

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
EASTERN ZONE BENCH, KOLKATA  
(THROUGH PHYSICAL HEARING WITH HYBRID MODE)**

Original Application No.77/2024/EZ  
(Earlier O.A. No.179/2024/PB)

New item titled “Six workers killed  
in fire inside Nagaland rat-hole mine  
“appearing in The Hindu Bureau  
Dated 27.01.2024”

Applicant(s)

Versus

Nagaland Pollution Control Board & Ors.

Respondent(s)

Date of hearing: 30.04.2024

**CORAM: HON’BLE MR. JUSTICE B. AMIT STHALEKAR, JUDICIAL MEMBER  
HON’BLE DR. ARUN KUMAR VERMA, EXPERT MEMBER**

For Applicant(s) : *Suo Motu*

For Respondent(s) : Mr. Prang Newmai, Advocate for R-1 (in Virtual Mode),  
Mr. Ashok Prasad, Advocate for R-3

**ORDER**

1. Cognizance of the present case was taken up *suo-motu* by the Principal Bench, National Green Tribunal, New Delhi, as Original Application No.179/2024 on 29.02.2022 on the basis of the news item titled “Six Workers killed in fire inside Nagaland rat-hole coal mine” published in “The Hindu Bureau” dated 27.01.2024 and thereafter transferred to the Eastern Zone Bench, Kolkata and re-numbered as Original Application No.77/2024/EZ.
2. The Respondents have already been impleaded by the New Delhi Bench.
3. Mr. Prang Newmai, learned Counsel appearing (in Virtual Mode) on behalf of the Respondent No.1, Nagaland Pollution Control Board and Mr. Ashok Prasad, learned Counsel appearing on behalf of the Respondent No.3, Directorate General of Mines Safety, pray for and are granted four weeks time for filing counter-affidavit.

4. Notice of this case was sent by the National Green Tribunal, Eastern Zone Bench, Kolkata through email dated 18.04.2024 on the email address [dcwoc-ngl@nic.in](mailto:dcwoc-ngl@nic.in) but no one has appeared on behalf of the District Commissioner/District Magistrate, Wokha and it is not known which Counsel is representing the State Respondents.
5. We, therefore, direct the District Magistrate, Wokha, to be present (in Virtual Mode) on the next date of listing and file his counter-affidavit.
6. Mr. Prang Newmai, learned Counsel shall communicate copy of this order to the District Commissioner/District Magistrate, Wokha, within one week.
7. **List on 10.07.2024.**

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**B. Amit Sthalekar, JM**

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**Dr. Arun Kumar Verma, EM**

April 30, 2024,  
Original Application No.77/2024/EZ  
(Earlier O.A. No.179/2024/PB)  
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