

Item No.09 (i) & (ii):-

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI**

[Through Physical Hearing (Hybrid Option)]

**Original Application No.30 of 2023 (SZ) &
I.A. No.43 of 2023 (SZ)**

WITH

**Original Application No.31 of 2023 (SZ) &
I.A. No.44 of 2023 (SZ)**

IN THE MATTER OF:

SUO MOTU

...Applicant(s)

Union of India
Through its Secretary,
MoEF&CC, New Delhi and Ors.



... Respondent(s)

Date of hearing: 04.09.2025.

CORAM:

HON'BLE Smt. JUSTICE PUSHPA SATHYANARAYANA, JUDICIAL MEMBER

HON'BLE Dr. PRASHANT GARGAVA, EXPERT MEMBER

(In both cases)

For Applicant (s): Suo Motu

For Respondent(s): Mrs. Me. Sarashwathy for R1.
Mr. Rajat Jonathan Shaw represented
Mr. Darpan K.M. for R2, R4 & R5.
Mr. H.K. Vasanth for R3.
Mr. R. Prithviraj Pandian for R6.

ORDER

1. Despite the lapse of more than one and a half years, the bathymetric survey to ascertain the actual quantity of sand mined has not yet been conducted. The appropriateness of undertaking such a survey after nearly two years remains questionable. In cases where illegal mining is alleged, it is incumbent upon the authorities to intervene at the earliest and carry out an assessment of the quantity extracted and the damage caused.

2. Even in the report of the Karnataka SEIAA, it is stated that during the inspection, no sand mining activity was noticed. However, it was also observed that no mining was being carried out at that time and that the river was in good flow. It is further stated that it is difficult to make thorough assessment of the extent and implications of sand mining by the project authorities, as the river was in good flow. Consequently, it was decided to seek a bathymetric survey report from the Department of Mines and Geology. It is also mentioned that the Environmental Clearances originally granted were kept under abeyance.

3. Considering the gravity of the allegations, the authorities are directed to file a further report regarding the illegal mining and the compensation to be awarded. Once such reports are filed, the matter, pending since 2023, can be given a quietus.

4. Post the matter on **12.12.2025** for final hearing. In the meanwhile, the official respondents are directed to file their respective reports and get ready with the matter.

Sd/-

Smt. Justice Pushpa Sathyanarayana, JM

Sd/-

Dr. Prashant Gargava, EM

O.A. No.30/2023 (SZ)
I.A. No.43/2023 (SZ) &
O.A. No.31/2023(SZ)
I.A. No.44/2023 (SZ)
04th September, 2025. Mn.

