

Q U O R U M

**HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE BROJENDRA PRASAD KATAKEY,
FORMER JUDGE, GAUHATI HIGH COURT, GUWAHATI**

**PROF. ASHOK K. SINGH, MEMBER
REPRESENTATIVE FROM INDIAN SCHOOL OF MINES, DHANBAD
IIT (ISM), DHANBAD (826004)**

**DR. SHANTANU KUMAR DUTTA, SCIENTIST 'D'
REPRESENTATIVE OF CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD**

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

P R E S E N T

- : Mr. P.W. Ingty, IAS
Additional Chief Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya.
- : Mr. T. Dkhar, IAS, Commissioner & Secretary,
Mining & Geology Department, Government of Meghalaya.
- : Mr. C.P. Marak, IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(PCCF & HoFF), Government of Meghalaya.
- : Mr. S. Kharlyngdoh, IAS, Commissioner & Secretary to the
Government of Meghalaya, Home (Police) Department
- : Mr. Sunil Kumar Agarwal, IFS
Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests(C),
Ministry of Environment & Forests & CC, North Eastern
Regional Office, Government of India, Meghalaya
- : Mr. B.S. Kharmawphlang, IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of
Forests (Climate Change, Research & Training)
- : Mr. H.C. Chaudhary, IFS,
Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Planning,
Development and Legal Matters), Government of Meghalaya



- : Mr. Manjunatha C. IFS, Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Mining and Geology Department.
- : Smti P.L. Lawai, MCS, Joint Secretary, Government of Meghalaya, Mining & Geology Department,
- : Mr. M. S. Lyngdoh, Director of Mineral Resources, Government of Meghalaya.
- : Dr. Z. Changsan, Regional Director, Central Pollution Control Board Region, Directorate North East, Shillong.
- : Dr. T.S. Nongkhlaw, Director, (DHS MI), Meghalaya.
- : Dr. Aman War, Joint Director, (DHS MI), Meghalaya.
- : Mr. J. H Nengnong, Member Secretary, Meghalaya State Pollution Control Board, Shillong.
- : Mr. P.Ch. Marak, Mining Engineer, Directorate of Mineral Resources, Government of Meghalaya.
- : Mr. W.R. Kharkrang, Environmental Engineer, Meghalaya State Pollution Control Board, Meghalaya.
- : Mr. M. Somorjit Singh, Scientist, North Eastern Space Application Centre, Umiam, Meghalaya.
- : Dr. H. Tynsong, Scientist D, Ministry of Environment & Forests & CC, North Eastern Regional Office, Shillong.

PROCEEDING NO.7

**RECORD OF THE MINUTES OF THE SEVENTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE
CONSTITUTED BY THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL HELD ON 11TH
JANUARY, 2019 AT 10:00 AM IN THE CONFERENCE HALL, O/O PRINCIPAL
CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS & HOFF, SYLVAN HOUSE, SHILLONG,
MEGHALAYA**

Mr. P.W. Ingty, IAS, Member Secretary/Coordinator welcomed the Hon'ble Chairman, Members of the Committee and also the senior officials of the State Government, Meghalaya Pollution Control Board, Central Pollution Control Board and other special invitees.



The four major Agenda Items that were discussed in the meeting were:

- I. Review of actions taken to comply with directions issued by the Committee in Sixth Sitting held on 20th December, 2018.**
- II. Examination of up to date reports on recent incident of 15 persons suspected to be trapped inside a coal mine and two persons reported to be killed in another coal mine in East Jaintia Hills District.**
- III. Examination of updated Draft Action Plan for Restoration of Environment in areas affected by coal mining in State of Meghalaya.**
- IV. Discussions on Hon'ble National Green Tribunal's order dated 04.01.2019 on interim report submitted by the Committee.**
- V. Any other matter(s) to be raised with the permission of the Chair.**

AGENDA ITEM NO.I

1(a) Shri P.W. Ingty, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, i/c Forests & Environment Department and also the Member Secretary of the Committee has apprised the Committee that despite the assurance given in the Proceedings dated 20.12.2018, he could not obtain the sanction from the respective Departments for sanction of Rs.1,15,61,800/- towards the expenditure to be incurred to carry out 3 (three) scientific studies including the mapping to be done by North Eastern Space Application Centre and also the other expenditures of the Committee. It has also been submitted that special efforts are being made to get the sanction at the earliest, which he expects to get it by end of January, 2019. The Additional Chief Secretary has also apprised the Committee that fund for the purpose of mapping by North Eastern Space Application Centre may be made available by the Meghalaya State Pollution Control Board so that the work of mapping can be initiated and completed.

(b) Shri C.P. Marak, IFS, Chairman, Meghalaya State Pollution Control Board has stated that an amount of Rs.8 Lakhs can immediately be made available for the project to be undertaken by North Eastern Space Application Centre.



(c) In view of the above, while the necessary sanction from all the concerned Departments for release of the aforesaid amount of Rs.1,15,61,800/- shall be obtained by end of January, 2019, Meghalaya State Pollution Control Board shall release Rs.8 Lakhs to North Eastern Space Application Centre, immediately for the project of mapping, the proposal of which they have earlier submitted. The Meghalaya State Pollution Control Board shall be reimbursed the said amount by the State Government.

2. The Commissioner & Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Mining & Geology Department has apprised the Committee that a Draft Meghalaya Mines & Minerals Policy, 2010 has been finalised as Meghalaya Mines and Minerals Policy in the year 2012. Copy of the said Policy has been placed on record before the Committee today.

3(a) The Commissioner & Secretary, Mining & Geology Department has apprised the Committee that the draft Guidelines for coal mining activities in the State of Meghalaya prepared by the Mining & Geology Department of Government of Meghalaya in the year 2015, in terms of the orders passed by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, has been filed before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal and the same has also been sent to the Ministry of Coal, Ministry of Mines and Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India , for necessary examination and approval, in terms of the direction issued by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal. Nothing, however, has been intimated to the Government of Meghalaya by any of the aforesaid Ministries of Government of India relating to the examination as well as finalisation of the said guidelines for coal mining activities in the State of Meghalaya.

(b) The Commissioner & Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Mining & Geology Department shall, therefore, take up the matter with the Ministry of Coal and Ministry of Mines and as well as the Ministry of Environment & Forests & Climate Change, Government of India for early examination and finalisation of the aforesaid Guidelines, so that such finalisation is done within a month from today. A report in that regard shall be submitted to the Committee within a month.



4(a) The Commissioner & Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Mining & Geology Department during the Proceedings of the Committee held on 13.11.2018 has submitted a report on the availability of un – inventorised coal, as assessed by the Deputy Commissioners of East Jaintia Hills District, West Khasi Hills District, South West Khasi Hills District and South Garo Hills District, quantity of which was found to be 23,25,663.54 metric tonnes, which, according to the Government, was left out from being inventorised. The Commissioner & Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Mining & Geology Department has submitted that he is required to verify the said inventory made by the Deputy Commissioners of the aforesaid Districts, which shall be done by him within a month from now.

(b) The Commissioner & Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Mining & Geology Department has also stated that the reports relating to the availability of un-inventorised coal from the other districts, apart from the aforesaid 4(four) districts, have also been received by him and the same shall also be verified by him before placing it before the Joint Committee consisting of the representatives of the Central Pollution control Board and Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad, for cross-checking in terms of the order dated 31.08.2018 passed by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal.

(c) The Commissioner & Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Mining & Geology Department shall make his final assessment in respect of the said coal within a period of 1(one) month from today, which shall be cross-checked by the representatives of the Central Pollution Control Board and Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad within a month thereafter. As suggested by Dr. A.K. Singh, representative from Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad, who is one of the Members of this Committee, the Commissioner & Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Mining & Geology Department shall supply the information in the format, which has already been made available to him, to the said Joint Committee. A copy of the said format has again been furnished to the Director of Mines today.

5. The Commissioner & Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Mining & Geology Department has assured the Committee to furnish the available information



relating to the cases instituted in the Hon'ble High Court of Meghalaya and Hon'ble Gauhati High Court or any other Courts in Meghalaya in respect of coal mining as well as transportation of coal in the State of Meghalaya within a week from now.

6(a) The Committee has been informed that the public notices inviting claims from the coal mine workers, who received injuries and from the next of kin of the coal mine workers who died during coal mining activities, in the newspapers in English, Khasi and Garo languages, in terms of the decision taken in the Proceedings dated 20.12.2018, have been issued in Shillong Times, Mawphor and a Salantini Janera, respectively.

(b) The Commissioner & Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Mining & Geology Department shall make initial scrutiny of the claims to be received and place the same before the Committee within 1(one) month from the last date fixed for receiving such claims.

7. The Commissioner & Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Mining & Geology Department in the Action Taken Report submitted today has stated that the directions contained in Items No.10 of the Proceedings dated 20.12.2018, relating to submission of a report of compliance of the safety and health requirement by the respective limestone mines and also whether the limestone mines whose licences have expired are still carrying on the mining activities, could not be complied with as the concerned persons are involved in the rescue operations of the 15 coal mine workers reportedly trapped in a coal mine in East Jaintia Hills District. The Committee has, however, been assured that a compliance report in that respect would be submitted before the Committee during its next Sitting.

8. The Commissioner & Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Mining & Geology Department has also apprised the Committee that complete data having not been made available by the respective Deputy Commissioners, the names and addresses of the persons who received injuries or died in the mining activities would be submitted to the Committee in its next meeting.



9(a) The Committee has also been apprised by the Commissioner & Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Mining & Geology Department that the directions containing Item No.12 of the Proceedings dated 20.12.2018 relating to the compilation of the data of year wise requirement, source of procurement and consumption of coal by the Cement Factories, Power Plants and Captive Power Plants in the State of Meghalaya is on, which will be submitted in its next meeting.

(b) The Central Pollution Control Board has stated that out of 7(seven) Captive Power Plants in the State of Meghalaya, the relevant datas relating to coal consumption from 6(six) Plants have been collected except 1(one) viz. Gold Stone Cement Limited, which will be collected soon and the data will be compiled and submitted to the Committee in its next meeting.

(c) The Committee is of the view that the aforesaid information relating to the source of procurement of the coal by the Cement Factories, Power Plants and Captive Power Plants set up in the State of Meghalaya, is urgently required to ascertain as to whether these Cement Factories, Power Plants and Captive Power Plants are still getting their required coal from the State of Meghalaya despite the ban on the activities of coal mining by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal vide its Order dated 17.04.2014, except allowing transportation of already extracted coal on few occasions.

(d) The Commissioner & Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Mining & Geology Department shall, without fail, ensure collection of the aforesaid information /data from all Cement Factories, Power Plants and Captive Power Plants since the ban on coal mining in the State of Meghalaya was imposed by the Hon'ble NGT and submit the same before the Committee in its next Proceeding. The CPCB shall also submit a report in that regard in the next proceeding.

10(a) The Commissioner & Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Mining & Geology Department has submitted that since the Cement Factories have agreed to make available the required fund for the project proposal on neutralisation of AMD contaminated water on selected streams in the coal mining areas, the said project



shall immediately be commenced in consultation with Prof. O.P. Singh, Principal Investigator, Department of Environmental Studies, North Eastern Hills University.

(b) The Commissioner & Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Mining & Geology Department shall apprise the Committee in its next sitting about the status of the said project.

11. It appears from the various news reports published in various newspapers that 2(two) reports, one in December, 2018 and the other in January, 2019 have been filed by a group of 22 social activist in the Hon'ble Supreme Court in a pending proceeding.

The Commissioner & Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Mining & Geology Department shall arrange collection of the said reports either from the learned Government Advocate appearing before the Hon'ble Supreme Court or from the Registry of the Hon'ble Supreme Court and produce the same before the Committee in its next meeting.

12. The Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Mining & Geology Department has informed the Committee in writing that the Government of Meghalaya has decided to invest an amount of Rs.433 Crores in the following 2(two) Banks for different periods viz. Axis Bank and HDFC Bank, having Branches in Shillong, out of the MEPRF fund which is presently in deposit in the State Bank of Indian in a Current Account. The Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Mining & Geology Department may go ahead with such deposit in interest bearing accounts as decided by the Government pursuant to the quotations invited. The names of the Banks, the amount to be invested, rate of interest and the period as decided by the Government of Meghalaya are as follows:


Approved Bank	Amount (crores)	Fixed deposit interest rates	Period
Existing Current Account in SBI	3.00	Sweep facility of interest bearing feature	-
Axis Bank	15.00	7.00%	90 days
Axis Bank	50.00	6.75%	60 days

Axis Bank	150.00	7.75%	1 year
HDFC Bank	15.00	7.00%	90 days
HDFC Bank	50.00	6.75%	60 days
HDFC Bank	150.00	7.75%	1 year
Total	433		

The aforesaid amount shall not be spent in any manner unless permitted.

13(a) Smti. P.L. Lawai, MCS, Joint Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Mining & Geology Department has informed the Committee about conduct of 17(seventeen) awareness camps/programmes in 17(seventeen) schools involving the students of Class VIII and above in West Khasi Hills District in the month of November, 2018. It was also stated that though Action Plan in respect of other districts have been prepared and the concerned Deputy Commissioners have suggested the names of the Government Officials of Mining Department who are to be made available as resource persons, no awareness camps/programmes has started in those districts.

(b) The Committee having regard to the aforesaid position, directs the Joint Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Mining & Geology Department to identify the local NGOs in consultation with the respective Deputy Commissioners of all the Districts of the State of Meghalaya for regular conduct of awareness camps/programmes in their respective districts, which shall commence from second week of February, 2019 in the schools as the winter vacation will then be over. The Deputy Commissioners of all the Districts, however, from third week of January, 2019 conduct awareness camps/programmes in all the villages involving the village Headmen/Sordars/Nokmas and the local NGOs. The Deputy Commissioners of all the Districts shall submit their respective monthly reports to the Committee in first week of every month giving details of such awareness programmes/camps conducted, failing which necessary order for taking necessary action against them shall be passed.

 **14(a)** Smti. P.L. Lawai, MCS, Joint Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Mining & Geology Department has also apprised the Committee that signboards

have been installed in some places in East Jaintia Hills District. It has been stated that efforts are on to put the signboards in all the affected areas intimating the people that water in the rivers and the streams is not fit for human consumption.

(b) A report in that regard shall be submitted to the Committee in its next meeting.

15(a) The Action Taken Report submitted by the Mining & Geology Department indicates exploring the feasibility of installation of deep tube wells in the affected areas so as to make available drinkable water to the villagers, in consultation with the Central Ground Water Board and also the Public Health Engineering Department, Government of Meghalaya. Nothing, however, has been finalised as yet in that regard.

(b) In view of the above, the Principal Secretary, Public Health Engineering Department; Chief Engineer, Public Health Engineering Department and the concerned Executive Engineer, Public Health Engineering Department, Government of Meghalaya as well as the Head of the Regional Office of Central Ground Water Board, Shillong shall attend the next meeting of the Committee. They should be ready with their proposal for installation of the deep tube wells in the mining affected areas initially in East Jaintia Hills, and South Garo Hills Districts. The quality of ground water in those affected areas should also be informed to the Committee.

16(a) The Director of Mineral Resources, Government of Meghalaya has apprised the Committee about the Challans issued for transportation of coal from different districts, after the order dated 04.12.2018 was passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court, as well as the amount realised in the name of royalty and the amount realised towards MEPRF, which are as follows:-

Names of the Districts	Quantity of Coal (In Metric Tonnes)	Amount of Royalty (In Rupees)	Amount of MEPRF (In Rupees)
East Jaintia Hills District	35144	23722200	17044840
West Khasi Hills District	4932	12354674	8877062

South Garo Hills District	125991	85043925	61105635
TOTAL	166067	121120799	8707537

(b) The Committee directs immediate deposit of the aforesaid amount collected towards MEPRF in the account maintained in the State Bank of India, if not already deposited. No amount shall be spent from the said account unless permitted.

(c) The Director of Mineral Resources shall submit a report relating to the quantity of coal transported district wise, pursuant to the challans issued, in the next proceeding.

17(a) The Director of Health Services present in today's proceedings has informed the Committee that as per information received by him, most of the residents of the localities where the mining activities were/are going on suffer from Urinary Tract Infection, Respiratory Tract Infection apart from STDs. He has, however, admitted that no survey has been conducted so far to find out the disease from which the local inhabitants have suffered because of the highly acidic nature of water in the nearby rivers and streams, from where water is drawn for drinking purposes, apart from others purpose.

(b) The Director of Health Services in the next sitting of the Committee shall furnish a detailed report indicating therein the relevant datas to the Committee, in that respect.

18(a) Shri S.K. Agarwal, IFS, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (C), MoEF & Climate Change, North Eastern Regional Office, Shillong has submitted a report stating that Show Cause Notices, based on the recommendation of the Regional Office, issued to 3(three) Cement Plants and Captive Power Plants for violation of the conditions in the Environmental Clearance, out of which, 1(one) was issued by Meghalaya State Pollution Control Board. Shri S.K. Agarwal has also submitted the report on the details of the Cement Plants and Thermal Power Plants to which Environmental Clearance were issued by either Ministry of Environment & Forests & climate Change or the State Environmental Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Meghalaya. It has also been stated that the monitoring relating to the

compliance of the conditions in the Environmental Clearance is required to be done by the Regional Office, Ministry of Environment & Forests & Climate Change, Government of India, at Shillong.

(b) In the said report, the dates on which last monitoring in the Cement Plants and thermal Power Plants were made have also been mentioned, wherefrom it appears that in respect of 3(three) Cement Plants and both the Thermal Power Plants, the last monitoring was done on 15.06.2017 and 16.06.2017, respectively.

(c) The Regional Office of Ministry of Environment & Forests & Climate Change, Shillong shall conduct inspection of the said 5(five) Cement Plants and Thermal Power Plants, which were last monitored in the month of June, 2017, within a month and take the appropriate action as required to be taken under the law. A report in that regard shall be submitted to the Committee within a month from now.

19. A report on the non-coal mining projects in the State of Meghalaya to which Environmental clearance was granted, either by the Ministry of Environment & Forests & Climate Change or the State Environmental Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Meghalaya has also been submitted with the last monitoring dates. The Regional Office of Ministry of Environment & Forests & Climate Change, Shillong shall conduct the inspection of the said non-coal mining projects in regular intervals, as required by law and to monitor as to whether the conditions in the Environmental Clearance granted to them have been fulfilled or not. If any violation is noticed, appropriate action shall be taken. A report in that regard shall be submitted to the Committee within 2(two) months from now.

20. A report on the availability of CSR fund as well as allocation of the CSR fund by certain Cement Plants and Thermal Power Plants has also been submitted by Shri S.K. Agarwal, IFS Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (C), MoEF & Climate Change, North Eastern Regional Office at Shillong. Shri S.K. Agarwal, IFS, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (C) has also apprised the Committee that the existing Cement Companies and Thermal Power Plants in the meeting held on 04.01.2019 have assured funding of the concerned projects as mentioned in the earlier Proceedings of the Committee dated 20.12.2018.



21(a) The Commissioner & Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Home (Police) & Political Department has not submitted any report relating to the investigation conducted into 1139 cases already registered, which includes the 98 cases registered for illegal mining in East Jaintia Hills District.

(b) The concerned Superintendents of Police shall submit their respective reports relating to the investigation conducted in respect of the cases registered for illegal transportation of coal and illegal mining in their respective districts and also the outcome thereof. In the event, trial in any case is going on, the stage of the trial shall also be intimated in the said report. The said report shall be submitted within a period of 2(two) weeks to the Commissioner & Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Home (Police) & Political Department who shall submit the same to the Committee in its next meeting.

22. It is evident from the aforesaid ATRs submitted and also the statements made by the respective departments that no worthwhile positive actions have so far been taken by the respective departments of the Government of Meghalaya to comply with the directions issued from time to time and also towards implementation of the Action Plan formulated by the Committee. In the First Interim Report dated 31.12.2018 submitted to the Hon'ble NGT, the Committee observed that unless very sincere and honest efforts are made by the State Government, the adverse environmental affect caused due to the illegal coal mining activities cannot be remedied.

The Committee expressed its dissatisfaction at the pace at which the things are moving in different levels in different departments of the Government of Meghalaya and other statutory authorities towards implementation of the directives issued from time to time. All the concerned departments of the Government of Meghalaya as well as other statutory authorities shall, therefore, ensure compliance of the directions issued and submit their respective ATRs before the Committee in its next sitting, which the Committee decides to have after 1(one) month from today, having regard to the fact that the authorities request for granting 1(one) month time for compliance of most of the directions issued.



AGENDA ITEM NO.II

23(a) The Commissioner & Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Political Department has submitted his report relating to the efforts so far made to rescue 15(fifteen) coal mine workers reportedly trapped inside the coal mine located at Ksan Village. The Committee has also been informed that a proceeding in that regard is presently pending before the Hon'ble Supreme Court, which is expected to be taken up for consideration again today.

In view of the above, the Committee is of the opinion that it would not be proper on the part of the Committee to comment anything on the said rescue operation, except keeping the said report on record.

(b) The Committee has also been informed that the interim compensation of Rs.1 Lakh decided to be paid by the State Government has already been paid to the next of kin of the aforementioned coal mine workers suspected to be trapped, except 2(two) who belong to the District of Karbi Anglong in the State of Assam and another who belong to West Garo Hills District in the State of Meghalaya. The Deputy Commissioners of those Districts, however, have been contacted to find out the next of kin of those workers so that the interim compensation can be released to them.

24(a) The Committee has also been apprised that two dead bodies one of Shri Elad Bareh and other of Shri Manoj Basumatary were found at Mooknor, Jalyiah Village in East Jaintia Hills District, on the basis of which ***Khliehriat PS Case No.8(01)2019 Under Section 304(A)/188/34 IPC Read with Section 3(2)(d) PDPP Act***, has been registered and investigation into which is presently on. The Committee has also been informed that the efforts are being made by the District Police to identify the coal mine owner in order to initiate legal action. The Communication dated 08.01.2019 issued by the Superintendent of Police (SB-I), Meghalaya addressed to the Commissioner & Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Home (Police) & Political Department has also been placed on record.

(b) The aforesaid 2(two) persons having died in the coal mining activities, the Government of Meghalaya shall, within 1(one) month from today, pay an amount of



Rs.1 Lakh to the next of kin of those 2(two) persons as *interim* compensation as was decided to be paid in respect of the aforementioned 15(fifteen) coal mine workers. A report in that regard shall be submitted to the Committee in its next meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO.III

25. Shri H.C. Chaudhary, IFS, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Planning Development and Legal Matter) shall submit a detailed report on implementation of the Action Plan finalised by the Committee.

AGENDA ITEM NO.IV

26. The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal vide its Order dated 04.01.2019, apart from others directed this Committee to consider the following:

- (i) Any cranes and trucks found to be involved in illegal mining or transportation which have not yet been seized may also be seized. The seized vehicles or equipments be released by the concerned District Magistrates only after recovering damages to the extent of 50% of the showroom price of the vehicles or equipments. The said amount may also be credited to the restoration fund.**
- (ii) Efforts be expedited to identify victims who have suffered at least since 01.07.2012 and to assess loss to the environment and the manner of restoration.**
- (iii) Disaster Management Plan for the whole of the area 'on site' as well as 'off site' needs to be prepared and put into operation.**
- (iv) Appropriate technology to replace rat hole mining.**
- (v) Resource (coal) audit of Meghalaya Power Limited and Star Cement Limited to ascertain the legitimate procurement of coal and its source.**
- (vi) The Committee may take services of NEERI, Nagpur, Indian School of Mine, Dhanbad, FRI, Dehradun, CPCB apart from any other agency for making assessment of the damages.**
- (vii) Survey of health of the habitants may also be considered.**
- (viii) Skill Development Programmes to provide alternative means of employment to the workers involved in rat hole mining may be considered.**



(ix) **Mitigation/ restoration of impacted areas due to AMD.”**

27. The Deputy Commissioners and Superintendents of Police of all the concerned Districts are directed to seize any cranes, trucks and other vehicles found to be involved in illegal mining or transportation of coal, which have not yet been seized. They shall also submit a report to the Committee as to the release or otherwise of the cranes and trucks if already seized. Such vehicles or equipments if already released, the condition put on such release shall be intimated to the Committee in the said report. Henceforth, in view of the aforesaid Order passed by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, the seized vehicles or equipments shall only be released by the District Magistrates after recovering damages to the extent of 50% of the showroom price of such vehicles or equipments. The amount realised shall be credited to MEPRF. A report in that regard shall be submitted by the Deputy Commissioners of the districts to the Committee in its next sitting.

28. The Commissioner & Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Revenue & Disaster Management Department, Shri T. Dkhar, IAS shall prepare disaster management plan for the entire affected area '*on site*' as well as '*offsite*' and place the same before the Committee within a month.

29. The Directors of National Environmental Engineering Institute (NEERI), Nagpur, and Forest Research Institute (FRI), Dehradun are requested to depute their expert representatives to attend the Committee's next meeting to be held in Shillong to discuss about the issue relating to the damages already caused to the environment as well as the forests, in the State of Meghalaya, because of the coal mining activities, and its remedy.

The Member Secretary of the Committee shall immediately issue the request letter in that regard.

30. The Principal Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Labour Department shall cause preparation of the schemes for conducting skill development programmes and for alternative employment of the coal mine workers involved in the mining, which will be submitted to the Committee with a month.



AGENDA ITEM NO.V

31. The All Jaintia Students Union (Central Body), Jaintia Hills, Meghalaya has submitted a representation today to this Committee to take immediate steps for treating the acidic water and provide financial assistance to the victims and their family. In the said representation, it has also been indicated that people of the affected areas are consuming acidic water as they are not aware of the adverse affect on their health. The said Jaintia Students Union, however, in the said representation did not mention the names and addresses of the victims, if any, of the coal mining activities. The said representation is taken on record.

32. The Committee is issuing various directions to the Government in relation to the treatment of acidic water in the rivers and streams of the affected areas and also for issuance of public notices in the newspapers inviting claims from the victims of the coal mining activities, apart from others. The aforesaid Students Union may ask the concerned persons to file their claims in terms of the aforesaid public notices issued.

33. The Meghalaya State Pollution Control Board and the Central Pollution Control Board shall submit a report to the Committee, within a month, as to whether the Power Houses in the State are using indigenous coal of tertiary origin, if so, whether installation of desulphurization plants are required by those Power Houses.

34. The Meghalaya State Pollution Control Board and the Central Pollution Control Board shall also ensure implementation of all the relevant laws including the environmental laws by all the industries including Cement Plants and Power Plants in the State of Meghalaya.

35. The next sitting of the Committee shall be held on **11th February, 2019** from **10:00 AM** onwards in the **Conference Hall, Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, Sylvan House, Shillong, Meghalaya**. The Member Secretary shall issue request letters to all the special invitees for their presence in the next sitting.



- 36.** The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the chair.



(JUSTICE BROJENDRA P. KATAKEY)
CHAIRMAN