

**WP(PIL) NO: 205 of 2023**

Epuri Rajasekhar

...Petitioner

Vs.

The State Of Andhra Pradesh and Others

...Respondent(s)

Advocate for Petitioner:

Leo Law Associates LLP

Advocate(s) for Respondent(s):

Mr. Yelisetti Somaraju, Standing
Counsel (APPCB)**CORAM : THE CHIEF JUSTICE DHIRAJ SINGH THAKUR
SRI JUSTICE RAVI CHEEMALAPATI****DATE : 13th August 2025****P C :**

The issue that has been highlighted in the present petition is with regard to the pollution that is caused mainly by the limestone industries.

Learned counsel for the petitioner states that the number of unauthorized units are much more than those which have obtained authorization and 'Consent to Operate' from the Pollution Control Department. It is stated that these units, in any case, even the authorized units are not being checked periodically even when the level of pollution is significantly high.

In response to the averments made in the petition, the stand taken by the Pollution Control Department is that the ambient air quality of as many as nine pulverizing units in Piduguralla area was inspected on 29.11.2023 and

30.11.2023. Some of the units, it is stated, didn't have proper sprinkling arrangements at 'Dust Prone Areas' and the air quality was recorded in the range of $120 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ - $887 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ as against the accepted norm of maximum $100 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

It appears that the Board issued certain instructions to these industries to take necessary action. From the record, it appears that inspection was conducted as early as in November, 2023 and thereafter what has happened is not known. The stand of the respondents further is that although 50 units have been authorized, yet 9 units were in operation.

We direct the Pollution Control Board to inspect all the authorized units and submit a comprehensive report in regard to the air quality as also the steps taken by those industries, which had in the past been instructed to improve their pollution control mechanisms.

It may also be clarified as to whether the Board has prescribed certain guidelines for the lime kilns and also to have adequate pollution control mechanisms in place and if yes, what steps the Pollution Control Board has taken to supervise the said lime kilns. We would also require the presence of Senior Environmental Engineer (Zonal Office) in the Pollution Control Department, in-charge of the said area, to appear through virtual mode on the next date of hearing. The officer shall also inspect the area in an around Piduguralla and submit as to whether there are any unauthorized pulverizing units and lime kilns operating in the area.

List on 12.11.2025.

DHIRAJ SINGH THAKUR, CJ

RAVI CHEEMALAPATI, J

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