

GAHC030005642024



THE GAUHATI HIGH COURT
(HIGH COURT OF ASSAM, NAGALAND, MIZORAM AND ARUNACHAL PRADESH)

Case No. : PIL/5/2024

Smt. Vanramchhuangi
R/o Chaltlang Dawrkawn,
Aizawl, Mizoram.

VERSUS

The State of Mizoram, R/b The Chief Secretary, Govt. of Mizoram and 13 Ors.
Aizawl, Mizoram 2:The Secretary
Finance Dept.
Govt. of Mizoram
Aizawl
Mizoram.

3:The Secretary
Planning Dept.
Govt. of Mizoram
Aizawl
Mizoram

4:The Secretary
Public Works Dept.
Govt. of Mizoram
Aizawl
Mizoram.

5:The Engineer in Chief
Public Works Dept.
Govt. of Mizoram
Aizawl
Mizoram.

6:The Principal Secretary
Environment
Forests and Climate Change Dept.

Govt. of Mizoram
Aizawl
Mizoram.

7:The Divisional Forest Officer
Aizawl Forest Division
Govt. of Mizoram
Aizawl
Mizoram.

8:National Bank of Agriculture and Rural Development r/b the Chairman
NABARD
India
Office at- Plot C-24
G Block
Bandra Kula complex
BKC Road
Bandra East
Bombay
Maharashtra.

9:Chief General Manager
National Bank of Agriculture and Rural Development
NABARD Regional Office
Mizoram
MINECO.

10:Sh. F. Lalliansanga
R/o Aizawl Venglai
Aizawl
Mizoram

11:Sh. P.C. Lalawmpuia
S/o Sh. Biakliana
R/o Mission Veng
Aizawl
Mizoram

12:Sh. Vanlalsanga
R/o Mission Veng
Aizawl
Mizoram.

13:Sh. Zoramchhana
R/o Electric Veng
Aizawl
Mizoram.

14:Sh. L. Nghakliana
R/o Chanmari West
Aizawl
Mizora

Advocate for the Petitioner : Mr. Joseph Lalchhanhima Renthlei

Advocate for the Respondent : Addl. AG/GA, Mizoram for R1 to R7

Linked Case : I.A.(Civil)/158/2024

Smt. Vanramchhuangi
R/o Chaltlang Dawrkawn
Aizawl

VERSUS

The Chief Secretary to the Govt. of Mizoram and 13 Ors.
Aizawl

Advocate for the Petitioner : Mr. Joseph Lalchhanhima Renthlei
Advocate for the Respondent :

B E F O R E
HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE MARLI VANKUNG
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE KAUSHIK GOSWAMI
ORDER

21.05.2025

(Marli Vankung,J)

Ms. Lalnunhlui, learned Govt. Advocate submits that in compliance with this Court's Order dated 22.04.2025, wherein, the respondents were required to provide the definition of a forest as applicable to the State of Mizoram, the

Environment, Forest & Climate Change Department has constituted the expert committee vide a notification dated 19.03.2025 wherein, the expert committee are required to take the following steps:-

- “a) Identify areas which are ‘forests’ irrespective of whether they are so notified, recognized or classified under any law, and irrespective of the ownership of such land;*
- b) Identify areas which were earlier forests but stand degraded, or cleared; and*
- c) Identify areas covered by plantation trees belonging to the Government and those belonging to private persons.”*

Thereafter, a report of the expert committee is to be submitted to the Government by the end of August, 2025. A copy of the notification is marked 'X' and made a part of the record.

The learned Govt. Advocate has also prayed for further time to file an affidavit regarding the outcome/resolution of meeting which was held on 21.04.2025 involving the Public Works Department, Environment, Forest & Climate Change Department, NABARD and Law & Judicial Department and Financial Department regarding the construction of road through the forest land, whereby, a number of trees had been felled without taking due permission.

The learned Govt. Advocate is granted another 3 weeks time to file the affidavit.

List the matter **after 3 (three) weeks.**

JUDGE

JUDGE

Comparing Assistant