

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

Original Application No. 785/2023

News Item titled “Kasauli Distillery dumps effluents into water source supply affected” appearing in Tribune dated 15.12.2023

Date of hearing: 08.12.2025

**CORAM: HON’BLE MR. JUSTICE PRAKASH SHRIVASTAVA, CHAIRPERSON
HON’BLE DR. A. SENTHIL VEL, EXPERT MEMBER**

Respondents: Mr. Aaditya Vijaykumar & Mr. Naman Garg, Advs. for Respondent No. 1 - HP SPCB (Through VC)
Mr. Vikrant Pachnanda, Adv. for Respondent No. 2 - CPCB
Mr. Anubhav Sharma, Adv. for Respondent No. 3
Mr. A.D.N. Rao, Senior Advocate with Mr. Vipul Wadhwa, Ms. Kashika Gera & Mr. Shreyash Choudhary, Advs. for Respondent No. 5.
Mr. Narender Pal Singh, Adv. for Respondent No. 6-MoEF & CC

ORDER

1. The Tribunal in the earlier proceedings had considered the report of the joint Committee dated 20.08.2024 disclosing that the Respondent - project proponent was using spring water without any permission and a stand was taken by the project proponent that no permission for using the spring water of the Ground Water Authority was required and no regulation exists for obtaining such permission from the Authority. In such circumstances, by the order dated 12.08.2025, the Tribunal after impleading the MoEF&CC had directed it to file affidavit disclosing if any rule, regulation and circular exists regulating the drawl of spring water for commercial purposes.

2. The response affidavit dated 30.09.2025 has been filed by the Director, MoEF&CC taking the following stand:-

“xxx

xxx

xxx

5. It is respectfully submitted that issue regarding extraction/drawl of surface/ground water does not fall within

the purview of this Ministry. Therefore, the answering respondent humbly prays for leave to make additional submissions, if required during the course of the proceedings and Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) may be impleaded as party respondent in this matter.”

3. Such a stand of MoEF&CC excludes all the issues concerning the surface water from the jurisdiction of MoEF&CC. Hence, we Secretary MoEF&CC may look into this issue and file the response affidavit within four weeks.

4. On the request of learned counsel for MoEF&CC following additional Respondent is impleaded:-

1. Ministry of Jal Shakti
Through the Secretary
Shram Shakti Bhawan, Rafi Marg,
New Delhi – 110001

5. Let the steps be taken for service of notice to the newly added Respondent.

6. List on 16.02.2026.

Prakash Shrivastava, CP

Dr. A. Senthil Vel, EM

December 08, 2025
Original Application No. 785/2023
A