



Serial No. 02
Regular List

HIGH COURT OF MEGHALAYA
AT SHILLONG

MC (PIL) No. 4 of 2026 in
PIL No. 2 of 2022

Date of Order: 27.04.2026

In Re: (Sou Motu): Illegal Mining of Vs. State of Meghalaya & Ors.
coal in the State of Meghalaya

Coram:

Hon'ble Mr. Justice H. S. Thangkhiew, Judge
Hon'ble Mr. Justice W. Diengdoh, Judge

Appearance:

For the Petitioner(s) :

For the Respondent(s) : Mr. A. Kumar, AG with
Ms. R. Colney, GA
Dr. N. Mozika, DSGI with
Ms. M. Myrchiang, Adv.

Per. H.S. Thangkhiew, Judge:

1. A Status Report dated 15.04.2026, has been filed in compliance to the order dated 05.03.2026, passed by this Court in the instant Misc. Case. The steps taken with regard to the investigations and chargesheets that has been filed in a number of cases, have been given in detail, as also the registration of Suo Motu FIR's under the Explosive Substances Act. It is



stated in the Report that 7(seven) persons have been identified and arrested, including persons directly involved in illegal mining activities, and handling of explosives. It is also reported that in a multitude of matters, the owners of the mines have been identified and statements have been recorded, and in instances where coal owners are not identified, the concerned headmen have been identified and charge sheeted.

2. With regard to the payment of compensation, it is reported that out of 31(thirty-one) victims, 14(fourteen) persons have been afforded compensation, but it is also noted that the same relates only to the residents of Assam and Meghalaya, whereas many victims are also from Nepal. Though it is stated that steps have been taken through official channels to identify the heirs of the deceased, it is felt necessary by this Court that the matter should be taken up more expeditiously, inasmuch as, the persons who received the bodies, would naturally be the heirs, or the heirs known to them.

3. Though the investigation is ongoing, it is expected that in terms of the orders of this Court and the findings of the Justice B.P. Katakey (Retd.) Committee, that further action be taken, which is more decisive, especially to identify track down the persons/officials who are directly or indirectly involved in facilitating illegal mining and its transportation, and appropriate action be taken.



4. A Status Report of the Special Investigation Team (SIT), has also been filed, and the same apart from the stating the terms of reference has little to offer, except that some transfers have been effected, which however, does not disclose whether the same has been done in the normal course, or due to any complicit action on the part of the transferred officers or persons. This Court expects that the SIT, which has been specially constituted to look into these matters, apart from reviewing or relying on the progress of the cases currently under investigation, take more pro-active steps as per the stated mandate and the terms of the reference. Though the learned Advocate General has offered that the stages of investigation be given in a sealed cover, however this Court does not feel it is necessary at this point of time, but only a brief report on the next date would suffice.

5. Accordingly, list this matter on 01.06.2026, for further orders.

(W. Diengdoh)
Judge

(H.S. Thangkhiew)
Judge

Meghalaya
27.04.2026
"V. Lyndem PS"