

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

ORIGINAL APPLICATION No. 726/2023

News Item Titled "Deforestation Ill-Planned
Construction and Unscientific - Illegal Mining
Behind Himachal Pradesh, S Monsoon Catastrophe"
Appearing in the Hindu Dated 25.11.2023.

Applicant

Versus

State of Himachal Pradesh

Respondent(s)

Date of hearing: 20.04.2026

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

Applicant Nil

Respondent Mr. Divyanshu Kumar Srivastava, Adv. for the
State of HP (Through VC)
Mr. Naman Garg, proxy counsel for HP SPCB
(Through VC)

ORDER

1. The respondent no. 2 has filed the response affidavit in compliance of the order dated 29.01.2026 stating that the environmental compensation amount of Rs. 1 crore 8 lakhs was deposited with the state level nodal account created in terms of the notification dated 18.08.2022.

2. The said affidavit further discloses that in compliance of the order of the Tribunal the said amount of Rs. 1 crore 8 lakhs has been transferred by the Director, Environment to the HSPCB on 02.03.2026. This amount is required to be utilized for restoration purposes.

3. The report in paragraph 6 is mentioned that the action plan for utilization of compensation of Rs. 1 crore 8 lakhs has been filed in original application no. 137/2024.

4. Learned Counsel for the PCB is not in a position to answer as to why the said action plan is filed in a different original application. On inquiry

he has revealed that he is not the counsel appointed by the PCB but he is the proxy counsel.

5. In such circumstance, we are of the view that PCB is not rendering proper assistance to the Tribunal and unnecessarily the time of the Tribunal is being wasted, hence, we impose the cost of Rs. 10,000/- upon the Member Secretary, PCB to be deposited with the NGT Bar Association.

6. The Member Secretary, PCB is directed to appoint an officer of the high level to assist the Tribunal in the matter on the next date of hearing.

7. List on 04.08.2026.

Prakash Shrivastava, CP

Dr. A. Senthil Vel, EM

Dr. Afroz Ahmad, EM

April 20, 2026
Original Application No. 726/2023
PN