

Item No.02

(Court No. 2)

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

(Through Physical Hearing with Hybrid VC Option)
Original Application No. 552/2022

Ravi Tripathi

...Applicant

Versus

State of Madhya Pradesh

...Respondent

Date of hearing: 14.12.2022

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ARUN KUMAR TYAGI, JUDICIAL MEMBER.
HON'BLE DR. AFROZ AHMAD, EXPERT MEMBER.**

Applicant: None.

Respondent: Mr. Kanishk Arora and Ms. Shakshi Goyal, Advocates for
MPPCB.

Application is registered based on a complaint received by Email.

ORDER

1. Mr. Ravi Tripathi has sent the present letter petition, which is treated and registered as Original Application, complaining that in Sohagpur area in District Shahdol, Madhya Pradesh, none of the coal mines is operating in compliance of environmental norms. Green trees have been covered by overburden, mortality of wildlife has been increased, ground water level has been depleted and ponds have been dried up in the villages surrounding the coal mines area resulting in water scarcity in the area, damage to environment and grave health risks to the residents of the locality.

2. Vide order dated 06.09.2022, this Tribunal constituted a Joint Committee comprising of representative of CPCB, Central Ground Water

Authority, Regional Office, Bhopal, State PCB, State Wetland Authority, Divisional Forest Officer and Collector, Shahdol and directed the same to submit its report within one month with copies of the report to the concerned Project Proponents/Statutory Authorities.

3. In compliance thereof report of the Joint Committee has been submitted vide email dated 08.11.2022.

4. Applicant has also filed additional documents vide email dated 18.10.2022 and 21.10.2022.

5. In view of the averments made in the application and observations made in the report of the Joint Committee, we consider it appropriate to have response of (1) State of Madhya Pradesh through Chief Secretary, Government of Madhya Pradesh, (2) the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Government of Madhya Pradesh, (3) MPPCB, (4) the Collector/District Magistrate, Shahdol and (5) the Project Proponent- M/s South Eastern Coalfields Ltd., who stand impleaded as respondents No. 1 to 5. The Registry is directed to prepare and attach memo of parties to the application. Respondent no. 3 has already appeared before this Tribunal through counsel. Notices be issued to respondents No. 1, 2, 4 and 5.

6. Notice be served on the Project Proponent- M/s South Eastern Coalfields Ltd. through the Collector/District Magistrate, Shahdol and for this purpose notice issued to the Project Proponent be sent to the Collector/District Magistrate, Shahdol by E-mail for getting service of the same effected on it and sending his report in this regard.

7. Reply/response by respondents no. 1 to 5 be filed within two months at judicial-ngt@gov.in preferably in the form of searchable PDF/OCR Supported PDF and not in the form of Image PDF.

8. List for further consideration on 21.03.2023.

9. A copy of this order be sent to the Collector/District Magistrate, Shahdol for requisite compliance for effecting service of notice on the Project Proponent and sending his report to this Tribunal

Arun Kumar Tyagi, JM

Dr. Afroz Ahmad, EM

December 14 2022
AG