

PIL No. 2 of 2022 with  
PIL No. 8 of 2022  
PIL No. 9 of 2022  
PIL No. 14 of 2022

Date of order: 26.09.2023

In Re: (Suo motu): Illegal Mining  
of coal in the State of Meghalaya

Champer M. Sangma vs State of Meghalaya & ors  
Shailendra Kumar Sharma vs State of Meghalaya & ors  
Monu Kumar vs State of Meghalaya & ors

**Coram:**

**Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjib Banerjee, Chief Justice**  
**Hon'ble Mr. Justice H. S. Thangkhiew, Judge**  
**Hon'ble Mr. Justice W. Diengdoh, Judge**

**Appearance in PIL No. 2 of 2022:**

For the Petitioner : - सत्यमेव जयते  
For the State : Mr A. Kumar, Advocate-General with  
Mr K. Khan, AAG  
Mr S. Sengupta, Addl Sr GA  
Ms R. Colney, GA  
For the Union : Dr N. Mozika, DSG with  
Ms K. Gurung, Adv.  
For Coal India Limited : Mr M.Z. Ahmed, Sr Adv. with  
Mrs. B. Dutta, Sr Adv.

**Appearance in PIL No. 8 of 2022:**

For the Petitioner : Mr S. Deb, Adv.  
For the Respondents : Mr A. Kumar, Advocate-General with  
Mr K. Khan, AAG  
Mr S. Sengupta, Addl Sr GA  
Ms R. Colney, GA  
Dr N. Mozika, DSG with  
Ms K. Gurung, Adv.

Mr D. Nath, GA (VC) [For State of Assam]

**Appearance in PIL No. 9 of 2022:**

For the Petitioner : Mr A. Goyal, Adv. (VC)  
For the Respondents : Mr A. Kumar, Advocate-General with  
Mr K. Khan, AAG  
Mr S. Sengupta, Addl Sr GA  
Ms R. Colney, GA  
Dr N. Mozika, DSG with  
Ms K. Gurung, Adv.

**Appearance in PIL No. 14 of 2022:**

For the Petitioner : None  
For the Respondents : Mr A. Kumar, Advocate-General with  
Mr K. Khan, AAG  
Mr S. Sengupta, Addl Sr GA  
Ms R. Colney, GA

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A 17<sup>th</sup> interim report has been filed in the suo motu proceedings by Justice B.P. Katakey (retired). Such report is dated September 22, 2023.

2. In addition, a status report has been filed today by Justice Katakey in pursuance of the previous order of August 29, 2023.

3. On behalf of the State, it is submitted that some 30 applications have been received for scientific mining and the applications are being processed, in conjunction with the Ministry of Coal. It is hoped that all safety and environmental norms are met while conducting scientific mining.

4. It is submitted by one of the other petitioners that despite a direction by this Court on August 10, 2023 for the State to look into the other industries using the illegally-mined coal in their functioning, no report has been forthcoming from the State. Learned Advocate-General

submits that even such aspect of the matter is being monitored by Justice Katakey and certain anomalies have been noticed by the State in how the ferro-alloy industry, the cement industry and the coke industry obtain their supplies of coal.

5. A report in such regard should be filed by the State when the matter appears next week. Copies of the 17<sup>th</sup> interim report and the status report filed today by Justice Katakey may be obtained by all the parties interested from the officer of this Court. The matter will appear a week hence.

6. List on October 4, 2023.

**(W. Diengdoh)**  
**Judge**

**(H.S. Thangkhiew)**  
**Judge**

**(Sanjib Banerjee)**  
**Chief Justice**

Meghalaya  
26.09.2023  
"Sylvana PS"

