

Item No.07

(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: 21.03.2023

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

Applicant: None.

Respondent: Mr. Sachin Kumar Verma, Advocate for respondents no.1, 2 and 4.
Mr. Raghav Sharma, Advocate for respondent no. 3.
Mr. Neeraj K. Gupta, Mr. Sanjeet K. Singh and Mr. Shivang Srivastava, Advocates for respondents no. 5

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 with direction to submit its report.

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

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

5. Vide order 14.12.2022, notices were ordered to be issued to the respondents. As per office report notices have been duly served on the respondents.

6. Written submissions were made by applicant vide email dated 10.03.2023. Replies have been filed by respondents no. 2, 3 and 5 vide emails dated 16.03.2023, 20.01.2023 and 17.03.2023 respectively.

7. Applicant has joined the proceedings through VC and he has submitted that he wants legal aid for presenting his case before this Tribunal. The applicant may apply for legal aid to the National/State Legal Services Authority for providing him legal aid. The Registry is directed that if and as and when any such application is received from the applicant for providing legal aid, the same be forwarded to National/State Legal Services Authority for doing the needful.

8. The applicant seeks time to file his rejoinder to the replies filed by respondents no. 2, 3 and 5. The request is allowed.

9. Respondents no. 3 and 5 are also directed to file additional reply giving details regarding compliance with EC/CTE/CTO consent conditions.

10. Rejoinder by the applicant and Additional reply by respondents no. 3 and 5 be filed within three months by email at judicial-ngt@gov.in preferably in the form of word file/searchable PDF/OCR Supported PDF and not in the form of Image PDF/Word file
11. List the matter for further consideration on 28.07.2023.

Arun Kumar Tyagi, JM

Dr. Afroz Ahmad, EM

March 21 2023
AG