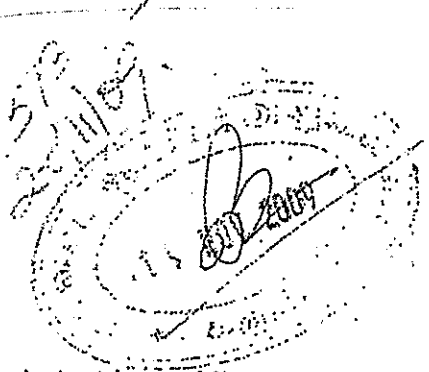


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-AT-ABSTRACT

Industries – Mines and Minerals – Reconstitution of District Level Task Forces and constitution of Taluk Level Task Forces for prevention of illegal mining / transportation of minerals based on the orders of the Hon'ble High Court, Madras dated 5.11.2009 in W.P. No. 9860/2008 filed by Thiru. Elephant G. Rajendran – Orders – Issued.

Industries (MMA.1) Department

G.O. (Ms). No. 135

Dated: 13.11.2009.
Read:

1. Government Letter No. 20008/MMA1/2004, Industries Department, dated 19.9.2005.
Orders of the Hon'ble High Court, Madras, dated 5.11.2009 in W.P. No.9860/2008.
From the District Collector, Nilgiris, Letter Rc.No. B3/22655/2007, dated 6.11.2009.

ORDER:

The District Collector, Nilgiris has stated that the Hon'ble High Court, Madras in its order dated 5.11.2009 in WP.No.9860/2008 filed by Thiru. Elephant G. Rajendran regarding illegal quarrying in Nilgiris has directed the State Government to issue circular to prevent illegal quarry in the State and to form a special cell at District level to review the matter on monthly basis. The Court has also asked to fix the responsibility on various lower level functionaries of the Government viz. Revenue (i.e VAO), Police (Sub Inspector of Police) and Forest (Ranger) Department officials.

2. As the District Level Task Forces have already been constituted to prevent illegal mining / transportation, the District Collector, Nilgiris has requested the Government to form committees to check illegal quarrying at District Level and Taluk level with a composition of various categories of officials for prevention of mining / transportation effectively.

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3. In Letter No.20008/MMA1/2004, dated 19.9.2005, the Government have directed all the District Collectors to constitute District Level Task Force consisting of the following officials

- i. District Collector - Chairman
- ii. Superintendent of Police
- iii. Deputy Collector looking after Revenue and Mining.
- iv. District Mining Officer or District Level official of the Department of Geology and Mining, Member Secretary/Convenor.
- v. District Forest Officer.
- vi. State Pollution Control Board official.
- vii. District Transport official.

Accordingly, the District Collectors have constituted the District Level Task Forces and they are conducting monthly review meetings.

4. However it is felt that the composition of officials in the existing District Level Task Force is inadequate to curtail the menace of illicit mining / quarrying when compared with the proposal of the District Collector, Nilgiris regarding constitution of District Level Committee. Hence, for effective monitoring at root level / curtailment of illicit quarrying / mining/ transportation of minerals and to minimize loss of Revenue to the State exchequer, the Government direct the Collectors of all Districts to reconstitute the existing District Level Task Forces with composition of following officials.

1. District Collector - Chairman
2. Superintendent of Police
3. District Forest Officer.
4. District Revenue Officer
5. Regional Transport Officer
6. Revenue Divisional Officers
7. Deputy Superintendent of Police
8. Assistant Director (Panchayat)
9. Assistant Director (Town Panchayat)
10. Commissioners of Municipalities.
11. District Level official from Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board.

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- 12. Deputy Director (Mines) / Assistant Director (Mines) – Member Secretary / Convenor.
- 13. The EE (PWD-WRO)

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5. The functions of the District Level Task Forces shall be as follows:

- a) to collect / review the information / cases / issues to the illegal mining / quarrying within their jurisdictions.
- b) to monitor the functions of the Taluk Level Task Forces.

Task

The District Level Task Force shall meet once in a month without fail to discuss the illegal quarrying / mining / transportation / damage caused to the environment and to send report to State Level Task Force.

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6. The Government also direct all the District Collectors to constitute Taluk Level Task Forces with the composition of following officials.

- 1. Tahsildar - Convenor
- 2. Inspector
- 3. Forest Officer (Forest Range Officer)
- 4. A Representative of Department of Geology and Mining in the concerned District.
- 5. A Representative of Regional Transport Officer.
- 6. Village Administrative Officers
- 7. Sub Inspector of Police.
- 8. AE (PWD-WRO)

7. The Taluk Level Task Force shall make frequent surprise checks in the mining / quarrying field and on vehicles transporting minerals so as to arrest illicit quarrying / mining / transportation of mineral by forming flying squads and submit its report to District Level Task Force and it shall meet fortnightly.

8. In the event of illegal mining, the village Administrative Officer, Tahsildar, Officer in-Charge of Department of Geology and Mining at District Level and the Police officer in-Charge of the area shall be held responsible for not taking proper action against the offenders and the concerned District Collector is requested to take Departmental action against them and send a report to Government.

9. The Collectors of all Districts are requested to take immediate
and send report to Government.

(BY ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR)

M.F. FAROOQUI,
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
All District Collectors
(except Chennai)
The Commissioner of Geology and Mining,
Guindy, Chennai - 600 032.


Copy to
The Secretary,
Government of India,
Ministry of Mines,
New Delhi - 110 001.

The Regional Controller of Mines,
Indian Bureau of Mines,
Rajaji Bhavan,
Besant Nagar, Chennai - 600 090

Industries (MMB, MMC, MMD, MME)
Department, Chennai - 600 009.
CNo.15265/MMA1/2009.

SF/SC

// Forwarded / By order //


Section Officer