

QUORUM

**HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE B.D. AGARWAL,
FORMER JUDGE, GAUHATI HIGH COURT, GUWAHATI**

**DR. SHANTANU KUMAR DUTTA, ADDITIONAL DIRECTOR,
REPRESENTATIVE OF CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
(Email id: shantanucpcb@gmail.com)**

IN THE MATTER OF

Threat to Life Arising Out of Coal Mining in South Garo Hills District

-Vs-

**The State of Meghalaya & Ors.
And other connected matters**

PRESENT

- :** **Mr. Manjunatha C, IFS**
Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya,
Mining & Geology Department
Email id: manju2020@gmail.com
- :** **Mr. A. Kembhavi, IAS**
Director, Directorate of Mineral Resources,
Government of Meghalaya,
Email id: arunkumar.kembhavi@gmail.com
- :** **Mr. J. K. Borah,**
General Manager,
North Eastern Coalfields, Coal India Limited
Email id: gm.nec.cil@coalindia.in
- :** **Mr. J. H. Nengnong,** Member Secretary
Meghalaya State Pollution Control Board, Shillong
Email id: megspcb@rediffmail.com
- :** **Mr. M. B. K. Reddy, IFS**
Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,
(Planning, Development and Legal Matters),
Forests & Environment Department, Government
of Meghalaya.
Email id: mudiyabala18@yahoo.com
- :** **Mr. P. L. N. Raju**
Director, North Eastern Space Application Centre,
Department of Space, Government of India

Email id: director@nesac.gov.in

Mr. M. Somorjit Singh

Scientist

North Eastern Space Application Centre,
Department of Space, Government of India

Email id: msomorjit69@gmail.com

RECORD OF THE MINUTES OF THE SIXTH SPECIAL SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE CONSTITUTED BY THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE B.D. AGARWAL, FORMER JUDGE, GAUHATI HIGH COURT HELD ON 02nd MARCH, 2020 AT 10.30 A.M IN THE CONFERENCE HALL OF ORCHID LAKE RESORT, UMIAM, RI – BHOI, SHILLONG -793103

AGENDA

To consider, finalize and approve the comprehensive plan prepared by Mining and Geology Department, Government of Meghalaya in accordance with the direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India dated 03-07-2019 in Civil Appeal No.10720 of 2018. The comprehensive Plan pertains to handing over of already extracted coal to Coal India Limited for auction, modalities of auction, process of such coal, and its subsequent transportation.

PROCEEDINGS

At the outset, the Chairperson of the Committee welcomed the Members of the Committee, Special Invitees, Senior Officials of the State Government and other Officers present.

1. Mining & Geology Department in compliance with the directions issued in the earlier sitting of the Committee on 14.02.2020 have duly submitted a Draft Comprehensive Plan (hereinafter referred to as Plan) in respect of handing over of 32,56,715 MT of extracted Coal to Coal India Limited for auction; the subsequent auction process and consequential transportation of auctioned coal.
2. In the aforesaid context the Mining & Geology Department shall submit the geographical coordinates of all the coal dumps alongwith details of the owners and quantity of coal as mentioned in the affidavit filed by the State Government before the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Civil Appeal No.10720 of 2018. The said affidavit alongwith all annexures shall be submitted to the NGT Committee within

3 (three) days by the Mining and Geology Department, Government of Meghalaya which was agreed to by the Officials of Mining and Geology Department, Government of Meghalaya present in the meeting.

3. With reference to the geographic coordinates of coal dump sites furnished by the Mining and Geology Department, Government of Meghalaya, the Director NESAC observed that the GPS co-ordinates have not been presented in a uniform format leading to irregular distribution of the points when mapped. Mining and Geology Department, Government of Meghalaya, shall render requisite correction in respect of the GPS co-ordinates and resubmit the same to NESAC within two weeks to enable them to prepare an appropriate map.
4. The aforesaid plan was deliberated threadbare by the Committee and the following decisions of the Committee shall be implemented by the Mining and Geology Department, Govt of Meghalaya before the next date of sitting of the Committee:
 - i. Suggestions have been made by the Committee during the course of deliberation on various clauses of the Plan. Accordingly those clauses of the Plan shall be revised, corrected or deleted as pointed out by the members of the Committee. All such suggestions of the Coal India Limited which have been directed to be incorporated in the Plan by the Committee shall also be incorporated in the Plan.
 - ii. The said Plan shall be prepared and submitted to the Committee through e-mail at the earliest.
 - iii. The Meghalaya State Pollution Control Board have submitted guidelines prepared by them to be observed by the designated coal depots. Compliance of the same shall be rendered mandatory by the coal depots before their inclusion in the notice inviting tender and a clause to this effect shall be contained in the Plan.
 - iv. In respect of mapping with the aid of high resolution satellite imageries the coal dumps existing prior to the date of filing the aforesaid affidavit in the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the Director of the North Eastern Space Application Centre, Department of Space (NESAC), Government of India, Umiam stated that they need a period of 2 (two) weeks for submitting a report on tentative schedule for the study along with the cost estimate for preparing the requisite maps. The cost of aforesaid study shall be borne

from the funds collected under MEPRF since preparation of such a map will indisputably aid proper planning of restoration of environment damaged on account of such coal dumps which could be located adjacent to the rat hole coal mines which have significantly damaged the environment in Meghalaya. It is made clear that NESAC shall make use of satellite imageries pertaining to the year 2018 and 2019 only for the purpose of aforesaid study which will include both preparation of maps and a detailed study report.

5. The Draft Comprehensive Plan which will be resubmitted by the Mining and Geology Department, Government of Meghalaya, to the Committee as stated above will again be considered by the Committee during their next Special Sitting on 12.03.2020 at 10.30 A.M in the Conference Hall, O/o Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Sylvan House, Lower Lachumiere, Meghalaya, Shillong.

The Chairman thanked all present.


(Justice B.D. Agarwal)