

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN
TRIBUNAL, WESTERN ZONE BENCH, PUNE**
ORIGINAL APPLICATION: 42/2025

APPLICANT : GO GREEN FOUNDATION TRUST
& Anr.

Vs

RESPONDENTS: UNION OF INDIA – MoEFCC &
ORS

REPLY ON BEHALF OF THE RESPONDENT NO.2

Most Respectfully showeth,

The Respondent No.2 in the instant matter most
humbly submits;

1. That in response to the instant Application preferred
by the Applicant under section 14, 15 & 18 of the
National Green Tribunal Act, 2010, The Central Ground
Water Authority (the Respondent No.2 herein and
hereinafter referred to as an Answering Respondent)
submits its parawise reply to the averments in the
Application which be considered without prejudice to
one another.

2. That as per the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India vide its order dated 10th December, 1996 passed in Civil writ Petition No 4677 of 1985, MC Mehta Vs Union of India, the Central Government had constituted the Central Ground Water Board as Authority vide notification number S.O. 38 (E), dated the 14th January, 1997 under sub section (3) of section 3 of the Environment (Protection) act, 1986 (29 of 1986) for the purposes of regulation and control of Ground Water Management and Development.

3. That consequent thereto, the Central Ground Water Authority is empowered to perform various such functions as contained/provided under the Environment (protection)Act, 1986. In particular, the Respondent is empowered/authorized to –

i) To exercise powers under Section 4 of the Act, for appointment of Officer(s).

ii) Exercise powers under Section 5 of the Environment protection Act, 1986 for issuing directions and initiating such measures, in respect of all matters referred in Section 3(2) of the Act;



iii) Resort to penal provisions, contained in Section(s) 15-21 of the Environment protection Act, 1986; and
iv) To regulate, control, manage and develop ground water in the country, while issuing necessary regulatory directions for such purpose.

4. That the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has been regulating ground water management and development in the country by way of issuing 'No Objection Certificate' for ground water extraction to industries or infrastructure projects, Mining Projects, Bulk Water Supplier etc., as per the existing The Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS) guidelines, 2020 and amendment dated 29.03.2023. These guidelines have pan India applicability. Further, wherever States/ UTs have come out with their own groundwater abstraction guidelines, which are inconsistent with the CGWA guidelines, the provisions of CGWA guidelines will prevail.

5. Accordingly, A site inspection has been carried out on 25/10/2025 by officer from CGWB, SUO (State Unit



Office), to verify the existence of any ground water abstraction structure and withdrawal of ground water if any in the premises of the firm.

6. As per the inspection report received from CGWB officer, it was observed that neither a borewell nor any other groundwater abstraction structure exists within the premises of the project. The firm is not abstracting groundwater and, therefore, has not applied for an NOC from the CGWA. Once in a while as per requirement water tanker supply is availed. It is also stated that the PP is getting water from Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) and submitted water supply bills in support of the same. The copy of the inspection Report dated 25/10/25 inspection report is annexed hereto and marked as ANNEXURE-R2-1.



Adverting to what has been stated hereinabove, rest of the contents of the application not specifically traversed, except which has been specifically admitted are denied in toto.

Pune :

Dated : 29/01/26

J. Imp. : 27.1.26

For Central Ground Water Authority

डॉ. उमेश एस. बालपांडे/Dr. Umesh S. Balpande
 क्षेत्रीय निदेशक/Regional Director
 भारत सरकार/Government of India
 (Respondent No. 2)
 केन्द्रीय भूमि जल बोर्ड/Central Ground Water Board
 जल संसाधन, नदी विकास और/Department of Water Resources
 गंगा संरक्षण विभाग/River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation
 जल शक्ती मंत्रालय/Ministry of Jal Shakti
 मध्य क्षेत्र, नागपुर/Central Region, Nagpur.

A. Sheshrao

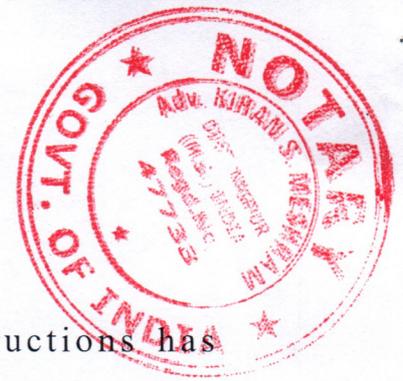
COUNSEL FOR RESPONDENT NO.2



SOLEMN AFFIRMATION

I Dr. Umesh Sheshrao Balpande S/o Sh. Sheshrao Balpande, aged about 49 yrs, Occu.: Regional Director, Central Ground Water Board, Central Region, Nagpur, R/o Nagpur do hereby take oath and state on solemn affirmation:

I am conversant with the facts of the present case and therefore able to depose the same.



I say that the Counsel as per my instructions has drafted the above Reply. I have gone through the contents of the above said Reply and understood the same. I say that the contents of the Reply are true to my knowledge and as per the records of the Authority which I believe to be true. As far as the legal submissions herein are concerned the same are correct as advised by my counsel. The contents of the Reply are explained to me in vernacular which I found to be correct. Hence, signed and verified at Nagpur on this 27th day of JANUARY, 2026.



[Signature]
Deponent 27.1.26

I know & Identify the Deponent

[Signature]

(Atul J Pathak)
Advocate



डॉ. उमेश एस. बालपांडे/Dr. Umesh S. Balpande
क्षेत्रीय निदेशक/Regional Director
भारत सरकार/Government of India
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जल शक्ती मंत्रालय/Ministry of Jal Shakti
मध्य क्षेत्र, नागपुर/Central Region, Nagpur

N.R.S. No. _____
Solemnly Affirmed Before Me By
Shri / Smt. *as above*
Who is Identified by
Shri / Smt. *self*
_____ Advocate when I
Personally Known
Dt. 28/1/2026



[Signature]
KIRAN S. MESHARAM
Advocate
District Nagpur
Govt. of India Reg. No. 47733
Dt.

REPORT ON SITE INSPECTION AT RUBBERWALA HOUSING AND
INFRASTRUCTURE LTD, DR NAIR ROAD, AGRIPADA, MUMBAI, MAHARASHTRA

Introduction:

As per the instructions from Central Ground Water Board, Central Region, Nagpur, the undersigned was assigned the task to conduct a site inspection at the premises of Rubberwala Housing And Infrastructure Ltd, Opp to Agripada Police Station, Mumbai, Maharashtra for verification of GW abstraction structures in the premise of Rubberwala Housing And Infrastructure Ltd has not obtained exemption from NOC from CGWA.

As directed, the undersigned visit the site on 25.10.2025 (Image 1) The reported information from representative Shri Azim Khan, Manager of this firm is that:

1. **No Bore well** constructed inside the office premises for GW withdrawal.
2. Only BMMP(Bruhan Mumbai Mahanagar Palike) water supply source is available for this company. Once in a while based on requirement water tanker supply will be availing.
3. Recent BMMP water supply bill are attached for the reference.

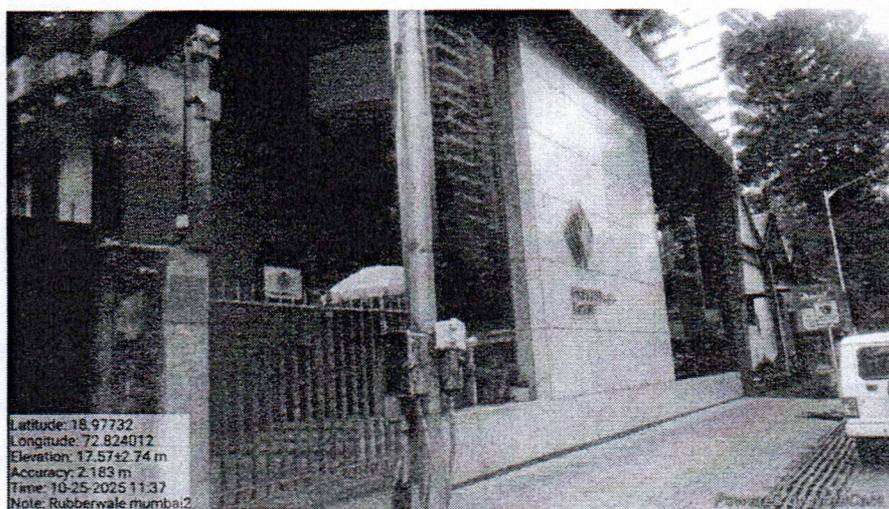


Image 1: Rubberwala Housing And Infrastructure Ltd.

Observations:

1. The firm has NO BORE WELL for Ground Water withdrawal.
2. Only source of water is BMMP water supply and Recent bills are attached for the Reference.
3. While visit, the Manager was not available, Hence the Random Inspection proforma is not submitted.



Scientist-B
State Unit Office, Pune