

Item No. 02

Court No. 2

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

Original Application No. 419/2023

Rampal

Applicant

Versus

State of Haryana

Respondent

Date of hearing: 31.07.2023

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ARUN KUMAR TYAGI, JUDICIAL MEMBER
HON'BLE DR. A. SENTHIL VEL, EXPERT MEMBER**

Application is registered based on a letter petition received by Post

ORDER

1. The Applicant, Rampal has sent present letter petition which has been treated and registered as Original Application complaining about illegal cutting of trees and vegetation for conversion of Gauchar land for agricultural use.

2. The applicant has averred that as per the directions given by this Tribunal green belts have to be maintained in the villages and cities. Afforestation in Gauchar land will lead to soil conservation and protect environment from pollution. Gram Panchayat Jhamuwas, Tehsil Tawadu, District Nuh, Haryana has illegally cut trees and destroyed vegetation for converting Gauchar land for agricultural purposes and leased out the same for generating income. Due to conversion of Gauchar land, Nilgai and other animals are deprived of the habitat. The applicant has requested that Gauchar land may be conserved and protected as green belt for protection of environment and wildlife.

3. *Prima facie*, the averments made in the application raise questions relating to environment arising out of the implementation of the enactments specified in Schedule I to the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010.

4. In view of the above, we consider it appropriate to seek response from (1) State of Haryana through Chief Secretary, Govt. of Haryana, (2) Principal Secretary, Panchayati Raj & RD Department, Govt. of Haryana, (3) Principal Secretary, Environment, Govt. of Haryana and (4) District Magistrate, Nuh who are impleaded as respondent Nos. 1 to 4. The registry is also directed to prepare and attach memo of parties with the paper book accordingly. Notices be issued to Respondent Nos. 1 to 4 requiring them to file their response to the averments made in the application by e-mail at judicial-ngt@gov.in preferably in the form of searchable PDF/OCR Supported PDF and not in the form of Image PDF.

5. Further, we also consider it appropriate that a Joint Committee be constituted to verify the factual position regarding illegal cutting of trees and destruction of vegetation and take appropriate remedial action. Accordingly, we constitute a Joint Committee comprising of Haryana State PCB, District Magistrate, Nuh, Divisional Forest Officer, Nuh and District Development & Panchayat Office, Nuh and direct the same to meet within one week, undertake visits to the site, look into the grievances of the applicant, associate the applicant and representative of the concerned project proponent, verify the factual position and take appropriate remedial action by following due course of law and giving opportunity of being heard to the project proponent. The DDPO, Nuh will be the nodal agency for coordination and compliance.

6. Factual and Action taken Report may be submitted within one month by e-mail at judicial-ngt@gov.in preferably in the form of searchable PDF/OCR Supported PDF and not in the form of Image PDF.

7. List for further consideration on 12.09.2023.

8. A copy of this order, along with a copy of the application and documents attached with the same, be forwarded to the Member Secretary, Haryana State PCB, District Magistrate, Nuh, Divisional Forest Officer, Nuh and DDPO, Nuh by e-mail for requisite compliance.

Arun Kumar Tyagi, JM

Dr. A. Senthil Vel, EM

July 31, 2023
Original Application No. 419/2023
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