

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JHARKHAND AT RANCHI

W.P.(PIL) No. 2026 of 2021

Anurag Kumar Rai & Another Petitioners

Versus

The State of Jharkhand & Others ... 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 Petitioner	:	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 Resp-State	:	Md. Shahabuddin, SC-VII Mr I.A. Khan, A.C to SC-VII
For the Respondent-JSPCB :		Mr. Rahul Saboo, Advocate Mrs. Richa Sanchita, Advocate Ms Risheetta Singh, Advocate
For the Respondent-JSMDC :		Mr. Piyush Chitresh, Advocate
For the Respondent-SEIAA :		Mr. Bhanu Kumar, Advocate Mr. Anuj Sarwesh, Advocate Mr Prabhakaran Munda, Advocate

22 /Dated: 06.08.2026

1. Heard the learned counsel for the parties.
2. W.P.(PIL) No. 2026 of 2021 complains about rampant illegal stone mining and stone crushing units in and around Chhutupalu Valley in Ormanjhi Block in Ranchi District (said area).
3. Though several affidavits have been filed in these matters, there is no clarity about the status of stone mining and stone crushing units in the said area. Accordingly, we direct a team comprising the representative of Jharkhand State Pollution Control Board, State Environment Impact

Assessment Authority (SEIAA), representative to be nominated by the Deputy Commissioner, Ranchi (not below the rank of Additional Collector), official to be nominated by the Senior Superintendent of Police, Ranchi (not below the rank of Additional Superintendent of Police) and the District Mining Officer, Ranchi to inspect the above referred area and submit a report to this Court within six weeks from today.

4. The report should firstly indicate the number and details of stone mining and stone crushing units in the said area. After that, the report should indicate whether such stone mining and stone crushing units have the necessary permission, clearances, etc. from all the Statutory Authorities. The report should also indicate whether the various monitoring agencies, like SEIAA, and the State Pollution Control Board are monitoring the functioning of such units, if such units have been granted clearances by these Authorities.

5. If there are units functioning without any permissions or clearances as required under the law, then the authorities are duty-bound to take action to stop the same forthwith. Similarly, if any units are functioning in breach of the terms and conditions of the permissions or clearances, the authorities are bound to initiate suitable action, no doubt consistent with the principles of natural justice. The authorities, however, cannot simply refuse to seriously address such complaints and tolerate illegal mining, if it is indeed going on in the said area.

6. The Secretary, Mines and Geology Department, Government of Jharkhand is directed to issue necessary directions for constitution of the above-referred inspection team and to coordinate the functioning of the team. The Secretary may also appoint a Nodal Officer from the Mining and Geology Department to coordinate the inspection and assist this team in submitting the report, which, for the present, will be restricted to Chhutupalu valley in Ormanjhi block in Ranchi district.

7. The report must be filed no later than 21st of September, 2026. Copy of this report must be furnished to the learned counsel for the petitioner

before the same is filed in this Court. The Secretary, Mines and Geology Department, Government of Jharkhand will be responsible for ensuring compliance with this order.

8. We list these matters on 24th September 2026 for orders to consider compliance.

(M.S. Sonak, C.J.)

(Rajesh Shankar, J.)

August 06, 2026
Ranjeet / R.Kr.
NAFR
Uploaded on 10.08.2026