

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI

Original Application No. 94 of 2022 (SZ)
(Through Video Conference)

IN THE MATTER OF

A. Balasubramanian

...Applicant(s)

Versus

Union of India & ors.

...Respondent(s)

Date of hearing: 06.09.2022.

CORAM:

HON'BLE SMT. JUSTICE PUSHPA SATHYANARAYANA, JUDICIAL MEMBER

HON'BLE DR. SATYAGOPAL KORLAPATI, EXPERT MEMBER

For Applicant(s):

Mr. S. Kamalesh Kannan

For Respondent(s):

Dr. D. Shanmuganathan for R2 to R5, R7 and R8

ORDER

1. The applicant, who is resident of Thokkalikkadu Village, Pattukkottai Taluk, claims to be fighting for the rights of the people and against the illegal mining in the area for the past several years. He has filed earlier W.P (MD) No. 15827 of 2014 and 4984 of 2018 before the Hon'ble High Court of Madras at Madurai Bench. He has also filed an Original Application No. 154 of 2021 against the illegal quarrying in Sy. Nos. 8 and 9 of the Chinna Avudayar Koil Village, Pattukkottai Taluk, Thanjavur District.
2. The applicant is seeking a direction to the respondents to install Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras at Sy. No. 1 of Thokkalikkadu Village, Sy. Nos. 9 and 12 of Chinna Avudaiyar Koil Village, Sy. No. 112 of

Lailaikkadu Village and Sy. Nos. 1 and 4 of Raja Mandapam Village, Pattakoitai Taluk, Thanjavur District.

3. Earlier in a suo motu application, in O.A. No. 161 of 2020, this Tribunal has passed an order on 17.11.2020 and issued certain directions. The direction no. (ii) issued was as follows *“if the CCTV cameras have not been installed in places where the mining is going on or possibility of illegal mining is likely to occur, namely, along the river bank, then the District Administration as well as the concerned departments are directed to take steps to install considerable numbers of CCTV cameras in those areas so as to make monitoring more effective and also to take action against them in accordance with law”*.
4. Encouraged by the above direction, the present Original Application is filed. However, it is not stated whether the said direction given in the O.A. No. 161 of 2021 was complied with or not. It is claimed by the applicant that if persons who commit environmental crimes are punished, it would deter the general public in violating such laws and installing CCTV cameras for that purpose would be a precautionary approach to identify the violators.
5. If the direction given in the earlier Original Application regarding fixing of CCCTV Cameras in the illegal mining areas is implemented, the authorities may consider the request of the applicant for installing the CCTV cameras. The applicant has not verified the difficulties of installing CCTV cameras, how practical it would be to maintain the same and safe them from violators.

6. In such circumstances, we are not inclined to give any positive direction to the respondents in this regard. However, it is open to the respondents to consider such a request if made by the applicant about the feasibility of installing CCTV cameras.
7. In view of the above the application is disposed of.

.....J.M.
(Smt. Justice Pushpa Sathyanarayana)

.....E.M.
(Dr. Satyagopal Korlapati)

O.A. No. 94/2022(SZ)
6th September, 2022. (AM)

