

(Court No. 2)

(Through Physical Hearing with Hybrid VC Option)

Original Application No. 578/2022

...Applicant

Versus

...Respondent

Date of hearing: 21.11.2022

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

Respondent: Mr. Mukesh Verma, Advocate for UKPCB.

Application is registered based on a Letter Petition received by Post.

1. Mr. Ram Singh resident of Village Dugtu-Saun, Post Office Dugtu, Tehsil, Dharchula, District Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand has sent the present letter petition, which is registered and treated as original application, complaining that 5 FRO tourist huts have been installed during 2016 and 2017 in the mid of alpine area at the altitude of more than 12000 feet in Panchachuli mountains. Government Land comprised in Khasra no. 2630, 0.100 hectare situated in Village Dugtu was allotted by the District Magistrate, Pithoragarh to Tourism Department of Uttarakhand. In the Year 2017-2018, 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 more than fifty thousand tourists visited per year and on the weekends there were more than 50 tourists each day during May, June, September and October months and even extra tents were provided near the huts. The activities of the tourists in the area have affected the wildlife and biodiversity as musk deers which used to graze in the area no longer appear there. During May 2018, more than fifty thousand trees of Bhoj Patra and thousands of high altitude Rhododendrons, Himalayan Devdar

and several type of underbrush have been burnt. Directions were given by the High Court of Uttarakhand to the Chief Conservator of Forests, Uttarakhand and all DFOs but the directions are not being complied with.

2. Vide order dated 12.09.2022, we constituted a Joint Committee comprising of representative of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Government of Uttarakhand, State PCB and District Magistrate, Pithoragarh and directed the same to submit its report within one month.

3. However, report of the Joint Committee has not been received so far. The Joint Committee is again directed to submit its report within one month and to forward its copy to the concerned project proponents and the concerned authorities in terms of order dated 12.09.2022.

4. List for further consideration on 02.01.2023.

5. A copy of this order along with a copy of the application and documents attached with the same be forwarded to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Government of Uttarakhand, State PCB and District Magistrate, Pithoragarh by e-mail for compliance.

Arun Kumar Tyagi, JM

Dr. Afroz Ahmad, EM

November 21, 2022
AVT