



CHHATTISGARH ENVIRONMENT CONSERVATION BOARD

Paryavas Bhawan, North Block, Sector - 19,
Nava Raipur Atal Nagar, District - Raipur (C.G.)
E-mail - hocecb@gmail.com

No. 3793/TS/HO/CECB/ 2022 Nava Raipur Atal Nagar, Dated 01/9/2022

To,

The Registrar General
National Green Tribunal,
Faridkot House,
Copernicus Marg,
New Delhi - 110001

Sub: - Compliance of the direction issued by Hon'ble NGT in OA No. 328/2022 Shri Sanjeev Agrawal Vs Department of Forest, Chhattisgarh & Others.

Ref: - Hon'ble NGT order dated 02/08/2022.

==:00:==

In compliance of the above referred order, the reply from Chhattisgarh Environment Conservation Board is hereby attached with this letter for your perusal and necessary action please.

Encl.: - As above.

Member Secretary

Chhattisgarh Environment Conservation Board
Nava Raipur Atal Nagar
District - Raipur (C.G.)

IN THE HONORABLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

PRINCIPAL BENCH, DELHI

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 328 OF 2022

IN THE MATTER OF

Sanjeev Agrawal

...Applicant

Versus

Forest Department, Chhattisgarh & Anr.

...Respondents

REPLY ON BEHALF OF CHHATTISGARH ENVIRONMENT

CONSERVATION BOARD

1. The present application has been registered based on the complaint of Mr. Sanjeev Agrawal. The applicant has averred that Vedanta Ltd., has applied to Government of Chhattisgarh for mining of gold through 58 borewells in reserved forest area, measuring 607.944 hectares of Balodabazar Vanmandal Baghmarg Gold Block under Forest (Conservation) Act 1980. The mining area includes Kaksh no. 254 measuring 144 hectares which is having dense forest with basswood and other medicinal trees/plants and rich wildlife. The Principal Conservator of Forest, Government of Chhattisgarh had vide letter dated 06.10.2017

proposed inclusion of Kaksh no.254 in expansion of 22 Kaksh of Devpur area but some officers of government of Chhattisgarh are bent upon favouring the project proponent and granting lease to the project proponent on the basis of report of another committee constituted for this purpose which contradicted and negated earlier report submitted by senior officers from the forest department that no mining was possible without deforestation in the area.

2. Vide order dated 09.05.2022, the Hon'ble Tribunal constituted a Joint Committee comprising of Regional Office of MoEF&CC, Nagpur, Principal Secretary, Mines, Government of Chhattisgarh, Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (HOD), Government of Chhattisgarh, State PCB and Collector, Balodabazar and directed the same to submit factual and action taken report within two months.
3. In compliance of the order dated 09.05.2022, the Joint Committee inspected the area on 20.06.2022 and the answering respondent has submitted the joint committee's report to the Hon'ble Tribunal vide letter no. 3150/TS/HO/CECB/2022 Nava Raipur Atal Nagar, dated 29/07/2022. The report was also submitted through email dated 29.07.2022.

4. The Additional District Magistrate, Balodabazar-Bhatapara has sent dissenting opinion vide letter dated 22.07.2022 expressing that the proposed mining project will adversely affect the ecology of the sensitive area and will cause degradation of environment and forest.
5. By the order dated 02/08/2022 of the Hon'ble Tribunal, the respondents were directed to file their respective replies.
6. The answering respondent would like to submit that they stand by the findings of the report of the joint committee submitted to the Hon'ble Tribunal vide letter no. 3150/TS/HO/CECB/2022 Nava Raipur Atal Nagar, dated 29/07/2022. The summary of main findings of the report are as follows: -
 - a. The prospecting (preliminary survey) has not yet commenced, and the trees have not been cut and no degradation of environment has taken place.
 - b. The proposed mining site is in the area of Balodabazar forest division and lies outside the area of Barnawapara Sanctuary and its eco-sensitive zone.
 - c. That no decision has yet been taken by the State Government regarding inclusion of land measuring 144.60 ha of Kaksh/Division no. 254 in the area of Barnawapara Sanctuary.

- d. As per permission granted by the letter dated 30/06/2021 of the Integrated Regional Office, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, four-inch diameter drilling is to be done by use of foldable machine in 51 bore holes. This work being primary stage of mineral exploration can be undertaken by using already existing extraction path without any tree cutting and causing any damage to the area by four-inch diameter drilling with foldable machine in 51 bore holes within land measuring 3.23985 hectares, which is to be monitored by committee constituted under the chairmanship of Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Ministry of Forest and Climate Change, Government of Chhattisgarh.
7. The answering respondent is not able to reply on the present status of the proposal for inclusion of Kaksh no. 254 comprising of 144.6 hectare area in the sanctuary of Barnawapara Wildlife Sanctuary, as it does not come under the purview of answering respondent.
8. Hence, the present reply is being submitted for perusal of the Hon'ble Tribunal. This Tribunal may therefore take the present reply

on record and pass any appropriate order(s) that it deems fit, which will be complied by the answering respondent.

for and on behalf of answering respondent



Member Secretary

Chhattisgarh Environment Conservation Board
Nava Raipur Atal Nagar, Raipur (C.G.)