

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL, PRINCIPAL
BENCH, NEW DELHI

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 622 OF 2022

IN THE MATTER OF:
ANIRUDA PANWAR

.....APPLICANT

VERSUS

**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND
CLIMATE CHANGE & ORS.**

.....RESPONDENTS

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FILED BY:

NEW DELHI

DATED: 05.12.2022



(PRADEEP MISRA & DALEEP KR. DHYANI)

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.....RESPONDENTS

REPLY ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT NO. 5, U.P.
POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

I, Vikas Mishra, S/o. Shri Ganga Sharan Misra, aged about 43 years, Regional Officer, U.P. Pollution Control Board, Moradabad, U.P. at present at New Delhi, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as under:

1. That I in the abovenoted capacity am well conversant with the facts and record of the present case, hence am competent to swear this affidavit.
2. That I have read the original application and have understood the same fully.



- That at the outset of this affidavit, I deny each and every averment of facts made in the said original application save and except those which are admitted by me hereinafter specifically.
4. That the only allegation against the replying Respondent is that it has issued Consent to Establish before grant of Environment Clearance which is against law. Thus the present affidavit is being filed limited to that ground replying

Respondent craves leave of this Hon'ble Tribunal to file detailed reply subsequently if so required.

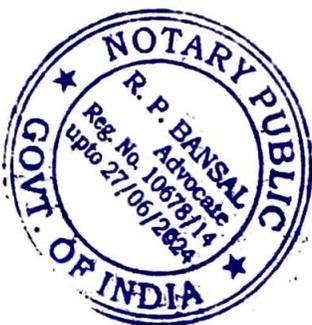
5. That Ministry of Environment and Forest and Climate Change issued a notification dated 14.03.2017 wherein under Clause 13(3) it has been provided as follows:

“13(3). In cases of violation, action will be taken against the project proponent by the respective State or State Pollution Control Board under the provisions of Section 19 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and further, no consent to the operate or occupancy certificate will be issued till the project is granted the environment clearance.”

Thus from reading of the said Clause it is clear that the restriction is to grant consent to operate and not consent to establish. A true copy of said notification is being enclosed herewith and marked as Annexure-1. Page-5-8

6. That thereafter Government of India has issued an order dated 20.09.2021 under Section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act which also says that CTO cannot be granted or renewed unless Environmental Clearance is granted. In the said order the following directions have been issued:

- i. Ascertain the applicability of EIA Notification at the time of grant/renewal of CTE and stipulate appropriate condition for obtaining Environmental Clearance (EC), if applicable,



before construction/commencement of project/activity.

- ii. Ensure that the project proponent possesses a valid Prior EC in terms of the extant EIA Notification, if applicable, at the time of grant/renewal of CTO and no CTO shall be granted or renewed unless EC, if applicable, has been obtained.

A true copy of the said order is being enclosed herewith and marked as Annexure-2. Page-9-10

- 7. That Project Proponent has applied for consent to establish on 27.09.2021 and the U.P. Pollution Control Board has granted conditional consent on 26.04.2022 which has a specific condition No. 2 which is as follows:

“2) No construction shall be done at the proposed site without obtaining prior Environmental Clearance from State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Uttar Pradesh.”



The CTE dated 26.04.2022 has already been annexed by the Applicant as Annexure-E at Pages 28 to 30 of the Original Application.

Thus, the U.P. Pollution Control Board has not violated the conditions issued by Government of India.

The above facts are being placed for kind consideration of this Hon'ble Tribunal.



DEPONENT

VERIFICATION:

I, the abovenamed deponent, do hereby verify that the contents of above affidavit are true to my knowledge and belief. No part of the same is false and nothing has been concealed therefrom.

VERIFIED ON THIS THE 07TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 2022 AT NEW DELHI.


Identified by



DEPONENT




ATTESTED
Notary Public, Delhi
(As Presented)

07/10/2022

से पूर्व जमा किया जाएगा और उसे मंत्रालय के प्रादेशिक कार्यालय, विशेषज्ञ मूल्यांकन समिति तथा विनियामक प्राधिकरण के अनुमोदन के पश्चात् सुधारकारी योजना और प्राकृतिक तथा सामुदायिक संसाधन आवर्धन योजना के सफलतापूर्वक कार्यान्वयन के पश्चात् निर्मुक्त किया जाएगा।

14. ऐसी परियोजनाएं और क्रियाकलाप, जो इस अधिसूचना की तारीख को उल्लंघनकारी हैं, इस अधिसूचना के अधीन पर्यावरणीय अनापत्ति के लिए आवेदन करने के पात्र होंगे और परियोजना प्रस्तावक इस अधिसूचना के अधीन पर्यावरणीय अनापत्ति के लिए केवल इस अधिसूचना की तारीख से छह मास के भीतर ही आवेदन कर सकते हैं।

[फा. सं. 22-116/2015-आईए-III]

मनोज कुमार सिंह, संयुक्त सचिव

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
NOTIFICATION
New Delhi, the 14th March, 2017

S.O. 804(E).—Whereas, a draft notification under sub-section (1), and clause (v) of sub-section (2) of Section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (29 of 1986) was published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, sub-section (ii), vide number S.O. 1705(E), dated the 10th May, 2016, as required by sub-rule (3) of rule 5 of the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986, for finalising the process for appraisal of projects for grant of Terms of Reference and Environmental Clearance, which have started the work on site, expanded the production beyond the limit of environmental clearance or changed the product mix without obtaining prior environmental clearance under the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 inviting objections and suggestions from all persons likely to be affected thereby within a period of sixty days from the date on which copies of Gazette containing the said notification were made available to the public;

2. And whereas, copies of the said notification were made available to the public on the 10th May, 2016;

3. And whereas, all objections and suggestions received in response to the above mentioned draft notification have been duly considered by the Central Government.

4. Whereas, subject to the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, under sub-section (1) of section 3 of the Act, the Central Government has the power to take all such measures as it deems necessary or expedient for the purpose of protecting and improving the quality of the environment and preventing, controlling, and abating environment pollution;

5. Whereas, section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 empowers the Central Government to give directions which reads as "Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law but subject to the provisions of this Act, the Central Government may, in the exercise of its powers and performance of its functions under this Act, issue directions in writing to any person, officer or any authority and such person, officer or authority shall be bound to comply with such directions;

6. Whereas the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change issued Office Memoranda dated 12.12.2012 and 27.06.2013 to establish a process for grant of environmental clearance to cases of violation.

7. Whereas, the Hon'ble High Court of Jharkhand had passed an order dated the 28th November, 2014 in W.P. (C) No. 2364 of 2014 in the matter of Hindustan Copper Limited *Versus* Union of India in which the High Court held that the conditions laid down under Office Memorandum dated 12th December, 2012 in paragraph No. 5 (i) and 5 (ii) were illegal and unconstitutional and had further held that action for alleged violation would be an independent and separate proceeding and therefore, consideration of proposal for environment clearance could not await initiation of action against the project proponent. The Hon'ble Court further ruled that the proposal for environment clearance must be examined on its merits, independent of any proposed action for alleged violation of the environmental laws;

8. And whereas, Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench *vide* its order dated 7th July, 2015 in Original Application No. 37 of 2015 and Original Application No. 213 of 2015 had also held that the Office Memoranda dated 12th December, 2012 and 24th June, 2013 on the subject of consideration of proposals for Terms of Reference or Environment Clearance or Coastal Regulation Zone Clearance involving violations of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 or Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 2011 could not alter or amend the provisions of the Environment Impact Assessment notification, 2006 and had quashed the same;
9. And whereas, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and State Environment Impact Assessment Authorities have been receiving certain proposals under the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 for grant of Terms of References and Environmental Clearance for projects which have started the work on site, expanded the production beyond the limit of environmental clearance or changed the product mix without obtaining prior environmental clearance;
10. Whereas, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change deems it necessary for the purpose of protecting and improving the quality of the environment and abating environmental pollution that all entities not complying with environmental regulation under Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 be brought under compliance with in the environmental laws in expedient manner;
11. And whereas, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change deems it necessary to bring such projects and activities in compliance with the environmental laws at the earliest point of time, rather than leaving them unregulated and unchecked, which will be more damaging to the environment and in furtherance of this objective, the Government of India deems it essential to establish a process for appraisal of such cases of violation for prescribing adequate environmental safeguards to entities and the process should be such that it deters violation of provisions of Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 and the pecuniary benefit of violation and damage to environment is adequately compensated for;-
12. And whereas, Hon'ble Supreme Court in *Indian Council for Enviro-Legal Action Vs. Union of India* (the Bichhri village industrial pollution case), while delivering its judgment on 13th February, 1996, analyzed all the relevant provisions of law and concluded that damages may be recovered under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (1996 [3] SCC 212). The Hon'ble Court observed that section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 expressly empowers the Central Government [or its delegate, as the case may be] to "take all such measures as it deems necessary or expedient for the purpose of protecting and improving the quality of environment.....". Section 5 clothes the Central Government [or its delegate] with the power to issue directions for achieving the objects of the Act. Read with the wide definition of "environment" in Section 2 (a), Sections 3 and 5 clothe the Central Government with all such powers as are "necessary or expedient for the purpose of protecting and improving the quality of the environment". The Central Government is empowered to take all measures and issue all such directions as are called for the above purpose. In the present case, the said powers will include giving directions for the removal of sludge, for undertaking remedial measures and also the power to impose the cost of remedial measures on the offending industry and utilize the amount so recovered for carrying out remedial measures..... Hon'ble Court has further observed that levy of costs required for carrying out remedial measures is implicit in Sections 3 and 5 which are couched in very wide and expansive language. Sections 3 and 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, apart from other provisions of Water and Air Acts, empower the Government to make all such directions and take all such measures as are necessary or expedient for protecting and promoting the 'environment', which expression has been defined in very wide and expansive terms in Section 2 (a) of the Environment (Protection) Act. This power includes the power to prohibit an activity, close an industry, direct to carry out remedial measures, and wherever necessary impose the cost of remedial measures upon the offending industry. The question of liability of the respondents to defray the costs of remedial measures can also be

looked into from another angle, which has now come to be accepted universally as a sound principle, viz., the "Polluter Pays" Principle. "The polluter pays principle demands that the financial costs of preventing or remedying damage caused by pollution should lie with the undertakings which cause the pollution, or produce the goods which cause the pollution".

13 (1). Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) and sub clause (a) of clause (i) and clause (v) of sub-section (2) of section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, read with clause (d) of sub-rule (3) of rule 5 of the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986; the Central Government hereby directs that the projects or activities or the expansion or modernisation of existing projects or activities requiring prior environmental clearance under the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 entailing capacity addition with change in process or technology or both undertaken in any part of India without obtaining prior environmental clearance from the Central Government or by the State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority, as the case may be, duly constituted by the Central Government under sub-section (3) of Section 3 of the said Act, shall be considered a case of violation of the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 and will be dealt strictly as per the procedure specified in the following manner:-

(2) In case the projects or activities requiring prior environmental clearance under Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 from the concerned Regulatory Authority are brought for environmental clearance after starting the construction work, or have undertaken expansion, modernization, and change in product-mix without prior environmental clearance, these projects shall be treated as cases of violations and in such cases, even Category B projects which are granted environmental clearance by the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority constituted under sub-section (3) Section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 shall be appraised for grant of environmental clearance only by the Expert Appraisal Committee and environmental clearance will be granted at the Central level.

(3) In cases of violation, action will be taken against the project proponent by the respective State or State Pollution Control Board under the provisions of section 19 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and further, no consent to operate or occupancy certificate will be issued till the project is granted the environmental clearance.

(4) The cases of violation will be appraised by respective sector Expert Appraisal Committees constituted under sub-section (3) of Section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 with a view to assess that the project has been constructed at a site which under prevailing laws is permissible and expansion has been done which can be run sustainably under compliance of environmental norms with adequate environmental safeguards; and in case, where the finding of the Expert Appraisal Committee is negative, closure of the project will be recommended along with other actions under the law.

(5) In case, where the findings of the Expert Appraisal Committee on point at sub-para (4) above are affirmative, the projects under this category will be prescribed the appropriate Terms of Reference for undertaking Environment Impact Assessment and preparation of Environment Management Plan. Further, the Expert Appraisal Committee will prescribe a specific Terms of Reference for the project on assessment of ecological damage, remediation plan and natural and community resource augmentation plan and it shall be prepared as an independent chapter in the environment impact assessment report by the accredited consultants. The collection and analysis of data for assessment of ecological damage, preparation of remediation plan and natural and community resource augmentation plan shall be done by an environmental laboratory duly notified under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, or a environmental laboratory accredited by National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories, or a laboratory of a Council of Scientific and Industrial Research institution working in the field of environment.

(6) The Expert Appraisal Committee shall stipulate the implementation of Environmental Management Plan, comprising remediation plan and natural and community resource augmentation plan corresponding to the ecological damage assessed and economic benefit derived due to violation as a condition of environmental clearance.

(7) The project proponent will be required to submit a bank guarantee equivalent to the amount of remediation plan and Natural and Community-Resource Augmentation Plan with the State Pollution Control Board and the quantification will be recommended by Expert Appraisal Committee and finalized by Regulatory Authority and the bank guarantee shall be deposited prior to the grant of environmental clearance and will be released after successful implementation of the remediation plan and Natural and Community Resource Augmentation Plan, and after the recommendation by regional office of the Ministry, Expert Appraisal Committee and approval of the Regulatory Authority.

14. The projects or activities which are in violation as on date of this notification only will be eligible to apply for environmental clearance under this notification and the project proponents can apply for environmental clearance under this notification only within six months from the date of this notification.

[F. No. 22-116/2015-IA-III]

MANOJ KUMAR SINGH, Jt. Secy.

Manoj
TC

Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Impact Assessment Division)

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Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Allganj, Jorbagh Road
New Delhi-110 003

Dated: 20th September, 2021

ORDER

Sub: Directions under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to not grant or renew CTO unless Environment Clearance, as applicable, has been obtained - regarding.

Whereas, prior Environmental Clearance is a statutory requirement for project/activities covered in the schedule of the EIA Notification 2006, issued under section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

2. And whereas, obtaining the consents under Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 & Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 is mandatory for all industrial units in Red, Orange and Green categories.

3. And whereas, the grant of EC and Consents are requirements under different statutes and are not inter-dependent and can be carried out as a parallel process.

4. And whereas, many a times it has been observed that while industrial units are in possession of valid 'Consent to Establish' (CTE)/ 'Consent to Operate' (CTO) issued by State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)/ UT Pollution Control Committees (UTPCC), however, they have not obtained the Environmental Clearance (EC), even though it was required as per provisions of EIA Notification 2006.

5. And whereas, it has been observed that this situation is arising because majority of the SPCBs/ UTPCCs are issuing CTE/CTO to projects without ascertaining the applicability of prior EC to projects/ activities, resulting in an avoidable situation of closure for even those industries also who seek to carry out their activities following due procedure.

6. Now therefore, in exercise of powers conferred by section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (29 of 1986), the Central Government, hereby directs that all SPCB/UTPCC shall:

- i. Ascertain the applicability of EIA Notification at the time of grant/renewal of CTO and stipulate appropriate condition for obtaining Environmental Clearance (EC), if applicable, before construction/commencement of project/activity.
 - ii. Ensure that the project proponent possesses a valid Prior EC in terms of the extant EIA Notification, if applicable, at the time of grant/renewal of CTO and no CTO shall be granted or renewed unless EC, if applicable, has been obtained.
7. This is issued with the approval of the Competent Authority.


(A K Agrawal)
Director

To

Chairmen of all State/UT Pollution Control Boards and Pollution Control Committees

Copy for information to:

1. PS to Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change
2. PS to Hon'ble MoS (EF&CC)
3. PPS to Secretary (EF&CC)
4. PPS to AS(RA)/JS(SKB)
5. Chairman of all the Expert Appraisal Committees
6. Chairperson/Member Secretaries of all the SEIAAs/SEACs
7. All the Officers of IA Division, MOEFCC
8. Website MoEF&CC/ Guard file.


T.C.

14

OA No.622 of 2022 Aniruda Panwar Vs Ministry of Environment, forest and Climate Change & Ors.

From: Pradeep Misra (pradeepmisra@yahoo.com)

To: satyaprakash64@gmail.com; utkarsh.sharma7@gmail.com; advocate.rajeshraina@gmail.com; advpriyankaswami@gmail.com; ashanair253@gmail.com; gauravjain1432@gmail.com

Date: Monday, December 5, 2022 at 10:52 AM GMT+5:30

Sir,

Please find attached the reply Affidavit on behalf of Respondent No 5 U P Pollution Control Board in the mater of. OA No.622 of 2022 Aniruda Panwar Vs Ministry of Environment, forest and Climate Change & Ors.

With Regards,

(PRADEEP MISRA)



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