BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI

ORIGINAL APPLICATION No. 52 of 2024

IN THE MATTER OF

Navjot Singh Sidhu & Others .....Applicants

Versus

State of Punjab & Others .....Respondents

Replication on behalf of Applicants.

Respectfully showeth:

Reply to Preliminary Submissions:-

1. That the para no. 1 to para no. 3 of preliminary submissions needs no rebuttal.
2. That the para no. 4 of the preliminary submissions by the respondents are based upon afterthoughts, wrong, false, vague, concocted, un-natural, unbelievable, baseless, inconsistent and self-contradictory. It is pertinent to mention here that District survey report (DSR) duly approved in February 2023 was full of errors/mistakes. Some of the mistakes/errors are mentioned in OA para no. 26 sub clause A to E and OA para no. 27 sub clause A to F and OA para no.28,A careful perusal of the respondents reply reveals that they have failed to address the core issues like:-
    1. Stopping clusters of mining leases to operate within a space of 5 hectares.
    2. Enforcing mandatory environmental clearances:-

To mitigate the ecological impact of mining, the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Deepak Kumar vs State of Haryana (I.A. No. 1213/2011 in SLP (C) No. 9628-29/2009) mandated prior environmental clearance (EC) for all mining operations. This requirement was formalized by the Ministry of Environment through SO 141 (E) dated 15.01.2016.

However, the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), through its letter dated 29.09.2023, has permitted mining activities without EC until 31-12-2023. This is in direct violation of the 2020 Guidelines and the Supreme Court's orders. Allowing mining without EC is illegal and could lead to irreversible environmental damage if the sites later fail to meet EC requirements.

3. **Conducting regular environmental studies:-**

The impugned DSR is silent on the mandatory environmental audit (EA) as directed by the Hon'ble NGT in its order dated 04-09-2018in Sudershandass vs State of West Bengal (OA-173/2018). The NGT stipulated that mining leases must include an independent EA conducted annually by a reputed third-party entity, with the report made public.

Additionally, a three-member committee of local residents- preferrably including an ex-serviceman, a retired teacher, and a formal civil servant- must be involved in the EA, with members nominated by the District Magistrate. Neither has such an audit been conducted for prior years, nor does the impugned DSR make provisions for it.

4. **River audits and Annual Environmental Audits:-**

Annual Environmental Audits and River Audits play a critical role in monitoring and regulating sand and gravel mining in India, as per the provisions of the Sustainable Sand Mining Management Guidelines (SSMMG), 2016, Enforcement & Monitoring Guidelines for Sand Mining (EMGSM), 2020,

various notifications issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC), and judicial pronouncements by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT) and Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. Their legal significance is outlined as follows:

1. Legal Provisions under SSMMG, 2016 & EMGSM, 2020

The SSMMG, 2016 and EMGSM, 2020 mandate systematic environmental audits and river audits to ensure compliance with Environmental Clearance (EC) conditions and sustainable mining practices. The key legal provisions include:

Annual Environmental Audits:

Required under EMGSM, 2020, these audits are conducted to verify compliance with EC conditions issued under the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006, and Environment Protection Act, 1986.
The audit assesses air and water quality, biodiversity impact, land degradation, and adherence to progressive mine closure plans.
It ensures that mining operations do not violate sustainable mining parameters, such as depth restrictions, buffer zones, and groundwater impact mitigation.

River Audits:
As per SSMMG, 2016, river audits are essential for scientific assessment of riverine ecosystems to prevent over-extraction and maintain ecological balance.
District Survey Reports (DSRs), as mandated under the EIA Notification, 2006, must incorporate river audit findings to define sustainable sand replenishment rates and permissible extraction levels.

Remote Sensing & GIS-based Monitoring (as per EMGSM, 2020) should be integrated into river audits to track real-time compliance.

2. MoEFCC Notifications & Regulatory Framework

The MoEFCC, through various notifications under the Environment Protection Act, 1986, and the EIA Notification, 2006, has laid down directives for:
Mandatory third-party audits for Category B2 projects (minor mineral mining below 5 ha) under EIA Notification amendments.
Progressive Mine Closure Plan (PMCP) audits under the Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 2017 to ensure post-mining rehabilitation.
Environmental Clearance (EC) Compliance Audits under the EP Act, 1986, requiring submission of environmental compliance reports every six months.

3. Hon'ble Supreme Court & NGT Rulings on Environmental and River Audits
Judicial interventions have strengthened the legal mandate for environmental audits in mining. Key rulings include:

Deepak Kumar v. State of Haryana (2012) 4 SCC 629:

The Supreme Court held that all mining activities, including minor mineral extraction, must undergo rigorous environmental scrutiny, reinforcing the need for environmental audits.
NGT Orders in the "Illegal Sand Mining Cases" (2020-2023):
The NGT directed mandatory river audits using drone and satellite surveillance to check illegal mining.

In NGT order (2020) on sand mining in Bihar, it mandated quarterly environmental audits and real-time monitoring of riverine sand extraction.

Goa Foundation v. UOI (2014) 6 SCC 590:

The Supreme Court emphasized the public trust doctrine, mandating the state to conduct regular audits to prevent environmental degradation.

NGT Order in "Vikrant Tongad v. UOI" (2021):
Imposed strict compliance requirements for environmental audits and river rejuvenation reports before granting fresh ECs.

4. Legal Consequences of Non-Compliance

Failure to conduct Annual Environmental Audits or River Audits can result in:
Revocation of Environmental Clearance (EC) under the EIA Notification, 2006.
Prosecution under Section 15 of the EP Act, 1986, leading to penalties and imprisonment.
Imposition of Environmental Compensation under NGT Act, 2010.
Blacklisting of project proponents under Sustainable Mining Guidelines.

Hence, Annual Environmental Audits and River Audits are legally mandated mechanisms under SSMMG, 2016, EMGSM, 2020, MoEFCC notifications, and reinforced by Supreme Court & NGT rulings. Their enforcement ensures sustainable sand mining, ecosystem protection, and compliance with EIA & EP Act provisions. Judicial oversight

further strengthens their implementation, making them critical tools in environmental governance.

5. **Replenishment studies:**

To ascertain the rate and amount of sand replenishment in rivers, a combination of scientific studies, surveys, and technology-based techniques are recommended. These methods help determine the rate at which sand and gravel are naturally replaced in a river system after extraction, ensuring sustainable sand mining practices.

Key Studies, Surveys, and Techniques:

1. **Bathymetric Survey**

Description: A bathymetric survey involves mapping the underwater topography of a riverbed using sonar equipment.
Purpose: Helps measure the depth and changes in riverbed profile over time to assess sediment deposition (replenishment) rates.
Technology/Tools: Multi-beam or single-beam echo sounders, GPS systems for precise location tracking.

2. Topographic Survey

Description: Measures the elevation of riverbanks and adjacent floodplains using Total Station, LiDAR, or Differential GPS.
Purpose: Helps in estimating the volume of sand deposited after floods by comparing changes in topography before and after the monsoon season.
Technology/Tools: LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging), UAVs (Unmanned Aerial Vehicles/Drones), Total Station, and GPS devices.

3 Sediment Transport Study

Description: Determines the movement of sediment through the river by measuring the suspended and bed-load sediment transport.
Purpose: Helps in quantifying the amount of sediment moved and deposited
downstream.

Technology/Tools: Sediment samplers, Acoustic Doppler Current Profilers (ADCPs) to measure flow and sediment concentration.

4. Hydrological Modeling

Description: Uses models to simulate river flow, sediment transport, and deposition patterns under varying conditions.
Purpose: Helps predict future replenishment rates based on historical river flow and sediment movement data.
Technology/Tools: Software like HEC-RAS, MIKE 11, or SWAT for hydrological and sediment modeling.

5. Geospatial Analysis

Description: Analyzing satellite images or aerial photographs to detect changes in river morphology and sediment deposition over time.
Purpose: Provides a broader understanding of sediment replenishment and movement across larger areas.
Technology/Tools: GIS (Geographic Information System), Remote Sensing using satellite imagery like Landsat, Sentinel-2, or drone-based aerial imaging.

6. Floodplain Sediment Surveys

Description: Surveys the floodplains post-flood to assess the deposition of sediment during high-flow events.

Purpose: Helps in determining how much sand is deposited along the floodplains, contributing to the overall replenishment volume.

Technology/Tools: Core sampling, manual sediment measurement techniques, and drones for aerial surveys.

7. Grain Size Analysis

Description: Laboratory analysis of collected sediment samples to determine the size and composition of deposited material.

Purpose: Provides insight into the nature of the replenished material, such as the sand content versus finer silt or clay.

Technology/Tools: Sieves, laser diffraction instruments.

Period of Study:

Monsoon/High Flow Period: Most replenishment occurs during the monsoon or high-flow periods when rivers transport large volumes of sediment.

Replenishment studies should cover at least one full monsoon cycle (typically 6 months), with post-monsoon assessments to capture sediment deposition.

Multi-Year Monitoring: A more reliable replenishment rate can be determined by conducting replenishment studies for 2 to 3 years. This provides a more accurate assessment by averaging replenishment over different monsoon intensities and weather patterns.

Frequency of Monitoring: Post-monsoon surveys should be conducted annually to reassess the rate of replenishment and ensure the consistency of data for sustainable mining permits.

In the impugned DSR includes 280 acres across 36 mining sites of patta land in the Nangal and Anandpur Sahib divisions, without conducting any replenishment studies. Clause 5.1 of the 2020 Guidelines mandates four survers to determine replenishment rates:-

- **April Survey- To record pre-monsoon mining levels.**
- **Monsoon closure Survey- To measure excavated quantities before monsoon.**
- **Post-Monsoon Survey-To assess material replenishment during monsoon.**
- **March Survey- To calculate material excavated during the financial year.**

Detailed Procedure and Timeline for Replenishment Study:

1. Pre-Monsoon Baseline Survey:
Conduct bathymetric and topographic surveys before the monsoon season to create a baseline profile of the riverbed and floodplain.

2. Post-Monsoon Survey:
After the monsoon, perform another set of surveys (bathymetric, topographic, sediment transport measurements) to determine how much material has been deposited.

3. Sediment Analysis:
Collect and analyze sediment samples for grain size and composition to understand the quality of replenished material.

4. Data Analysis and Modeling:
Use hydrological models to analyze changes in sediment transport and predict future replenishment rates.

5. Reporting:
Prepare a report detailing the replenishment rate, river health, and sediment balance. This report is crucial for issuing or renewing sand mining permits.

It is therefore, concluded that Replenishment studies must incorporate a combination of bathymetric and topographic surveys, sediment transport measurements, hydrological modeling, and geospatial analysis. A study period spanning at least one full monsoon cycle, preferably over 2-3 years, is ideal for reliable replenishment estimates. These comprehensive assessments ensure that sand mining is carried out in a sustainable manner, protecting the ecological balance of river systems.

6. Setting up of a dedicated task force within the district:-
7. Action plan curated for the participation of stakeholders through public hearing.

Even in the new (So Called)DSR as approved on 15-07-2024 has following glaring mistakes:-

1. Replenishment studies para no.2 is different from old DSR as it is suggested here that physical surveys have been carried out. In fact, there are many ways to do replenishment studies as mentined in EMGSM 2020(page 5 para 2020) but nothing has been actually done.
2. Table 04 St.no. Plassi village is situated in and around river satluj not swan- the same mistake in old DSR 2023 and DSR 2016 (page no.25).
3. **Administrative setup:** even in 2024 setup, census conducted in 2001 is being used. DSR is one of the most important documents of the district and it is depicting wrong/changed/altered misleading data e.g. table No. 05 is factually not correct as in 2024.
   A) The total area of district Ropar as per table No. 06 is 1367.81 Sq.kms. where as table no.10 for year 2011 and 2001 show the same as 1356 Sq kms. Wikipedia and other search engines including AI one shows the area as 1440 sq. kms. Same cut and paste job from the old DSR.

4. Area under forest is different in table no.7 page 31 (5568.3Ha) than table no. 08 on page 33 to 44 (5422.67Ha) difference being 145.96 Hectares.
   On page 44 only 21.78 Ha (Sr. No. 75-79) are shown as areas closed under section 4 & 5 of PLPA 1900 whereas in page 31 of table no. 07 area closed under section 4 & 5 of the same PLPA 1900 ACT is 26338.41 Hq or 263.39 sq. kms. Or 65056 ares and no details have been provided in the old as well as new DSR. These forests are mostly in Shivalik hills and river beds of river Satluj, Siwan or Swan and other tributaries. Moreover, most of the illegal mining has taken place in these lands Revenue Department has no information of these forests and the forest department has not provided village wise data. No mining should be allowed unless these forests actually have been verified.
5. **Cropping Pattern:** same copy and paste job from old to new DSR. Various figures do not add up properly.

6. **Dranage System:**page no. 59 table no. 17 the discharge figures of water in various rivers numbering 26 in the district are misleading and not from an authentic and reliable source e.g. the peak time discharge of Dabat wali Khad and Donal Khad are 4693 cusecs and 2793 cusecs respectively (source Irrigation wing, BBMB Nangal. Average for the past 11 years period). Same way Usmanpur Choe has the same discharge of 2,50,000 cusecs as River Satluj (2,50,000 cusecs)

   Table no.18 shows origin of River Satluj as foothills of Shivalik where as Satluj originates from Himalayas in SSMMG 2016- page 24 item no. 12 Drainage System with description of main River

Sr. no	Name of River	Area Drained Sq. km.	% Area Drained

This Chart has been ignored/missing from the new DSR 2024
Item no.13 Salient features and important river and streams

Sr. No.	Name of the river/Stream	Total Length in the District	Place of origin	Altitude at origin

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE NOTIFICATION DATED 15-01-2016 NUMBER S.O.141(E) APPENDIX 10

Last column " Altitude at origin" determines the velocity of the flow and is completely missing from old as well as new DSR.

Page 75 to 78 table no. 20 "Estimation of sand Reserved in Pre and Post monsoon periods in sand bars" Shows 51 ghats in river Satluj and Swan. In fact, 35 ghats in Satluj and 16 in Swan. In Satluj 1-29 ghats are from Nangal Dam to the confluence of River Satluj and Swan where replenishment is zero. Only 6 ghats (30 to 35) are in the area after the confluence of River Satuj and Swan where some deposition can take place as Swan does carry some material during monsoons. The River Swan is already over exploted as its banks have been widened and river bed deepened by more that 40 feet. These figures derived for pre and post monsoon are frivolous as new DSR was prepared between may 2024 to july 2024 and approved in August 2024. This period is too short for conducting various surveys like Annual Audit of rivers and each mining site, Bethymetry Survey ets. All these figured have been copy pasted from old DSR. The reliability and authenticity of the same has baan challenged in Hon'ble Punjab and Haryana High Court by various individuals

and organizations and in Hon'ble NGT by Navjot Singh Sidhu & others (OA.52 of 2024)

As per Enforcement & Monitoring Guidelines for Sand Mining 2020 issued by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate change 2020:-

4.1.1 Sub clause P) **Public consultation-** The comments of the various stakeholders may be sought on the list of mining lease to be auctioned. The State Government shall give an advertisement in the local and national newspaper for seeking comments of the general public on the list of mining lease to be included in the DSR. The DSR should be placed in the public domain for at least one month from the date of publication of the advertisement for obtaining comments of the general public. The comments so received shall be placed before the sub-divisional committee for active consideration. The final list of sand mining areas [leases to be granted on riverbed & Patta land/Khatedari land, de-siltation location (ponds/lakes/dams), M-Sand Plants (alternate source of sand)] after the public hearing needs to be defined in the final DSR in the format as per **Annexure-v.** The details regarding cluster and contiguous cluster needs to be provided in **Annexure-VI.** The details of the transportation need to be provided in **Annexure-VII.** It is pertinent to mention here that sub-clause (p) reinforces that public hearing are not only a procedural requirement but also a key element of the environmental governance process for sand mining. It ensures community involvement and transparency before any DSR is finalized, ensuring that concerns are adequately addressed in line with sustainable mining practices.

As per Chapter no. 9.3 of EMGSM 2020 titled as **Monitoring of mining near Inter-districtor Inter-state boundary.**

There are situations where bifurcated river becomes district boundaries or state boundaries in such situation it is difficult to

assess the mining potential, or to have close monitoring and enforcement of the regulatory provision. Such challenges have been identified and dealt with in SSMG-2016. However in the absence of any standardized procedure, the monitoring has not been effectively practiced. This has been highlighted by the High Power Committee constituted by NGT in the matter pertaining to illegal mining.

The districts/state sharing the boundary shall constitute the combined task force for monitoring of mined materials, mining activity and also should actively participate in the preparation of DSR by providing appropriate inputs. In such cases, the draft DSR so prepared shall be put up for public consultation in both the district through respective district administration website. It is pertinent to mention here that the district Rupnagar share its boundaries with 5 districts in Punjab namely Hoshiarpur, Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar, Ludhiana, Fatehgarh Sahib and Mohali and 3 districts of Himachal Pardesh namely Una, Bilaspur and Solan. Hense the both, old and new DSRs, should have been published/uploaded on all the web portals of all the districts to complete the process of public consultation as mentioned above.

Public consultation is crucial in the preparation of the DSR. The DSR process involves gathering data and feedback from local communities, stakeholders, and environment experts. The participation of the public ensures that local concerns related to the environment, livelihood, and river ecosystem are taken into account before sand mining is approved.

Unfortunately this important prevision Enforcement & Monitoring Guidelines for Sand Mining 2020 issued by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate change 2020 has been twisted while preparing the old and new DSRs not followed in letter and spirit.

7. **River Audit Study:** Punjab Government vide letter no. 1802/Gg dated 23-06-2023 requested IIT Ropar to do a study regarding actual rate of Replenishment in the Rivers of Punjab.

Study conducted by Dr. Reet K.Tiwari in "Report on River Sand Replenishment for the Rivers of Punjab" was submitted to Punjab Government" by the end of 2023. On page 2 & 3 Dr. Tiwari clearly says that this study is fo Sand Replenishment not Stone bolder replenishment as further study is required to assess the replenishment of the stones in the rivers of Punjab.

8. **Clusters:-**

A. River Bed Clusters: pages 209 to 220 Now DSR (Papers 282 to 290) old DSR.

1. 9 Clusters in River Satluj are from Nangal Dam to Harsa Bela/Mahain villages (length 18 to 20 kms) Covering 98.57 Ha or 243.53 Acres. No replenishment has taken place in the river bed of Satluj since the construction of Bhakra canal in 1954 as it is the controlled release of water from Bhakra and Nangal Dams.

2. 6 clusters are in the river bed of River Swan covering 93.41 Ha on 230 Acres.
   Again copy and paste job from old to new DSR, Total 230+ 244= 474 Acres (191.95 Ha.)

B. Agriculture:

1. Along Satluj River are the two clusters covering 10 Ha or 25 Acres in fertile land
2. Along river Swan one cluster covering fertile land over 2231 Ha or 55 Acres.
3. 4 clusters covering Shivalik Hills in villages Nangran kalmot (khera)/Majari over 156 Ha or 386 Acres

Total Acres 10+22.31+156=188.59Ha or

(25+55+386= 466 Acres)

Again copy and paste job from old DSR to new DSR.

9. **Final List:**

a) In the **Final List of Potential Mining Lease (Proposed)** on pages 237 to 253 is the same as in old DSR pages 214 to 230.

b) Final List OF Potential Mining Lease List (Existing) same story of copy and paste in this list also. Mining Sites appearing at Sr. No. 1,5,9,10 and 11 appear again at Sr. no. 24,25,26,27, and 28 in both old and new DSR.

c) Final List of Proposed Patta land/ Khatedari:
Same Copy and Paste job in old and new DSR.

d) Final List of Proposed De-siltation locations:

Copy & paste job

Basically, all the statistics, charts, tables, photographs are the same as in old DSR. Only minor corrections in four pages have been affected, hence can't be relied on the new DSR also.
That from the above said replication of para no. 4 it is clear that the new and old DSR are the same as only minor corrections have been carried out.The mistakes in the new DSR have been pointed out in this para of the replication.

3. That the para no. 5 of the preliminary submissions by the respondents is wrong and denied.
4. That the para no. 6 of the preliminary submissions by the respondents is wrong and denied it is pertinent to mentions here that all the points presented in O.A. 52/2024 have been derived from authoritative sources, including the District Survey Report (DSR) for District Rupnagar, the Sustainable Sand Mining Management

Guidelines, 2016 (SSMG 2016), the Enforcement & Monitoring Guidelines for Sand Mining, 2020 (EMGSM 2020), notifications issued by the Government of India, and binding precedents set by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT) and the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.
The allegation of concealment of facts and figures, as asserted by Respondent No. 4, is entirely unfounded and without merit. It is further submitted that during the preparation of both the original and the amended DSRs, no field study was conducted to collect primary data for determining the mineable quantity of sand and gravel. Consequently, all points raised by the applicants in the aforementioned O.A. are factually and legally sound. In light of the foregoing, the question of dismissing the O.A. does not arise at all.

Replication of reply on merits:-

1. That the para no. 1 and 2 of the written statement filed by respondents needs no reply.
2. That the para no. 3 of the written statement filed by respondents are based upon afterthoughts, wrong, false, vague, concocted, un-natural, unbelievable, baseless, inconsistent and self-contradictory, introduced solely to mislead the proceedings and lacks any substantive basis.
   The respondents have neither conducted any study nor undertaken any bona fide efforts in relation to the followings:-
   A .Stopping clusters of mining leases to operate within a space of 5 hectares.
   B .Enforcing mandatory Environmental Clearances.
   C .Conducting regular Environmental Studies.
   D .River audits and Annual Environmental Audits.
   E . Replenishment studies.

F. Public Consultation and Public Hearings.

It is submitted that both the original and the amended District Survey Reports (DSRs) have been prepared in an arbitrary and non-transparent manner, devoid of any factual survey or scientific assessment. The preparation of these DSRs suffers from grave procedural lapses, including the failure to properly identify mining sites, the complete absence of public consultations, hearings, or mechanisms for addressing objections before their publication, and the lack of any environmental audits of rivers and mining sites. Furthermore, no replenishment studies were conducted, and a glaring misclassification of the Shiwalik Hills, which fall within the Pahadi zone, as agricultural/patta land has been made, thereby violating established norms.

The respondents have also failed to adhere to the mandatory guidelines prescribed under the Sustainable Sand Mining Management Guidelines, 2016 (SSMG 2016) and the Enforcement & Monitoring Guidelines for Sand Mining, 2020 (EMGSM 2020), as well as the binding directives of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT) and the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. Moreover, there was a complete failure to issue public notices or advertisements in national and local newspapers to ensure transparency in the process. Shockingly, the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Punjab, approved these flawed DSRs without ensuring compliance with the requisite legal and environmental safeguards. Such blatant disregard for due process not only renders the DSRs legally unsustainable but also raises serious concerns regarding regulatory negligence and non-compliance with environmental and judicial mandates.

Rampant illegal mining in connivance with the concerned department is going on the scores of huge pokelain machines have been observed operating in the entire stretch of river beds of River Swan and River Sutlej and also Shivalik Hills at village Nangran khera kalmot Hadbast no. 273 tehsil Nangal District Rupnagar. All the crushing units in Nangal and Sri Anandpur Sahib Sub Divisions are operating day and night.(**This can be verified from the electricity bills, monthly returns, Gst returns etc. submitted by crushing units to the concerned department)**

It is further mentioned here that as per the version of the respondent there are 490 FIRs were registered in 6 years in 8 Police Stations in District Rupnagar, **This is not even 1 FIR in 1 month in 1 Police Station (490÷80 Months÷8 Police Stations=0.77 FIR)** and the respondents are completely silent about conviction and as per their record the total recovery in the period of 80 Months is Rs. 14.91 Cr. which comes out to be Rs 17,51,137.50/- or Rs. 58,371 per day or Rs. 7296.40 /- per Police Station per day in the entire District. Where as the illegal mining during this period of 80 Months runs into Hundreds rather Thousands of Crores of Rupees.

As per the order dated 08-09-2023 The Hon'ble High Court of Punjab and Haryana observes in CRM 44082 of 2023 titled Aajamdeen vs State of Punjab that illegal mining is still rampant in the Rupnagar district and Hon'ble Court also observed that Tehsildar, Nangal has intentionally not supplied the information to the local police and due to the said fact, the investigation of 14 criminal cases could not be conducted by the police effectively. This fact also brings on record that even the illegal mining in District Rupnagar is so rampant and even the Mining Department in the District has failed

to perform its statutory duties and there was no effective supervision in the district. It is also evident from the communication dated 20-08-2023 even the SSP,Rupnagar has not even supervised the investigation of these 14 FIRs, where Tehsildar, Nangal has not even bothered to supply informationto the concerned Police Station, despite repeated requests.
In the " **Dinesh chadha vs State of Punjab**" as per the order dated 10-12-2020 no recovery has been effected by concerned department and also no status report has been provided and more over illegal mining in those areas is still going on.

3. That the para no. 4 to 29 of the written statement needs no reply, The applicants have already addressed all the issues raised by the respondents and retreat our issues/concerned in the O.A 52/2024 and the para no. 4 to 29 of the O.A are reasserted here and the original as well as amended DSRs have failed to address concerned relevant issuesand the further respondents have completely failed to reply satisfactorily. Hence the applicants retreat the issues reassert in the O.A.
The applicants have already addressed the preliminary objections and all other issues raised by the respondents. The applicants categorically deny and rebut the contentions raised in the replies submitted by the respondents, which are devoid of merit. In view of the foregoing, it is most respectfully prayed that this Hon'ble Tribunal may be pleased to pass an appropriate order at the earliest, granting the reliefs sought in O.A. 52/2024.
Furthermore, the applicants are fully prepared to submit all the relevant evidence, including documentary records, photographs, and video

recordings, as and when directed and desired by this Hon'ble Tribunal.

Place:- RUPNAGAR

Date: 7/3/25

Submitted by:-

Applicant.....

MAHESH PURI