

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JHARKHAND AT RANCHI
W.P.(PIL) No. 2026 of 2021

Anurag Kumar Rai & Anr. Petitioners
Versus
The State of Jharkhand & Ors. Respondents

With
W.P.(PIL) No. 3771 of 2017
With
W.P.(PIL) No. 4417 of 2018
With
W.P.(PIL) No. 115 of 2019
With
W.P.(PIL) No. 2198 of 2021

CORAM: HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE RAJESH SHANKAR

For the Petitioners	: Ms. Vipul Divya Advocate Mr. Rajeev Kumar, Advocate Mr. Vijay Ranjan Sinha, Advocate Mr. Mohammad Asghar, Advocate Ms. Ishika Tigga, Advocate Mr. A.K. Rashidi, Advocate Md. Azam, Advocate Ms. Aulia Begum, Advocate Mrs. Sunita Kumari, Advocate
For the Respondent-State	: Mr. Sachin Kumar, AAG-II Mr. Gaurav Raj, AC to AAG-II
For the Respondent-JSPCB	: Mr. Rahul Saboo, Advocate Ms. Risheeta Singh, AC to Mrs. Richa Sanchita, Advocate
For the Respondent-UoI	: Mr. Prashant Pallav, D.S.G.I
For the Respondent-SEIAA	: Mr. Bhanu Kumar, Advocate Ms. Bharti Kumari, Advocate
For the Intervenor	: Mrs. Ritu Kumar, Advocate Mr. Rajeev Ranjan Tiwary, Advocate Mr. Ranjit Kumar Tiwari, Advocate Mr. Anjummar Dewarshi, Advocate

21/13.11.2025 On 11.08.2025, Mr. Bhanu Kumar, learned counsel
for the respondent- State Level Environment Impact Assessment
Authority (SEIAA), had argued that the role of SEIAA was
confined to granting of environmental clearances and thereafter
it had no role whatsoever. However, the Court was not ready to

accept that submission and accordingly, initially directed the respondent no. 8 – Member Secretary, SEIAA to file a better affidavit. However, having not been convinced with the affidavit filed by the said respondent, this Court directed the Ex-Officio Member Secretary of SEIAA to remain physically present before this Court.

2. In compliance of the aforesaid order, Ms. Smitha Pankaj, Member Secretary, SEIAA (respondent no. 8) is physically present before this Court today.

3. It is not in dispute that SEIAA has been constituted in terms of the notification vide S.O. No. 1533(E) dated 14.09.2006 issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forest, Government of India and in terms of Clause-2 thereof, the SEIAA has been held to be the concerned regulatory authority for the matters falling under Category 'B' in the schedule to the notification. In terms of Clause-10 of the said notification, which relates to 'Post Environmental Clearance Monitoring', it has been clearly provided that "It shall be mandatory for the project management to submit half-yearly compliance reports in respect of the stipulated prior environmental clearance terms and conditions in hard and soft copies to the regulatory authority concerned, on 1st June and 1st December of each calendar year".

4. It is candidly admitted by the respondent no. 8 that no such report has been submitted by the project managements and henceforth, she would be calling for all these reports so as

to take appropriate action in the matter in case the project managements have been found to be either wanting or found to be violating any of the environmental clearance terms and conditions.

5. The aforesaid statement of the respondent no. 8 is taken on record.

6. List these cases on 07.01.2026 when the action taken report on behalf of the respondent no. 8 shall be filed.

7. Meanwhile, all the authorities shall ensure the strict monitoring of the environmental laws and file their respective counter affidavits, which will include the affidavit of the respondent – Jharkhand State Pollution Control Board (JSPCB).

8. The personal appearance of the respondent no. 8 is dispensed with.

9. I.A. No. 12227 of 2025 has been filed on behalf of the intervenor/applicant – Kanhayia Kumar Singh seeking intervention in the matters.

10. Mr. Bhanu Kumar, learned counsel for the respondent-SEIAA prays for and is permitted to file reply to the said interlocutory application before the next date of hearing.

(Tarlok Singh Chauhan, C.J.)

(Rajesh Shankar, J.)