

GAHC010016952025



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THE GAUHATI HIGH COURT
(HIGH COURT OF ASSAM, NAGALAND, MIZORAM AND ARUNACHAL PRADESH)

Case No. : PIL(Suo Moto)/1/2025

IN RE- DIMA HASAO TRAGEDY
NA

VERSUS

1.THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE GOVT. OF ASSAM AND 6 ORS.
JANATA BHAWAN, DISPUR, GUWAHATI-781006

2:THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE GOVT. OF ASSAM
MINES AND MINERALS DEPARTMENT
JANATA BHAWAN DISPUR GUWAHATI-781006

3:THE COMMISSIONER AND SECRETARY TO THE GOVT. OF ASSAM
ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST DEPARTMENT
JANATA BHAWAN DISPUR GUWAHATI-781006

4:THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVT. OF ASSAM
HOME AND POLITICAL DEPARTMENT
JANATA BHAWAN DISPUR GUWAHATI-781006

5:THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
REVENUE AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT
JANATA BHAWAN DISPUR GUWAHATI-781006

6:THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY
KARBI ANGLONG AUTONOMOUS COUNCIL
M.G. ROAD DIPHU-782460

7:THE DIRECTOR
DIRECTORATE OF GEOLOGY AND MINING
KAHILIPARA GUWAHATI-78101

For the Petitioners(s) : Mr. P.P. Dutta, Advocate on behalf of Mr. T.J. Mahanta,
Senior Advocate/Standing Counsel, Gauhati High Court.

For the Respondent(s) : Mr. D. Saikia, Advocate General, Assam assisted by Mr. D.
Nath, Senior Government Advocate, Assam and Ms. P.
Barua, Advocate.

- B E F O R E -

**HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE MR. VIJAY BISHNOI
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE KAUSHIK GOSWAMI**

28.01.2025

(Vijay Bishnoi, CJ)

Pursuant to the order passed by this Court dated 27.01.2025, this PIL (Suo Moto) petition is being registered and listed before this Court today.

The Court has taken note of the coal mine tragedy that had taken place in Umrangso of Dima Hasao district of Assam.

The Court has taken note of various reports which suggest that around more than 200 *rat-hole* mines are in operation in Umrangso area. The Court has also taken note that in Karbi Anglong district of the State of Assam, the *rat-hole* mining is rampant and is either going unnoticed or despite having knowledge of the same, the authorities are not taking any action to stop or close those *rat-hole* mines.

Be that as it may, we deem it appropriate to issue notice to the respondents.

Issue notice.

Mr. D. Saikia, learned Advocate General, Assam puts in appearance and accepts notice on behalf of respondent Nos.1 to 5 and 7 and Mr. J. Chutia, learned Standing Counsel, Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council appears and

accepts notice on behalf of respondent No.6.

Let the paper book be supplied to the respective counsel representing the respondents.

Learned counsel appearing for the respondents may file their response to the PIL (Suo Moto) petition and the latest status report regarding the action taken by the State Government to stop the practice of *rat-hole* coal mining in the State of Assam by the next date of hearing.

List this PIL (Suo Moto) petition on 07.02.2025.

JUDGE

CHIEF JUSTICE

Comparing Assistant