



Corpbiz

**NGT directs to set up a committee to investigate illegal sand mining**



## **NGT directs to set up a committee to investigate illegal sand mining**

The national green tribunal has directed to create a committee to investigate the issue of illegal mining of sand in the Budhbalanga river bed, which falls under the badsahi tehsil in Mayur bhanj district.

The east-zone bench at Kolkata had issued direction to constitute a committee on 15.03.2022. This came after an application was filed alleging illegal mining without the valid environmental clearance (EC) and consent to operate (CTO) and causing losses to the state exchequer.

A bench consisting of Judicial member Justice B Amit sthalekar (judicial member) and Saibal Dasgupta (expert member) said, "The matter requires consideration. Considering the allegations made in the original application, we deem it appropriate to constitute a committee comprising senior scientist, State Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Odisha, senior scientist of Odisha State Pollution Control Board, District Magistrate Mayurbhanj or his representative not below the rank of sub-divisional magistrate of that area and district mining officer Mayurbanj."

The nodal office for the investigation shall be the state pollution control board of Odisha. The tribunal also directed the committee to inspect the site and submit the report within one month. The petition was filed by a resident of the area Radha Mohan Singh through his advocate Sankar Prasad Pani.

The petition stated that the permissible limit for sand mining is 2,000 cubic meters/day, and the lessee was extracting about 2,295 cubic meters/ per day and 4.819 lakh cubic metres/ year. This number is about 240 times the permissible limit. The illegal extraction was costing the state exchequer about Rs43.68 crore loss in revenue and at the same time causing environmental degradation.



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