

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
WESTERN ZONE BENCH, PUNE**

THROUGH PHYSICAL HEARING (WITH HYBRID OPTION)

**Dy. No.270413800657/2024
(Original Application)**

Dr. Snehal Donde

.....Applicant

Versus

State of Maharashtra & Ors.

....Respondents

Date of hearing: 12.11.2024

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE DINESH KUMAR SINGH, JUDICIAL MEMBER
HON'BLE DR. VIJAY KULKARNI, EXPERT MEMBER**

Applicant : Mr. Biswaranjan Pramguru, Advocate

ORDER

1. The issue of concretization of river bed of Waldhuni River in front of Ambernath Shiv Temple, District- Thane, Maharashtra has been raised in the present Original Application, which is being done in the name of beautification of the temple and it is being alleged that the same is causing loss to the river biodiversity and complete environment at large. The State Government of Maharashtra has sanctioned Rs.107 Crores to beautify the 963-year-old Lord Shiv Temple complex in Ambernath. It is also alleged that this issue has been highlighted in the media reports as well, as Bhoomi Pujan has been done for the said purpose. Hence prayer is made that direction be issued to the respondents, particularly, respondent No.4- The Chief Officer, Ambernath Municipal Council, Ambernath, District- Thane, who has undertaken the above-mentioned project, to de-concretize the river bed of Waldhuni River and to restore the said river to its original position. It is also prayed that environmental compensation be assessed for damaging the river bed of Waldhuni River and the same be levied from the respondent No.4.

2. We find *prima facie* case adversely impacting environment is made out, therefore, we deem it appropriate to admit this application and accordingly admit the same.

3. Registry is directed to issue Notice to the respondents, returnable within 04(four) weeks.

4. Applicant is directed to take necessary steps for service to the respondents by both ways (Dasti as well as by Registered Post) and also on available e-mail/WhatsApp and submit service affidavit within one week.

5. Applicant is also directed to supply copy of the application and relevant documents to the respondents within a week.

6. Respondents are directed to submit their reply affidavits within four weeks through e-filing portal of NGT and also circulate the same to the applicant as also other respondents by available e-mail.

7. Rejoinder, if any, is directed to be submitted within one week thereafter.

8. A copy of this order be communicated to the applicant forthwith for compliance.

Put up this matter for further consideration on 08.01.2025

Dinesh Kumar Singh, JM

Dr. Vijay Kulkarni, EM

November 12, 2024
Dy. No.270413800657/2024
(Original Application)
P.Kr