

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
EASTERN ZONE BENCH, KOLKATA
(THROUGH PHYSICAL HEARING WITH HYBRID MODE)**

Original Application No.186/2023/EZ

Analson Sangma

Applicant

Versus

Deputy Commissioner, Baghmara,
South Garo Hills, Meghalaya & Ors.

Respondents

Date of hearing: 19.11.2025

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ARUN KUMAR TYAGI, JUDICIAL MEMBER
HON'BLE MR. ISHWAR SINGH, EXPERT MEMBER**

Applicant: Mr. K.C. Gautam, Advocate for the applicant (through VC).

Respondents: Mr. Avijit Mani Tripathi, Advocate for respondent no.1 (through VC).

Ms. K. Enatoli Sema, Advocate for respondent no.2 (through VC).

Mr. Surendra Kumar, Advocate for respondent no.3 (through VC).

Mr. George Daniel, proxy counsel for Mr. Jose Abraham, Advocate for respondent no.4 (through VC).

None for respondent no.5.

ORDER

1. The applicant had sent a complaint letter dated 16.10.2023 to this Tribunal which has been treated and registered as O.A. No.186/2023/EZ.

2. The applicant grievances is regarding illegal operation of stone quarry and felling of trees with a prayer to stop the same.

3. Vide order dated 09.01.2024, this Tribunal issued notice to the respondents and constituted a Joint Committee.

4. The Joint Committee submitted its report dated 02.02.2024. In the course of hearing, counter affidavits have been filed by respondents no. 1 and 2 and respondent no. 4.

5. Vide order dated 02.07.2025, SEIAA Meghalaya was impleaded as respondent no. 5. Notice was duly served on respondent no. 5 by e-mail but none has appeared for respondent no. 5 and no response has been filed on behalf of respondent no. 5 despite sufficient time having been granted for this purpose vide orders dated 02.07.2025 and 01.09.2025.

6. The proceedings before this Tribunal cannot be treated as part of adversarial litigation where the concerned defendants may opt out to remain absent and suffer *ex-parte* proceedings. On the other hand, the State and its instrumentalities and autonomous Public Authorities like SEIAA are under constitutional and statutory obligations to ensure compliance with environmental norms and, therefore, the same have to ensure their representation through duly authorised representatives/Counsel and also filing of their replies/responses before this Tribunal.

7. However, respondent no. 5-SEIAA, Meghalaya has not appeared before this Tribunal and filed its response despite due service of notice on it. Non-appearance of respondent no. 5-SEIAA Meghalaya today has the effect of causing unnecessary adjournment and delaying appropriate resolution of the environmental issues involved in the case. Such deliberate non-appearance warrants an order imposing exemplary costs for unnecessary adjournment thereby caused.

8. In these facts and circumstances, respondent no. 5-SEIAA Meghalaya is granted one more opportunity to file its response and to ensure its representation before this Tribunal subject to payment of costs of Rs. 1,00,000/- (Rs. One lakh only). The costs shall be deposited with the Registrar, National Green Tribunal, Kolkata Zone Bench, Kolkata within 15 days.

9. List on 27.01.2026 for further consideration.

10. A copy of this order may be sent to the Chief Secretary, Government of Meghalaya and Member Secretary, SEIAA Meghalaya for ensuring due compliance of this order.

Arun Kumar Tyagi, JM

Ishwar Singh, EM

November 19th, 2025
Original Application No.186/2023/EZ
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