

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

Original Application No. 125/2023

In re : News item published in Rashtriya Sahara dated 03.02.2023 titled **“Podhon ka pata Nahin, Nirai Godai main lakhon ka khel” (Plants missing, game of lacs in plantations)”**

Date of hearing: 01.03.2023

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

Respondent(s): Mr. Vinod Kumar Nayak, Range Forest Officer, Tikri Range  
with Mr. Bahushrut Yadav, Forester

**ORDER**

1. Proceedings have been initiated suo motu in the light of the captioned media report to the effect that in the name of plantation at Tikri range, District Gonda huge funds are being diverted in collusion with the Forest Officers.

2. In pursuance to the notice issued by the Registry of this Tribunal, to the District Magistrate, Gonda and DFO, Gonda, reply has been filed only by the DFO, Gonda to the effect that plantations are successful to the extent of 98.50% and the media report is not factually correct. Range Officer has appeared to support the report.

3. We have duly considered the matter and find that the report is incomplete which may facilitate decision. It is not clear as to what is the source of water for watering of the plants particularly when the area is water scarce area and how data has been compiled in absence of identification marks on the plants. We thus feel that to arrive at truth of

the matter, another factual report with involvement of higher level officers is necessary.

4. Having regard to the above, we constitute a joint Committee comprising PCCF (HoFF), UP, ICFRE, Dehradun, FSI, Dehradun, District Magistrate, Gonda, nominee of MoEF&CC, Regional Officer, Lucknow and UP State PCB. The State PCB will be the nodal agency for coordination and compliance. The joint Committee may meet within 15 days, undertake visit to the site, interact with the stakeholders and coordinate with concerned local bodies, residents and panchayat and other concerned persons of Institutions. The committee will be free to meet online or offline and take assistance from any other expert/institution. A factual report in the matter may be furnished within two months by e-mail at [judicial-ngt@gov.in](mailto:judicial-ngt@gov.in) preferably in the form of searchable PDF/OCR Support PDF and not in the form of Image PDF.

List again on 19.05.2023.

A copy of this order be forwarded to the PCCF (HoFF), UP, ICFRE, Dehradun, FSI, Dehradun, District Magistrate, Gonda, nominee of MoEF&CC, Regional Office, Lucknow and UP State PCB by email for compliance.

Adarsh Kumar Goel, CP

Sudhir Agarwal, JM

Dr. A. Senthil Vel, EM

March 01, 2023  
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