

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

(By Video Conferencing)

Original Application No. 438/2022

In re: News item published in the National Daily The Hindu Chennai edition, dated: 15th May, 2022, titled **“One killed, 3 workers trapped in 300-foot-deep quarry” at Adaimithipaankulam near Tirunelveli**

Date of hearing: 24.08.2022

**CORAM: HON’BLE MR. JUSTICE ADARSH KUMAR GOEL, CHAIRPERSON
HON’BLE MR. JUSTICE SUDHIR AGARWAL, JUDICIAL MEMBER
HON’BLE PROF. A. SENTHIL VEL, EXPERT MEMBER**

ORDER

1. The matter has been taken up suo motu in the light of above media report to the effect that one earthmover operator, Selvam aged 25, died at Adaimithippaankulam in Tirunelveli District in Tamil Nadu and three workers were trapped who were later rescued in an operation conducted by the National District Response Force.

2. It appears to be necessary to ascertain whether requisite environmental safety norms were observed in the course of mining and if not, whether accountability of the mining operator for compensation for the deceased and taking preventive measures so that such incidents do not occur in future has been fixed. Further, whether any direction by this Tribunal is warranted.

3. Accordingly, we constitute a joint Committee of CPCB, State PCB and District Magistrate, Tirunelveli for the purpose. The Committee may

undertake visit to the site, interact with stakeholders and ascertain the compliance status by the concerned mining operator in terms of safety norms and also whether any compensation has been paid or needs to be paid to the next of the kin of the deceased. The State PCB will be the nodal agency for coordination and compliance. The Committee will be at liberty to associate any other expert/institution for executing its task. The Committee may furnish its factual and action taken report within two months by e-mail at judicial-ngt@gov.in preferably in the form of searchable PDF/OCR Support PDF and not in the form of Image PDF.

A copy of this order be forwarded to CPCB, State PCB and District Magistrate, Tirunelveli by e-mail for compliance.

List for further consideration on 28.11.2022.

Adarsh Kumar Goel, CP

Sudhir Agarwal, JM

Prof. A. Senthil Vel, EM

August 24, 2022
Original Application No. 438/2022
DV