The applicant shall handle hazardous wastes as specified below :

Sr. No.	Category Waste	Types of Wastes	Quantity	Disposal
		The factory shall not generate any hazardous waste.		

(ii) Treatment :

(iii) The authorisation is hereby granted to operation for collection, storage, transport and disposal of hazardous waste.

7. The applicant shall comply with the Conditions as stipulated under Annexure - I & II enclosed.

For and on behalf of M.P.C. Board

Mundhe 22/01/03

(V. N. Mundhe)
Regional Officer,
PUNE

(When consent issuing authority is other than Member Secretary, state)

Name :

Designation :

Office Address :

To :

The Applicant Mr. Margaje D.V.
M|S Mukta stone cruser
Gat. NO. 500.
A.p. Kanhawadi
Tal. Khandala. Satara.

Copy submitted to :

1. The Collector, Pune District.
2. Member Secretary, MPCB, Mumbai.
3. The Sub Regional Officer, M. P. C. B.
Pune I / Pune II / Pimpari Chinchawad / Satara / Solapur
4. Chief Account Officer, MPCB, Mumbai.

Consent fee Rs. 200|- received, vide D. D. No. 268680
200/- 019375

Dated 22|9|98 Drawn on Bank of Maharastra
13|11|02 Bank of Maharastra

Hazardus waste fee Rs. D. D. No.

Dated Drawn on

Master file

TRUE COPY
ADVOCATE

MAHARASHTRA POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

Tel: 020 - 25811627
Fax: 020 -25811029
Website: http://mpcb.gov.in
Email: ropune@mpcb.gov.in

Jog Center, 3rd floor,
Mumbai Pune Road,
Wakdewadi, Pune - 411003.

ORANGE/S.S.I (O64)
No:- Format1.0/RO/UAN
No.0000225723/CR/2502000355

ANNEXURE-R-3

Date: 05/02/2025

To,
Mukta Stone Crusher
Gat No.500,Gat No.500, A/P-Kanhawadi, Tal-Khandala,
Dist-Satara.

Your Service is Our Duty

Sub: Renewal of Consent.

Ref: Existing Consent - RO/UAN. No. 0000131482/CR/2203001569 dtd. 30/03/2022.

Your application No.MPCB-CONSENT-0000225723 Dated 11.11.2024

For: grant of Consent to Operate under Section 26 of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 & under Section 21 of the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and Authorization under Rule 6 and Rule 18(7) of the Hazardous & Other Wastes (Management & Transboundary Movement) Rules 2016 is considered and the consent is hereby granted subject to the following terms and conditions and as detailed in the schedule I, II, III & IV annexed to this order:

1. **The consent to renewal is granted for a period up to 31/12/2028**
2. **The capital investment of the project is Rs.0.572 Crs. (As per C.A Certificate submitted by industry Existing CI is-Rs. 0.572 Crs)**
3. **Consent is valid for the manufacture of:**

Sr No	Product	Maximum Quantity	UOM
Products			
1	Stone Agreegate	16	Brass/D
2	Stone Dust	2	Brass/D

4. **Conditions under Water (P&CP), 1974 Act for discharge of effluent:**

Sr No	Description	Permitted (in CMD)	Standards to	Disposal Path
1.	Trade effluent	0	As per Schedule-I	Not Applicable
2.	Domestic effluent	0.7	As per Schedule-I	Soaked in soak pit

5. **Conditions under Air (P& CP) Act, 1981 for air emissions:**

Sr No.	Stack No.	Description of stack / source	Number of Stack	Standards to be achieved
1	0	0	0	As per Schedule -II

6. **Non-Hazardous Wastes:**

Sr No	Type of Waste	Quantity	UoM	Treatment	Disposal
1	na	0	--NA--	-	-

7. **Conditions under Hazardous & Other Wastes (M & T M) Rules 2016 for Collection, Segregation, Storage, Transportation, Treatment and Disposal of hazardous waste:**

Sr No	Category No./ Type	Quantity	UoM	Treatment	Disposal
NA					

8. The Board reserves the right to review, amend, suspend, revoke this consent and the same shall be binding on the industry.
9. This consent should not be construed as exemption from obtaining necessary NOC/ permission from any other Government authorities.
10. The applicant shall comply with the Interim direction issued on 29/01/2025.
11. The applicant shall make an application for renewal of consent 60 days prior to date of expiry of the consent. (Operate/Renewal)

This consent is issued on the basis of information/documents submitted by the Applicant/Project Proponent, if it has been observed that the information submitted by the Applicant/Project Proponent is false, misleading or fraudulent, the Board reserves its right to revoke the consent & further legal action will be initiated against the Applicant/Project Proponent.

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95b6c9ad
232b55db
cfa2532d

Signed by: Jagannath Salunkhe
Regional Officer
For and on behalf of,
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board
ropune@mpcb.gov.in
2025-02-05 17:48:50 IST

Received Consent fee of -

Sr.No	Amount(Rs.)	Transaction/DR.No.	Date	Transaction Type
1	4500.00	TXN2411001963	17/11/2024	Online Payment

Balance amount of Rs. 1500 will be considered at the time of next renewal of consent.

Copy to:

1. Sub-Regional Officer, MPCB, Satara
- They are directed to ensure the compliance of the consent conditions.
2. Chief Accounts Officer, MPCB,Sion, Mumbai

SCHEDULE-I

Terms & conditions for compliance of Water Pollution Control:

1. A] Generation - As per your application the treated effluent generation is Nil.
   B] Treatment - NA
   C] Disposal - NA

2. A] As per your application, you have provided Septic Tank followed by Soak pit for the treatment of 0.7 CMD of sewage.

   B] The Applicant shall operate the sewage treatment system to treat the sewage so as to achieve the following standards.

Sr.No	Parameters	Standards (mg/l)	
1	Suspended Solids	Not to exceed	50
2	BOD 3 days 27°C	Not to exceed	30
3	COD	Not to exceed	100

   C] The treated sewage shall be recycled for secondary purposes to the maximum extent and remaining shall be discharged on land for gardening within premise after confirming above standards. In no case, sewage shall find its way for gardening / outside factory premises.

3. The Board reserves its rights to review plans, specifications or other data relating to plant setup for the treatment of waterworks for the purification there of & the system for the disposal of sewage or trade effluent or in connection with the grant of any consent conditions. The Applicant shall obtain prior consent of the Board to take steps to establish the unit or establish any treatment and disposal system or an extension or addition thereto.

4. The industry shall ensure replacement of pollution control system or its parts after expiry of its expected life as defined by manufacturer so as to ensure the compliance of standards and safety of the operation thereof.

5. The Applicant shall comply with the provisions of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and as amended, by installing water meters and other provisions as contained in the said act:

Sr. No.	Purpose for water consumed	Water consumption quantity (CMD)
1.	Industrial Cooling, spraying in mine pits or boiler feed	1.50
2.	Domestic purpose	1.00
3.	Processing whereby water gets polluted & pollutants are easily biodegradable	0.00
4.	Processing whereby water gets polluted & pollutants are not easily biodegradable and are toxic	0.00
5.	Gardening	0

6. The Applicant shall provide Specific Water Pollution control system as per the conditions of EP Act, 1986 and rule made there under from time to time/ Environmental Clearance/ CREP guidelines.

SCHEDULE-II

Terms & conditions for compliance of Air Pollution Control:

1. As per your application, you have provided the Air pollution control (APC) system and erected following stack (s) to observe the following fuel pattern:

Stack No.	Source	APC System provided/proposed	Stack Height(in mtr)	Type of Fuel	Sulphur Content(in %)	Pollutant	Standard
0	0		0.00	0 0 -- NA--	-	0	-

Quantitative Standards for the SPM:Suspended particulate matter shall be measured 3 to 10 meters from any process equipment of a stone crushing unit shall not exceed 600 µg/M3.

2. The Applicant shall provide Specific Air Pollution control equipments as per the conditions of EP Act, 1986 and rule made there under from time to time/ Environmental Clearance / CREP guidelines.
3. The Applicant shall obtain necessary prior permission for providing additional control equipment with necessary specifications and operation thereof or alteration or replacement/alteration well before its life come to an end or erection of new pollution control equipment.
4. The Board reserves its rights to vary all or any of the condition in the consent, if due to any technological improvement or otherwise such variation (including the change of any control equipment, other in whole or in part is necessary).
5. **A] Installation and Operations of Stone Crushing Unit:**
   1. Stone crusher unit shall install adequate pollution control measures including erection of G.I./M.S. sheet cover and sprinklers before commencement of crusher.
   2. Crusher shall covered and water sprinkling system shall be provided on crusher to suppress dust generated due to material handling / loading / unloading activity.
   3. Screen classifier shall be adequately covered by G.I./M.S. sheet to prevent the emission into the atmosphere due to screening / grading activity.
   4. All conveyor belts shall be adequately covered by G.I./M.S. sheet only.
   5. Regular wetting of roads shall be carried out to suppress the ground level dust within the premises to control the air borne dust emission due to wind velocity.
   6. All approach roads and ramps shall be metalled.
   7. Curtain or wall shall be provided surrounding the stone crusher.
   8. Display Board shall be provided at the entrance of the stone crusher indicating survey no., name, & address of the owner and the unit.
   9. Fine dust generated due to screening / crushing / grading shall be disposed off scientifically.

   B] Air Pollution Control Measures:
   1. Dust containment cum suppression system for the equipment i.e. main crusher / jaw crusher, vibrating screen etc. shall be provided to limit emissions as below.
   2. Construction of wind breaking walls especially at charging hopper & crushing place shall be provided to limit emissions as below.
   3. Construction of metalled roads within the premises shall be provided. Regular wetting of the ground within the premises shall be carried out.
   4. Tree plantation along the periphery inside boundary of the stone crusher premises having minimum width 5 meters, on all sides shall be developed.
   5. The foliage of the trees shall adequately cover area up to about 20 mtrs. height.

C] Miscellaneous:

1. Stone crusher unit shall strictly comply National Ambient Air Quality Standards, 2009.
2. The Project Proponent shall provide adequate water treatment and disposal facility from generated effluent from their activity. They shall comply with the provisions of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.
3. The project proponent shall provide adequate Air Pollution Control arrangement at the source. They shall comply with the provisions under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.
4. The remediation and restoration measure shall be taken by the project proponent in case of any environmental pollution in the surrounding area due to emission / effluent in excess of the standards being emitted / discharged into the environment and violation of Consent conditions and thereby causing environmental pollution.

SCHEDULE-III

Details of Bank Guarantees:

Sr. No.	Consent (C2E/ C2O /C2R)	Amt of BG Imposed	Submission Period	Purpose of BG	Compliance Period	Validity Date
1	C to R	Rs. 25,000/-	15 days/Extend	Compliance of Consent conditions.	31/12/2028	31/12/2029

If the above Bank Guarantee is not submitted within stipulated period, then 12% interest will be levied as a penalty as per circular dtd 29/02/2024 No. BO/MPCB/AS(T)/Circular/B-240229FTS0122

BG Forfeiture History

Srno.	Consent (C2E/C2O/C2R)	Amount of BG imposed	Submission Period	Purpose of BG	Amount of BG Forfeiture	Reason of BG Forfeiture
NA						

BG Return details

Srno.	Consent (C2E/C2O/C2R)	BG imposed	Purpose of BG	Amount of BG Returned
NA				

SCHEDULE-IV

General Conditions:

1. The Energy source for lighting purpose shall preferably be LED based
2. The PP shall harvest rainwater from roof tops of the buildings and storm water drains to recharge the ground water and utilize the same for different industrial applications within the plant
3. Conditions for D.G. Set
   a) Noise from the D.G. Set should be controlled by providing an acoustic enclosure or by treating the room acoustically.
   b) Industry should provide acoustic enclosure for control of noise. The acoustic enclosure/ acoustic treatment of the room should be designed for minimum 25 dB (A) insertion loss or for meeting the ambient noise standards, whichever is on higher side. A suitable exhaust muffler with insertion loss of 25 dB (A) shall also be provided. The measurement of insertion loss will be done at different points at 0.5 meters from acoustic enclosure/room and then average.
   c) Industry should make efforts to bring down noise level due to DG set, outside industrial premises, within ambient noise requirements by proper sitting and control measures.
   d) Installation of DG Set must be strictly in compliance with recommendations of DG Set manufacturer.
   e) A proper routine and preventive maintenance procedure for DG set should be set and followed in consultation with the DG manufacturer which would help to prevent noise levels of DG set from deteriorating with use.
   f) D.G. Set shall be operated only in case of power failure.
   g) The applicant should not cause any nuisance in the surrounding area due to operation of D.G. Set.
   h) The applicant shall comply with the notification of MoEFCC, India on Environment (Protection) second Amendment Rules vide GSR 371(E) dated 17.05.2002 and its amendments regarding noise limit for generator sets run with diesel.
4. The applicant shall maintain good housekeeping.
5. The non-hazardous solid waste arising in the factory premises, sweepings, etc. be disposed of scientifically so as not to cause any nuisance / pollution. The applicant shall take necessary permissions from civic authorities for disposal of solid waste.
6. The applicant shall not change or alter the quantity, quality, the rate of discharge, temperature or the mode of the effluent/emissions or hazardous wastes or control equipments provided for without previous written permission of the Board. The industry will not carry out any activity, for which this consent has not been granted/without prior consent of the Board.
7. The Board reserves the right to review, amend, suspend, revoke this consent and the same shall be binding upon you.
8. The industry shall submit quarterly statement in respect of industries obligation towards consent and pollution control compliance's duly supported with documentary evidences (format can downloaded from MPCB official site).
9. The industry shall submit official e-mail address and any change will be duly informed to the MPCB.
10. The industry shall achieve the National Ambient Air Quality standards prescribed vide Government of India, Notification No. B-29016/20/90/PCI-L dated. 18.11.2009 as amended.
11. This consent should not be construed as exemption from obtaining necessary NOC/ permission from any other Government authorities.

12. The industry shall ensure replacement of pollution control system or its parts after expiry of its expected life as defined by manufacturer so as to ensure the compliance of standards and safety of the operation thereof.
13. You shall operate OCEMS installed for source emission round 'O' clock and transmit data online to CPCB and MPCB server. You shall also monitor effluent quality, stack emissions and ambient air quality monthly/quarterly. You shall conduct Dioxin Furan monitoring by third party NABL Accredited agency once in year and submit report to Sub Regional Officer.
14. You shall ensure collection, and segregation of BMW regularly to treat and dispose Off within 48 hrs from generation.
15. Whenever due to any accident or other unforeseen act or even, such emissions occur or is apprehended to occur in excess of standards laid down, such information shall be forthwith Reported to Board, concerned Police Station, office of Directorate of Health Services, Department of Explosives, Inspectorate of Factories and Local Body. In case of failure of pollution control equipments, the production process connected to it shall be stopped.
16. The applicant shall provide an alternate electric power source sufficient to operate all pollution control facilities installed to maintain compliance with the terms and conditions of the consent. In the absence, the applicant shall stop, reduce or otherwise, control production to abide by terms and conditions of this consent.
17. The industry shall recycle/reprocess/reuse/recover Hazardous Waste as per the provision contain in the Hazardous and Other Wastes (M & TM) Rules 2016, which can be recycled /processed /reused /recovered and only waste which has to be incinerated shall go to incineration and waste which can be used for land filling and cannot be recycled/reprocessed etc. should go for that purpose, in order to reduce load on incineration and landfill site/environment.
18. An inspection book shall be opened and made available to the Board’s officers during their visit to the applicant.
19. You shall not Rent, Lend, Sell, Transfer or Close Down the facility or otherwise transport the Bio Medical waste for any other purpose without obtaining prior written permission of the MPC Board.
20. Separate drainage system shall be provided for collection of trade and sewage effluents. Terminal manholes shall be provided at the end of the collection system with arrangement for measuring the flow. No effluent shall be admitted in the pipes/sewers downstream of the terminal manholes. No effluent shall find its way other than in designed and provided collection system.
21. Neither storm water nor discharge from other premises shall be allowed to mix with the effluents from the factory.
22. The industry should not cause any nuisance in surrounding area.
23. The industry shall take adequate measures for control of noise levels from its own sources within the premises so as to maintain ambient air quality standard in respect of noise to less than 75 dB (A) during day time and 70 dB (A) during night time. Day time is reckoned in between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m. and night time is reckoned between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.
24. You shall ensure that fugitive emissions from the activity are controlled so as to maintain clean and safe environment in and around the facility premises.

25. The applicant shall provide ports in the chimney/(s) and facilities such as ladder, platform etc. for monitoring the air emissions and the same shall be open for inspection to/and for use of the Board's Staff. The chimney(s) vents attached to various sources of emission shall be designated by numbers such as S-1, S-2, etc. and these shall be painted/ displayed to facilitate identification.
26. The Board reserves its rights to review plans, specifications or other data relating to plant setup for the treatment of waterworks for the purification thereof & the system for the disposal of sewage or trade effluent or in connection with the grant of any consent conditions. The Applicant shall obtain prior consent of the Board to take steps to establish the unit or establish any treatment and disposal system or an extension or addition thereto
27. The applicant shall install a separate meter showing the consumption of energy for operation of domestic and industrial effluent treatment plants and air pollution control system. A register showing consumption of chemicals used for treatment shall be maintained.
28. The applicant shall bring minimum 33% of the available open land under green coverage/ plantation. The applicant shall submit a yearly statement by 30th September every year on available open plot area, number of trees surviving as on 31st March of the year and number of trees planted by September end.
29. The Board reserves its rights to review plans, specifications or other data relating to plant setup for the treatment of waterworks for the purification thereof & the system for the disposal of sewage or trade effluent or in connection with the grant of any consent conditions.
30. The firm shall submit to this office, the 30th day of September every year, the Environment Statement Report for the financial year ending 31st March in the prescribed FORM-V as per the provisions of Rule 14 of the Environment (Protection) (second Amendment) Rules, 1992.
31. You should monitor effluent quality, stack emissions and ambient air quality monthly/quarterly. You shall conduct Dioxin Furan monitoring by third party NABL Accredited agency once in every year and submit report to Sub Regional Officer.
32. The Board reserves its rights to vary all or any of the condition in the consent, if due to any technological improvement or otherwise such variation (including the change of any control equipment, other in whole or in part is necessary).
33. The applicant shall provide facility for collection of environmental samples and samples of trade and sewage effluents, air emissions and hazardous waste to the Board staff at the terminal or designated points and shall pay to the Board for the services rendered in this behalf.
34. You shall obtain necessary prior permission for providing additional control equipment with necessary specifications and operation thereof or alteration or shall ensure replacement of pollution control system or its parts after expiry of its expected life as defined by manufacturer so as to ensure the compliance of standards and safety of the operation thereof.
35. You shall strictly comply with the Water (P&CP) Act, 1974, Air (P&CP) Act, 1981 and Environmental Protection Act, 1986 and industry specific standard under EP Rules 1986 which are available on MPCB website (www.mpcb.gov.in).
36. You shall create the Environmental Cell by appointing an Environmental Engineer and Chemist for looking after day-to-day activities related to compliance of CCA.

37. You should comply with the Hazardous and Other Wastes (M & TM) Rules, 2016 , Bio Medical Waste Management Rules,2016 and submit the Annual Returns as per Rule 6(5) & 20(2) of Hazardous and Other Wastes (M & TM) Rules, 2016 for the preceding year in Form-IV by 30th June of every year

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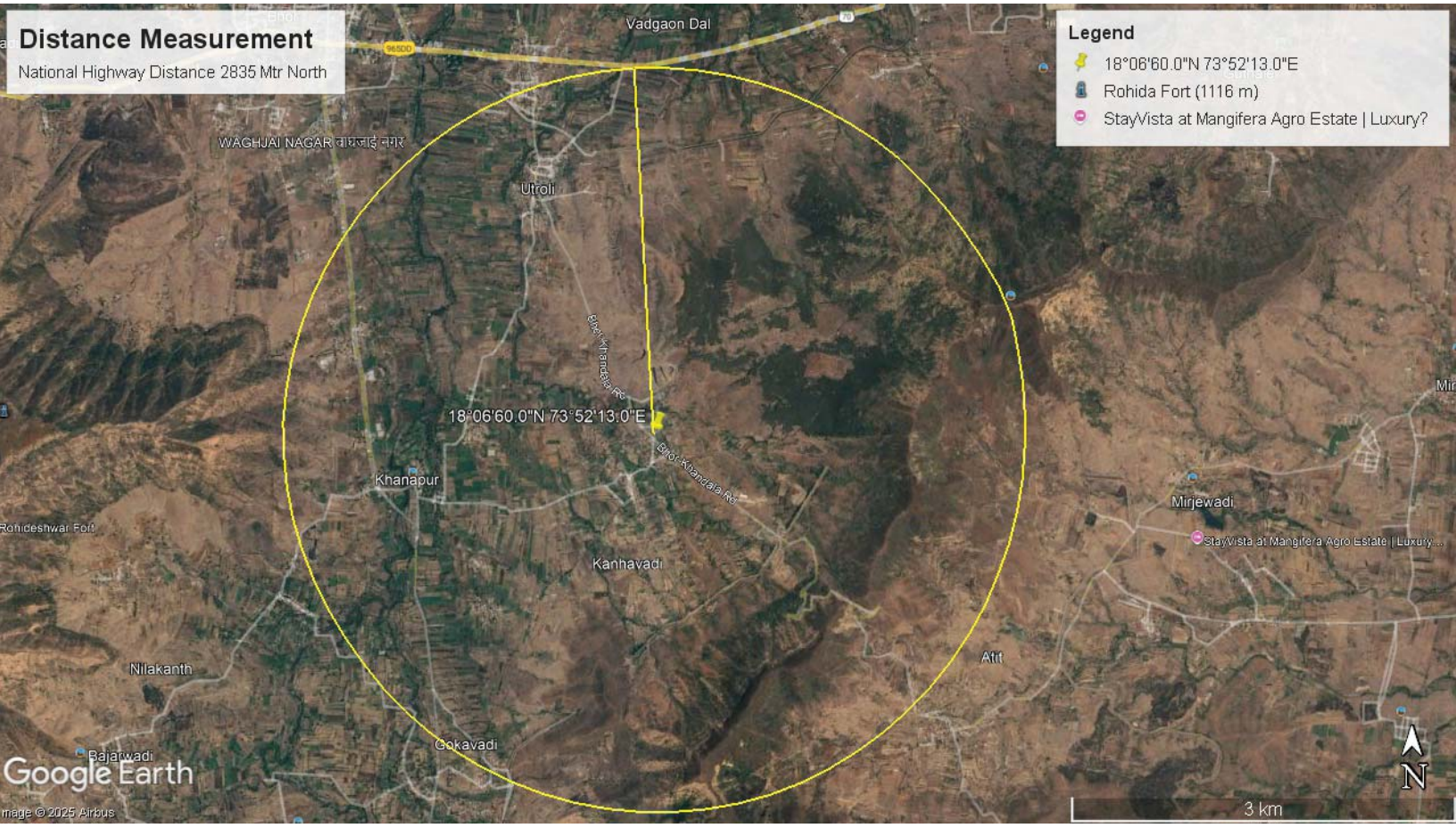
This certificate is digitally & electronically signed.

TRUE COPY
ADVOCATE

ANNEXURE-R-4

TRUE COPY
ADVOCATE

ANNEXURE- R-5



TRUE COPY
ADVOCATE

ANNEXURE-R-6

Date-12/01/2025

To,

The Regional officer
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,
Pune.

Sub:- Reply/compliance report of Proposed Direction.by Mukta Stone Crusher
Ref:- Proposed Direction No.MPCB/ROP/PD/2501090002 issued on 09/01/2025.

Respected sir,

With reference to above, it is submitted the reply to the Proposed Direction issued on 09/01/2025. Submitted herewith the point wise reply as under-

Sr.No.	*Proposed Direction* **Points**	***Compliance***
1	You have not provided wind breaking wall along with the periphery of the crusher unit.	*We have provided* wind breaking wall with tin sheet metal wall along with the periphery of the crusher unit. Photographs are enclosed.
2	You have not provided the fogger system at entry and exist point of the crusher unit.	*We have provided* fogger system/water sprinkler arrangement at entry and exist point of the crusher unit. Photographs are enclosed.
3	*You have not provided metalloid road with the premises.*	*We had provided tar road to movement of vehicles with the stone crusher area/premises.* Photographs are enclosed.
4	You have not taking adequate measures to avoid dust emission and thereby causing air pollution nuisance to the nearby area.	*We have taking all necessary precaution to fugitive dust emissions i.e.* fogger system/water sprinkler arrangement and we had installed noise pollution free stone crusher unit. Photographs are enclosed.

Hereby requesting you kindly consider our efforts for protection of Environment and we will assured that, we will be taking precautionary measures to avoid fugitive emissions and noise pollution. This is submitted for information & further needful, please.

Thanking you.

Yours Faithfully

Copy submitted for information to
Sub Regional Officer, MPCB, Satara

Received on Dt. 17/01/2025
Clerk
R. O. M. P. C. B. Pune

TRUE COPY
ADVOCATE

ANNEXURE-R-7

MUKTA STONE CRUSHER

Gate No.500, At / Post : Kanhwadi, Tal.: Khandala,
Dist. Satara. 412206,
Phone : 9420480825, 9420480827,9822326078,

Date:-14/02/2025

To,

The Regional Officer,
M.P.C.Board,
Pune

Subject:-Submission of Bank guarantee.

Reference:- Directions under section 33A of Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution)Act,1974,31A of Air(Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act,1981 & Hazardous & Other Wastes (M&TM)Rules,2016. No.ROP/2501290002 Date:-29/01/2025

Sir,

With reference to above subject, it is to submitted that, original bank guarantee of Rs.25000/- in repsect of **M/s. Mukta Stone Crusher** situated **Gat No.500,A/P-Kanhwadi,Tal-Khandala,Dist-Satara** in the of Regional Officer, MPCB, Pune.

We have submitted bank guarantee of Canara Bank BG No. TVEGPGE250410009 Dtd.14/02/2025 ,Which is valid up to 06/02/2028 as per imposing towards compliance of consent condition Schedule No.3.

This is submitted for information please.

Documents:- Original Bank Guarantee

Consent copy

Online bank guarantee submission receipt

Your Faithfully

Copy submitted to information-

Sub Regional Officer,MPCB,Satara

Maharashtra Pollution Control Board

महाराष्ट्र प्रदूषण नियंत्रण मंडळ

Bank Guarantee

BG UAN NUMBER:	MPCB-BG-0000089407						
Industry Unit:	Mukta Stone Crusher	***Industry Name:***	Mukta Stone Crusher	***Industry Address:***	Gat no.500,Kanhawadi, Tal-Khandala, Dist-Satara,Kanhavadi,Satara		
RO Region:	RO-Pune	***SRO Region:***	SRO-Satara	***BG Obtained for:***	DIRECTION	***BG for:***	Conditional Direction
Direction No:	ROP/2501290002	***Direction:***	29-01-2025				
Conditions:	Towards ensure the above compliances within 2 months.	***Compliance period:***	06-02-2028	***BG No:***	TVEGPGE250410009.	***Amount:***	25000
Bank:	Canara Bank	***BG submission Date:***	17-02-2025	***BG expiry Date:***	06-02-2028		

Note: You have been directed to submit original bank guarantee along with this acknowledge letter to concerned regional office.

Received on Dt. 17/02/2025
SR
Clerk
R. O. M. P. C. B. Pune

TRUE COPY
ADVOCATE