

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

Original Application No.151/2023/EZ

News Item titled “Despite National Green Tribunal
Ban, illegal sand mining is going on in Jharkhand”
appearing in Prabhat Khabar dated 08.09.2023

Applicant(s)

Date of hearing: 28.11.2023

**CORAM: HON’BLE MR. JUSTICE B. AMIT STHALEKAR, JUDICIAL MEMBER
HON’BLE DR. ARUN KUMAR VERMA, EXPERT MEMBER**

For Applicant(s) : *Suo Motu*

For Respondent(s) : Mr. Surendra Kumar, Advocate for R-1,
Mr. Dipanjan Ghosh, Advocate for R-2,
Ms. Aishwarya Rajyashree, Adv. for R-3 (in Virtual Mode),
Mr. Ashok Prasad, Advocate for R-4

ORDER

1. This case has been registered by the Delhi Bench of the National Green Tribunal on the basis of a news item published in “Prabhat Khabar” dated 08.09.2023, and registered as Original Application No.566/2023/PB.
2. The case records of this case have now been transferred to the Kolkata Bench from the Delhi Bench of the Tribunal vide its order dated 26.09.2023 and the said case has now been registered in the Eastern Bench as Original Application No.151/2023/EZ.
3. Since the Respondents having not been arrayed in the Original Application, we direct the following Respondents to be arrayed in the array of Respondents in the present case:-
 - (i) Jharkhand State Pollution Control Board, through its Member Secretary, E-1, CTI Colony, Dhurwa, Ranchi, Pin – 834004;

- (ii) Central Pollution Control Board, through its Chairman, Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi – 110032;
 - (iii) State of Jharkhand, through its Principal Secretary, Environment Department; and
 - (iv) State Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Jharkhand through its Member Secretary.
4. Mr. Surendra Kumar, learned Counsel appearing in Court, accepts notice on behalf of the Respondent No.1, Jharkhand State Pollution Control Board.
 5. Mr. Dipnajan Ghosh, learned Counsel appearing in Court, accepts notice on behalf of the Respondent No.2, Central Pollution Control Board.
 6. Ms. Aishwarya Rajyashree, learned Counsel appearing (in Virtual Mode), accepts notice on behalf of the Respondent No.3, State of Jharkhand.
 7. Mr. Ashok Prasad, learned Counsel appearing in Court, accepts notice on behalf of the Respondent No.4, State Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Jharkhand.
 8. All the Respondents shall file their counter-affidavit within two months weeks.
 9. The Office of the Tribunal shall provide copy of the Original Application along with complaint and its Annexures to the learned Counsel for the Respondents within 48 hours.
 10. The Committee constituted by the Tribunal shall submit its report on affidavit. Let the Report be filed by Jharkhand State Pollution Control Board within two months.
 11. The districts in respect of which the allegations of illegal sand mining have been made are mentioned in the complaint as being

Dhanbad, Bokaro, Giridih, Latehar, Palamu, Chatra, Hazaribagh, Ramgarh, Gumla, Garhwa and Koderma. The Committee shall submit its report with regard to mining in all the districts.

12. **List on 22.02.2024.**

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B. Amit Sthalekar, JM

November 28, 2023,
Original Application No.151/2023/EZ
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Dr. Arun Kumar Verma, EM