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Mr. Gaurav Kejriwal, AOR

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Mr. Ashok Panigrahi, AOR

Mr. Hitendra Nath Rath, AOR

Mr. Anand Varma, AOR

Mr. Dhananjaya Mishra, AOR

UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following
O R D E R

I.A. NO.110418/2018 in W.P.(C) No.114/2014
(APPLN. FOR CONDONATION OF DELAY ON B/O M/S GEETA RANI MOHANTY, A
PARTNERSHIP FIRM)

Mr. Rakesh Dwivedi, learned Senior Counsel appearing for the
respondent-State of Orissa, affirms that all payments due from M/s
Geeta Rani Mohanty (firm) have been received.

Accordingly, the instant application for condonation of delay in depositing the amount of compensation is allowed.

Necessary steps may be taken by the State of Orissa so that mining operations may be resumed, subject to compliance of all mandatory requirements.

I.A. NO.137873/2018 in I.A. NO.110418/2018 in W.P.(C) No.114/2014
(APPLN. FOR DIRECTIONS ON B/O SMT. GEETA RANI MOHANTY IN IA NO. 110418/2018)

Learned counsel appearing for the applicant prays for and is granted four weeks' time to file rejoinder affidavit.

I.A. NOS.130079/2018 and 130083/2018
(APPLNS. FOR DIRECTIONS AND CONDONATION OF DELAY ON B/O MRUNAL DAS)

Learned counsel appearing for the applicant prays for and is granted four weeks' time to file rejoinder affidavit.

I.A. NO.113096/2018 (APPLN. FOR DIRECTIONS B/O STATE OF ORISSA)

Ms. Kirti R. Mishra, learned counsel appearing for the applicant prays for and is granted four weeks' time to file rejoinder affidavit.

I.A. NOS.172486 and 172493/2018
(APPLNS. FOR INTERVENTION AND DIRECTION ON B/O M/S NATIONAL ENTERPRISES)

Application for intervention is allowed only for the purpose of application for directions.

Mr. Rakesh Dwivedi, learned Senior Counsel appearing for the respondent-State of Orissa, confirms that all payments due from M/s National Enterprises have been received.

Accordingly, the application for direction is allowed and delay in making the payment is condoned.

Necessary steps may be taken by the State of Orissa so that mining operations may be resumed, subject to compliance of all mandatory requirements.

I.A. NOS.153571 and 153579/2018

(APPLNS. FOR IMPLEADMENT AND DIRECTION ON B/O M/S MANORANJAN DAS)

Application for impleadment is allowed only for the purpose of application for directions.

Since the applicant has not deposited the entire amount, the application for direction is dismissed.

I.A. NO.180945/2018 (APPLN.(S) FOR EXTENSION OF TIME FOR FRAMING NEW NATIONAL MINERAL POLICY)

For the reasons stated, the time, as prayed for, is further extended upto 30th April, 2019 to complete the task of reviewing the National Mineral Policy, 2008 and announce a new National Mineral Policy.

Hence, I.A. No.180945/2018 is disposed of.

Writ Petition (C) No.114/2014

In the course of hearing, the issue of deleterious effect of mining of vegetation in the area came up before us. In particular, it is well known that mining results in a complete elimination of grass in the area which results in denial of fodder to herbivores. We are informed that re-grassing technology is in existence today.

Mr. Mukul Rohatgi, learned Senior Counsel appearing for the applicant - Mining Lease Holder, fairly states that the mine owners would be willing to bear the cost of re-grassing upon termination of mining activities in the area since it is in the larger interest of the environment.

We request Mr. Rakesh Dwivedi, learned Senior Counsel appearing for the respondent-State of Orissa, to look into the matter and make appropriate suggestions for implementing this proposal of re-grassing after termination of mining activities.

Mr. Ashok Kumar Panda, learned Senior Counsel appearing for the respondent-Union of India, states that this will also be included as a part of the National Mining Policy 2019 which is being formulated by them.

Mr. Prashant Bhushan, learned counsel appearing for the petitioner, states that the report of the Committee comprising Hon'ble Mr. G.S. Singhvi and Hon'ble Mr. Anil R. Dave JJ, former Judges of this Court, is awaited.

The Registry of this Court is directed to find out the time period within which the aforesaid report is expected to come and apprise this Court of the same thereafter.

Put up after four weeks.

(SANJAY KUMAR-II)
COURT MASTER (SH)

(INDU KUMARI POKHRIYAL)
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR