

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 1279/2024

Tejasvi Minhas

... Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab & Ors.

... Respondents

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Place: CHD
Dated: 6.10.25


Deponent
Dharminder Sharma, IFS
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(HoFF), Government of Punjab,
Department of Forest and Wildlife
Preservation, Punjab

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI**

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 1279/2024

1. Tejasvi Minhas, aged about 34 years, S/o Shri Harbir Singh Minhas, R/o 163 – L, Model Town, Jalandhar City – 144003, Punjab, India, Mobile No. +91 7508679980, email: tejasviminhas@gmail.com
2. Senior Superintendant of Post Offices (SSPO'S) Shri Subhash Chandra Meena, aged about 32 years s/o Shri Moti Lal Meena R/o E - 5 P&T Colony, Jalandhar – 144001, Punjab, India, Mobile No. +91 7678424871, email: dojalandhar.pb@indiapost.gov.in
3. Anshu Verma, aged about 29 years, S/o Shri Manohar Lal R/o Quarter Number G – 80, First Floor, P&T Colony, Jalandhar – 144001, Punjab, India, Mobile No. +91 9992931711, email: anshuverma37@gmail.com

... Petitioners

Versus

1. Director General of Police, Punjab (Punjab Police Head Quarters, Sector 9, City-Chandigarh, Pincode-160009), Email: dgp.punjab.police@punjab.gov.in
 2. Commissioner of Police, Jalandhar (Police Commissioner Office, Tehsil Rd, Master Tara Singh Nagar, Jalandhar, Punjab 144001), Email: cpo.jal.police@punjab.gov.in
- Chief Secretary, Punjab (Chief Secretary Office, 6th Floor, Punjab Civil Secretariat -1, Sector 1, Chandigarh, 160001), Email: cs@punjab.gov.in.




4. Department of Forest & Wildlife Conservation, Punjab (Forest Complex Sector 68 SAS Nagar, Punjab), Email: pccfcomplex@gmail.com
5. Forest Range Office, Jalandhar (Forest Conservation Department, Maqsudan Chowk, Ravidass Nagar, Jalandhar, Punjab, 144008), Email: pccfcomplex@gmail.com
6. Municipal Commissioner, Jalandhar (Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Admin Complex, 1st Floor, Nehru Garden, Municipal Corporation, Jalandhar-144001, Jalandhar, Punjab, India), Email: commissioner.mcj@gmail.com
7. Divisional Commissioner, Jalandhar (Office of Commissioner Jalandhar Division, Jalandhar, New Court Road, Adjoining NRI Sabha Punjab, Jalandhar 144001- Punjab., Jalandhar, Punjab), Email: div.com.jal@punjab.gov.in
8. Residents of Master Tara Singh Nagar, Jalandhar (Unidentified)

... Respondents

Status report by way of affidavit of Dharminder Sharma, IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force), Punjab, Department of Forests and Wildlife Preservation, Government of Punjab Forest Complex, Sector 68, SAS Nagar (Mohali) on behalf of Respondent No. 3 and 4.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:

I, the above-named deponent do hereby solemnly affirm and state as under



(Handwritten signature)

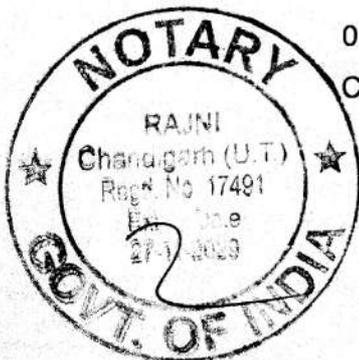
1. That the deponent is fully conversant with the facts of the case and as such competent to file the present status report in the form of an affidavit.
2. That during the course of hearing on 29.05.2025, this Hon'ble Tribunal was pleased to pass the following order:-

"2. The Chief Secretary, State of Punjab present virtually has submitted that the importance of preserving the trees cannot be denied and the State is bound to take action for the protection of trees on all kinds of lands. He has admitted that no Legislative framework exists in the State as of now to effectively prevent illegal felling of trees. He has submitted that he will initiate the process for ensuring the presentation of the Bill before the Legislature in the next session in this regard and he has prayed for six months for this purpose.

3.

4. The Chief Secretary is expected to look into these issues and to ensure appropriate protective, punitive and remedial action. In view of the observations made above and the stand of the Chief Secretary the State is directed to file further progress /action taken report atleast before the next date of hearing. The Virtual presence of the Chief Secretary is exempted till further orders"

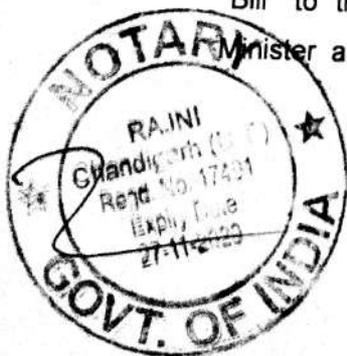
3. That in compliance with the order dated 29.05.2025 passed by this Hon'ble Tribunal, a Draft of "The Punjab Protection of Trees Bill – 2025" has been prepared by the Department of Forest and Wildlife Preservation.
4. That it is pertinent to mention here that before finalizing the draft Bill, comments of all the stakeholder departments were sought vide letter no. FOREST-FW0FW-2(CC)/61/2023-FW/1141506/ 2025 dated 03-07-2025 (ANNEXURE-1). It is worthwhile to mention here that Comments of public in general were also sought by issuing a public



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notice in various newspapers published in Hindi, Punjabi and English on 25.08.2025. The draft Bill was also uploaded on the official website of the Government of Punjab and Departmental Website.

5. That a meeting to discuss the draft was also held by Hon'ble Speaker, Punjab Legislative Assembly on 05-08-2025, which was attended by Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF) and Chief Conservator of Forests (Working plan) and Conservator of Forests, North Circle. As desired by Hon'ble Speaker, a copy of the draft Bill was also circulated among all the members of Punjab State Assembly for seeking their comments/suggestions.
6. That after receiving the comments from stakeholder departments, public in general, NGOs and Hon'ble MLAs, a meeting with the senior officers of Department of Forests and Wildlife Preservation was convened under the Chairmanship of Principal Chief Conservator of Punjab (HoFF) on 01.09.2025. The comments received from various stakeholder departments, public in general, NGOs and MLAs were thoroughly discussed and deliberated in detail. After thorough deliberations with the senior officers of the Department, the draft of "The Punjab Protection of Trees Bill – 2025" was finalized and it was decided to send the draft Bill to State Government for approval. The proceeding of the meeting dated 01.09.2025 is attached as **ANNEXURE-2**.
7. That as decided in the meeting dated 01.09.2025, a copy of the proposed draft was sent to the State Government vide this department e-file No. FOREST-FW0FW-2(CC)/61/2023-FW (E-Comp No. 512545) on 09.09.2025.
8. That in view of the urgency of the matter, a meeting of the senior officers of the department was held by Administrative Secretary, Punjab on 18.09.2025 to discuss the draft of "The Punjab Protection of Trees Bill– 2025" where it was decided to forward this "Bill" to the Hon'ble Cabinet after approval of the Hon'ble Forest Minister and Hon'ble Chief Minister, Punjab as per procedure. The



proceeding of the meeting dated 18.09.2025 is attached as ANNEXURE-3.

- 9. That the "redrafted Bill" of "The Punjab Protection of Trees Bill – 2025" has been prepared accordingly and the final draft is sent to Government of Punjab on 26.09.2025 for seeking approval of Council of Ministers after approval of Hon'ble Minister of Forests and Wildlife Preservation and Hon'ble Chief Minister Punjab. The file is presently under consideration of the State Government. After the approval of the competent authority the same will be put up to Hon'ble Chief Minister and accordingly before the Council of Ministers for their consideration and then the State Assembly as per procedure.

Keeping in view the abovesaid facts, the present status report may kindly be taken on record in compliance with order dated 29.05.2025 passed by this Hon'ble Tribunal, in the interest of justice.

Place: *CND*
Dated: *6.10.25*

D Sharma
Deponent

Dharminder Sharma, IFS
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(HoFF), Government of Punjab,
Department of Forest and Wildlife
Preservation, Punjab

VERIFICATION:

Verified that the contents of para 1 to 9 of this affidavit are true and correct to my knowledge. No part of it is false and nothing material has been kept concealed therefrom.

Place: *CND*
Dated: *6.10.25*



D Sharma
Deponent

Dharminder Sharma, IFS
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(HoFF), Government of Punjab,
Department of Forest and Wildlife
Preservation, Punjab

Sr No. *4221*
Pages *42*
Dated *6.10.25*

ATTESTED AS IDE
RAJNI *6.10.25*
NOTARY, Chandigarh

Identified the deponent
who has Signed/Thumb
marked in my presence
[Signature]
Signature

Government of Punjab
Department of Forest & Wildlife Preservation
O/o Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Punjab
Forest Complex, Sector: 68, Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar (Mohali)
(Email: pccfcomlex@gmail.com)
(Forest Working-2 Branch)

To,

1. All Administrative Departments,
Government of Punjab.
2. All Head of Departments,
Government of Punjab.
(as per list attached)

**No.FOREST-FW0FW-2(CC)/61/2023-
FW/I/1141506/2025**
Dated 03-07-2025

**Subject: Request for Comments on the draft of "The Punjab
Protection of Trees Act, 2025"**

Sir/Madam,

With reference to the above mentioned subject, it is informed that in compliance of the order dated 28.07.2023 passed by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in MA No. 48/2023 in OA No. 200/2023 (Kuldeep Singh Khaira and others Vs State of Punjab and others) and order dated 31.04.2024 in OA No. 378/2022 (Sahil Garg Vs State of Punjab and others), the Department of Forests had issued the "Tree Preservation Policy for Non-Forest Government and Public Lands – 2024" after obtaining approval of the Hon'ble Cabinet, keeping in view the regulation and management of trees standing on non-forest public lands.

2. It is further informed that, as per the order dated 29.04.2025 passed by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in MA No. 38/2024 in OA No.

257/2023 (Balbir Dass Vs State of Punjab), due to lack of clarity regarding the applicability of the said policy, directions have been issued to the Chief Secretary, Punjab to frame a comprehensive Act, in place of the policy.

3. Further, it is pertinent to mention that during the hearing held on 29.05.2025 in OA No. 1279/2024 (Tejaswi Minhas Vs State of Punjab), Chief Secretary, Punjab, assured the Hon'ble Tribunal that the State Government will initiate the necessary action to frame the said Act and present the required bill before the Punjab Legislative Assembly within six months. Therefore the compliance has to be made before November, 2025.

4. In compliance to above directions & Commitment, a draft of **"The Punjab Protection of Trees Act, 2025"** intended for application to non-forest urban lands of whole of Punjab has been prepared by this Department. The objective of the Act is to strengthen tree conservation efforts, enhance green cover, and ensure ecological sustainability in urban areas outside notified forest regions.

5. You are requested to kindly circulate the draft Act widely among your department's stakeholders, including affiliated institutions, local bodies, public representatives, Farmers, Industrial Groups, Resident Associations and other connected parties. Their feedback is crucial to ensure the proposed legislation is comprehensive, practical, and inclusive.

6. In this regard, we request the following from your department:

1. **Collect individual and institutional views** from stakeholders under your jurisdiction.
2. **Compile your department's collective views and specific comments** on the draft Tree Protection Act.
3. Submit your **final consolidated response in English** to this office on or before **25th July, 2025** for further action at email ID

treeact2025@gmail.com.

Your timely support and response in this matter are highly appreciated to ensure a participatory and transparent policy making process.

A copy of the draft Act is enclosed for reference. (Page No. 1 to 6)

DHARMINDER SHARMA
PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FOREST (HOFF)
03-07-2025

EndstNo.FOREST-FW0FW-2(CC)/61/2023-FW/I/1141506/2025

Dated 03-07-2025

A copy of the letter is forwarded to the Chief Conservator of Forests (IT) along with the Draft of The Punjab Protection of Trees Act, 2025, with the direction that the said Act be uploaded on the department's official website so that the general public can send their suggestions/comments regarding it to this office at email ID treeact2025@gmail.com . These suggestions/comments may be duly considered by the department at the time of finalization of the Act.

DHARMINDER SHARMA
PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FOREST (HOFF)
03-07-2025

EndstNo.FOREST-FW0FW-2(CC)/61/2023-FW/I/1141506/2025

Dated 03-07-2025

A copy of the letter is forwarded to Administrative Secretary, Government of Punjab, Department of Forests and Wildlife Preservation for information and further necessary action in this regard.

DHARMINDER SHARMA
PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FOREST (HOFF)
03-07-2025

1. Department of Agriculture
2. Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development and Fisheries
3. Department of Civil Aviation
4. Department of Cooperation
5. Department of Defence Services Welfare
6. Department of Elections
7. Department of Employment Generation, Skill Development and Training
8. Department of Excise and Taxation
9. Department of Finance
10. Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs
11. Department of Forest and Wild Life Preservation
12. Department of General Administration
13. Department of Good Governance and Information Technology
14. Department of Health & Family Welfare
15. Department of Higher Education and Languages
16. Department of Home Affairs and Justice
17. Department of Horticulture
18. Department of Housing and Urban Development
19. Department of Industries and Commerce
20. Department of Information and Public Relation
21. Department of Promotion of Information Technology Industry
22. Department of Investment Promotion
23. Department of Labour
24. Department of Legal and Legislative Affairs
25. Department of Local Government
26. Department of Medical Education and Research
27. Department of New & Renewable Energy Sources
28. Department of NRI Affairs
29. Department of Parliamentary Affairs
30. Department of Personnel
31. Department of Planning
32. Department of Power
33. Department of Printing and Stationery
34. Department of Program Implementation
35. Department of Public Works
36. Department of Revenue, Rehabilitation & Disaster Management
37. Department of Rural Development and Panchayat
38. Department of School Education
39. Department of Science, Technology & Environment
40. Department of Social Justice, Empowerment and Minorities
41. Department of Social Security and Development of Women and Children
42. Department of Soil & Water Conservation
43. Department of Sports and Youth Services
44. Department of Technical Education and Industrial Training
45. Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs
46. Department of Transport
47. Department of Vigilance
48. Department of Water Resources
49. Department of Water Supply and Sanitation
50. Department of Welfare of Freedom Fighters
51. Departments of Punjab Prisons and Correctional Services

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Proceedings of the Meeting dated 01.09.2025 regarding Draft Punjab Protection of Trees Bill, 2025 held under the Chairmanship of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Punjab

A meeting regarding the Draft Punjab Protection of Trees Bill, 2025 was held on 01.09.2025 at 11:00 AM under the Chairmanship of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Punjab. The list of officers who attended the meeting is attached as Annexure-1.

2.0 Deliberations

The Chief Conservator of Forests (Working Plan) appraised the Chair that the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT), during the course of hearing in OA No. 1279 of 2024 - Tejaswi Minhas Vs State of Punjab & Others and other related cases, had directed the State Government to prepare a Tree Act, as the existing Tree Preservation Policy is not legally enforceable. The Hon'ble Chief Secretary, Punjab, had sought six months' time from the Hon'ble Tribunal for the preparation of this Act.

It was further informed that the draft Act, namely the Punjab Protection of Trees Act, 2025, had been prepared. A copy of the draft Bill was circulated to all stakeholder departments for their comments before finalization. Public comments were also invited through notices published in leading newspapers in English, Hindi, and Punjabi.

In addition, it was conveyed that the Hon'ble Speaker, Punjab Vidhan Sabha, convened a meeting with departmental officers on 05.08.2025 to discuss the proposed tree Act. During this meeting, the Hon'ble Speaker directed that a copy of the Act be shared with his office to enable all MLAs to provide their suggestions for incorporation in the draft Act, if required. In compliance, a copy was shared with the Hon'ble Speaker's office for further necessary action.

The CCF (WP) also informed that in response to the public notices, comments had been received from the general public and NGOs. The comments from different stakeholders are enclosed as follows:

- Comments from Public - Annexure-2
- Comments from NGOs - Annexure-3
- Comments from Stakeholder Departments - Annexure-4
- Comments from MLAs - Annexure-5
- Comments from field functionaries and senior officers of the Department - Annexure-6

All comments received were deliberated upon in detail during the meeting. After thorough discussion, the draft Bill was finalized incorporating relevant suggestions from stakeholders.

3.0 Decision

It was unanimously decided that the finalized **Draft Punjab Protection of Trees Bill, 2025**, after incorporating comments/suggestions from stakeholder departments, public/NGOs, MLAs, and departmental officers, may be sent to the State Government for further processing. The draft Act will be forwarded to the Cabinet in the form of a **Bill** after obtaining the approval of the Hon'ble Forest Minister and the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Punjab, as per the procedure laid down.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

ATTENDANCE SHEET

DATE : 01.09.2025

TIME : 3.30 PM (1.00 PM onwards)

VENUE : Conference Room, Ist Floor, Forest Complex, SAS Nagar

Sr. No.	Name of the Officer and Designation	Mob. No.	E-mail ID (if any)	Signature
1	Saurabh Gupta APCCF	8699001516		
2.	Basanta Rajkumar APCCF	9988421399		
3.	Tushar Kant. Belawa APCCF.	9888258805		
4.	Nidhi Srivastava	94179-05005		 01/9/25
5.	Satender K. Sagar CCF	9878488575		
6.	Amit Chauhan DCF	9891314623		
7.	Sanjeev Tiwari	94179-1116		
8.	CHARCHIL KUMAR APCCF.	9417305306	-	
9.	U Gaekhanjali .ccf	8130930383		U.G.

Government of Punjab

Department of Forests and Wildlife Preservation

(Forest Branch)

Subject: Minutes of the meeting dated 18.9.2025 regarding Draft Punjab Protection of Trees Bill, 2025 held under the Chairmanship of the Worthy Administrative Secretary, Department of Forests and Wildlife Preservation, Punjab

A meeting regarding "Draft Punjab Protection of Trees Bill, 2025" was held on **18.09.2025 at 10:00 AM** under the chairmanship of the Administrative Secretary, Department of Forests and Wildlife Preservation, Punjab. The following officers attended the meeting:

1. Sh. Dharminder Sharma, IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Punjab.
2. Sh. Saurabh Gupta, IFS, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (CEO PUNCAMPA).
3. Sh. Basanta Rajkumar, IFS, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Administration).
4. Sh. K. Kannan, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests, Working Plan.

2.0 During the course of meeting, Chief Conservator of Forests (Working Plan) brought to notice of worthy Chairman that Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, while during the course of hearing in *OA No. 1279 of 2024 - Tejaswi Minhas Vs State of Punjab and Others* and other related cases, had directed the State Government to prepare a **Tree Act** as the existing Tree Preservation Policy is not enforceable. Hon'ble Chief Secretary, Punjab, had sought 'six months' time from the Hon'ble Tribunal for the preparation of this Act.

3.0 It was also informed that draft Bill namely "Punjab protection of Tree Bill-2025" was prepared. A copy of the draft bill was circulated to all the stakeholders departments for seeking their comments before finalizing the bill. Comments of Public/NGOs in general was also sought through

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public notice issued in various local newspapers published in English, Hindi and Punjabi language.

4.0 In addition, it was also informed that Hon'ble Speaker, Punjab Vidhan Sabha had also convened a meeting with the departmental officers to discuss this bill on 05-08-2025. During the meeting Hon'ble Speaker directed to share a copy of this act to their office also so that the suggestions of all the MLAs can also be taken and can be incorporated in the draft bill (if required). In compliance of the directions of the Hon'ble Speaker a copy of the bill was sent to the office of Hon'ble Speaker for further necessary action.

5.0 CCF (Working Plan) also informed that after receiving the comments from all the stakeholder department/ public in general/NGOs and MLAs, a meeting was held by PCCF (HoFF) in his office on 01-09-2025 where all the comments/suggestions received were duly deliberated in detail and after thorough discussions, suggestions have been incorporated in the 'Draft Bill' which has been prepared and sent to the state Government for further necessary action.

6.0 During the meeting, the Administrative Secretary was informed that the draft Bill has been finalized after incorporating the comments/suggestions received from all the stakeholder department/ public in general/NGOs and MLAs. The proposed Bill by the department was discussed in detail and it was unanimously decided to forward further to the Hon'ble Cabinet after approval of the Hon'ble Forest Minister and Hon'ble Chief Minister, Punjab as per procedure.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the chair.