

**BEFORE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI**

Original Application No. 425/2023

Deepika Khari

Applicant

Versus

State of U.P. & Ors.

Respondents

Date of hearing: 10.09.2025

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ARUN KUMAR TYAGI, JUDICIAL MEMBER
HON'BLE DR. AFROZ AHMAD, EXPERT MEMBER**

Applicant: None for the applicant.

Respondents: Ms. Suhasini Sen, Advocate for respondent no.1.
Mr. Deepak Boora, Advocate for respondent no. 2 to 5.
Mr. Anuj Bhandari, Advocate for respondent no. 7.
Mr. Sushanta Kumar Pattnaik, CCF, Fire and Disaster Management,
Uttarakhand.
None for the respondent no.6.

ORDER

1. In the present case, Forest Survey of India was impleaded as respondent no.6 and was duly served but none has appeared for respondent no.6 and no response has been filed by respondent no.6 so far.

2. The proceedings before this Tribunal are not adversarial in nature and the concerned authorities impleaded as respondents being under constitutional obligation to protect and improve environment cannot abstain from the proceedings before this Tribunal on assumption of applicability of provisions of civil law warranting taking of *ex-parte* proceedings against absenting respondents. Such authorities are

impleaded as respondents for a purpose taking into consideration their role and also their potential contribution to the environmental remediations: Since, respondent no.6- Forest Survey of India has not appeared despite service of notice, we are constrained to impose cost of Rs. 1 lakh on respondent no.6- Forest Survey of India for inconvenience, delay in disposal and unnecessary adjournment thereby caused.

3. Respondent no.6- Forest Survey of India is directed to appear on the next date of hearing fixed and file its response at least one week before the next date of hearing fixed and ensure its representation before this Tribunal within one month.

4. Costs may also be deposited by respondent no.6- Forest Survey of India with the Secretary, NGT Bar Association, Principal Bench, New Delhi.

5. In compliance with order dated 06.08.2025, Mr. Sushanta Kumar Pattnaik, CCF, Fire and Disaster Management, Uttarakhand has appeared before this Tribunal and we have interacted with him and heard submissions made by him.

6. In view of the nature and magnitude of the control of forest fires, we consider it essential that the information pertaining to each of the States and UTs having forest with respect to the aspects highlighted in the orders passed by this Tribunal be uploaded on the websites of the Forest Department of the concerned State/UT Forest Department and we direct uploading of such information on the website of the State/UT Forest Department within one month accordingly. CPCB is directed to forward a copy of this order to the PCCFs (HoFF) of the concerned States/UTs for requisite compliance and to compile the information and file report regarding the information so uploaded by the Forest Department of the concerned States/UTs.