

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI**

Application No. 294 of 2013 (SZ)

IN THE MATTER OF:

News items published in The Hindu
Dated 22.10.2013 "Tribals Clear Forest
Bushes in Tiger Reserve Area.

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Applicant(s)

AND

1. Secretary to Government
Ministry of Environment and Forests
Union of India
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road
New Delhi.110 003.

2. The Additional Chief Secretary to Government
Environment and Forest Department
Fort St. George
Chennai.600 009

3. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Head of Forest Force)
Panagal Building, Saidapet
Chennai.600 015.

4. The Chairman
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board
Guindy
Chennai-600 032.

5. The District Collector
Erode District
Erode-637 001

6. The Tribal Welfare Officer
Tribal Welfare Department
District Collectorate
Erode.

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Respondent(s)

Counsel appearing for the Applicant:

Counsel appearing for the Respondents:

**Mrs. C. Sangamithirai for R-1
Mr. M.K. Subramanian and
Mr. M.R. Gokul Krishnan for R-2, R-3, R-5 and R-6
Mrs. Rita Chandrasekar for R-4**

ORDER

PRESENT:

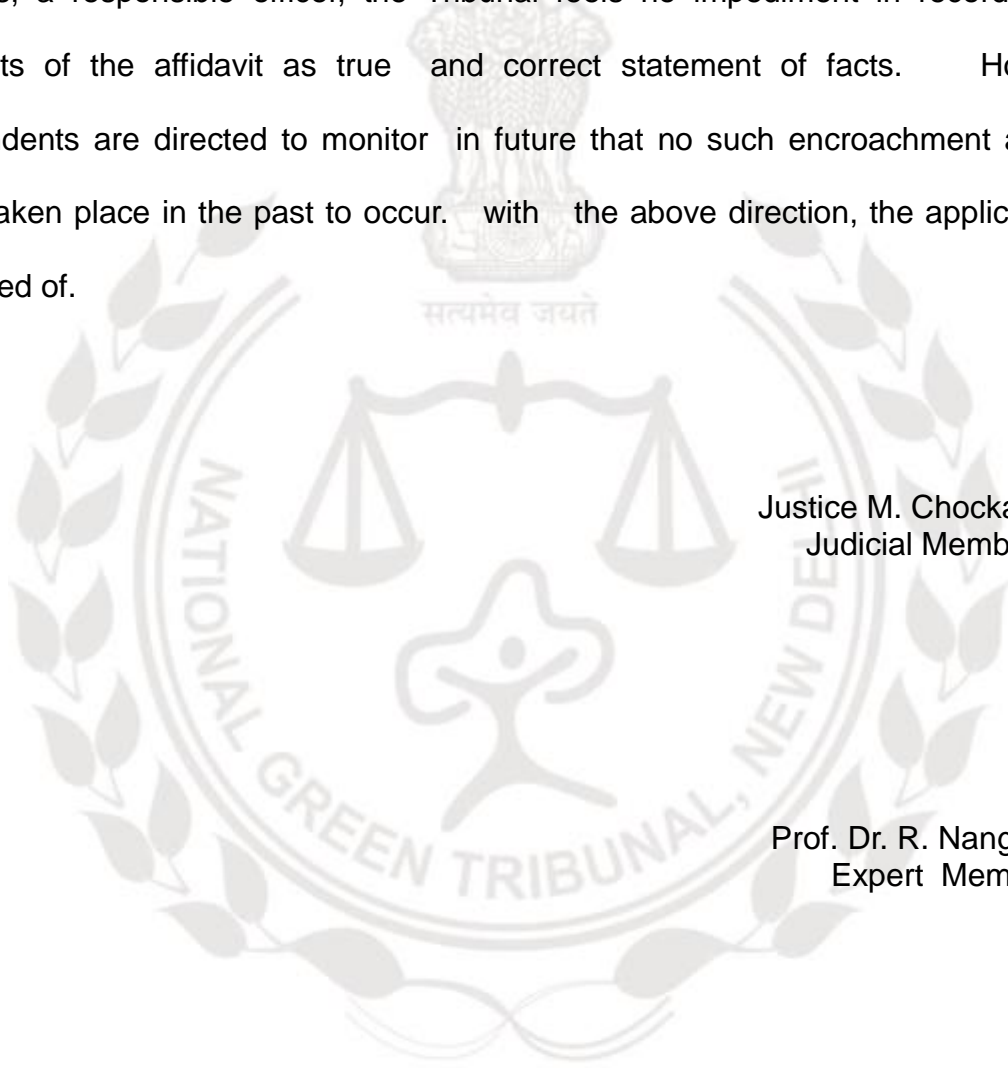
HON'BLE SHRI JUSTICE M. CHOCKALINGAM, JUDICIAL MEMBER

HON'BLE PROF. Dr. R. NAGENDRAN, EXPERT MEMBER

Dated 24TH February, 2015

This application was taken on suo motu cognisance by this Tribunal on a News item dated 22.10.2013 that the Tiger Reserve Forest Area was encroached upon by the tribal people. Notice was ordered to the respondents. They entered appearance. Replies were filed. It was submitted by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests concerned that an affidavit would be filed to the effect that all necessary measures were taken; criminal prosecution were laid against encroachers and thus the encroachments have been removed. This day an affidavit is filed on behalf of the 3rd respondent. A perusal of the affidavit would indicate that the tribal people attempted to occupy more area by clearing forests bushes around the settlement which has spotted by the forest staff. It is also made clear in the affidavit that no

trees were cut and 25 criminal cases were laid against the wrong doers. As on today all the encroachments were cleared and as such there is no encroachment of forests land. In view of the affidavit filed by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, a responsible officer, the Tribunal feels no impediment in recording the contents of the affidavit as true and correct statement of facts. However, respondents are directed to monitor in future that no such encroachment as they have taken place in the past to occur. with the above direction, the application is disposed of.



Justice M. Chockalingam
Judicial Member

Prof. Dr. R. Nangendran
Expert Member

NGT