

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
R E C O R D O F P R O C E E D I N G S

Civil Appeal No(s). 10584-10585/2013

ARADHANA BHARGAV & ORS.

Appellant(s)

VERSUS

MINISTRY OF ENV. & ORS.

Respondent(s)

(IA No. 58979/2023 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS
IA No. 5/2013 - STAY APPLICATION)

Date : 17-04-2025 This matter was called on for hearing today.

CORAM :

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ABHAY S. OKA
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE UJJAL BHUYAN

For Appellant(s) :

Mr. Sanjay Parikh, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Abhimanue Shrestha, AOR
Ms. Kritika, Adv.

Ms. Shomila Bakshi, AOR

For Respondent(s) :

Mrs. Aishwarya Bhati, A.S.G.
Mr. Gurmeet Singh Makker, AOR
Mrs. Suhashini Sen, Adv.
Mrs. Sunita Sharma, Adv.
Mr. T.S. Sabarish, Adv.
Mr. Nithin Chowdary Pavuluri, Adv.
Mr. Shagun Thakur, Adv.
Dr. N. Visakamurthy, AOR

Mr. Amit Sharma, A.A.G.
Mr. Sarad Kumar Singhania, AOR
Ms. Samridhi S. Jain, Adv.

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

Our order dated 19th March, 2025:

“1. Now the issue which remains is mainly about rehabilitation and resettlement of the persons affected by the Pench Diversion Project.

We, therefore, propose to constitute a Committee which will make fact finding exercise after perusal of the record and after making site visits to ascertain how many persons were adversely affected due to implementation of the project and how many and in what manner, they have been rehabilitated.

2. To enable the parties to suggest names so that a Committee can be constituted for making fact finding, list on 04.04.2025."

We, therefore, constitute a Committee consisting of the following members:

S.No.	Name of the Officer	Post & Office	Post in Committee	Remark
1.	Mr. Abhay Verma	Commissioner, Revenue Department Jabalpur Division (M.P.)	Chairman	Revenue Department
2.	Mr. John Kingsly	Secretary, Water Resources Department (M.P.)	Member	Water Resources Department
3.	Mrs.Anjali Shah	Additional Collector, District Narsingpur (M.P.)	Member	Expert
4.	Mr. Geetanjay Sahu	Expert	Member	Expert
5.	Mr. Rajesh Darade	Assistant Inspector General of Forest Regional Office Bhopal	Member	MOEFCC (Expert)
6.	Mr. Sant Kumar Sirsam	Executive Engineer Pench Diversion Dam W.R.Division No.1 Chourai Chhindwara (M.P.)	Member	Project Incharge
7.	Mr. Aakash Khare	Executive Engineer PWD, Chhindwara (M.P.)	Member Secretary	PWD

We direct the Committee to go into all aspects of rehabilitation of the project affected persons in accordance with law. We are concerned with 5607 hectares of land. The examination of rehabilitation will be of persons who are affected by the project of Pench diversification and dam construction for irrigation purposes on the river Pench at Chhindwara, Madhya Pradesh. The submission of the learned senior counsel appearing for the appellants is that rehabilitation should be considered in the light of the Madhya Pradesh Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy, 2002.

We leave it to the Committee to examine all aspects including the issue of the rehabilitation in terms of Policy of 2002.

We grant time of six months to the Committee to complete the exercise and submit a report to this Court.

We make it clear that the Committee will interact with the first appellant-Aradhana Bhargav. If the Committee requires any further direction from this Court, we permit Mr. Aakash Khare, Member Secretary of the Committee to submit a report to the Registrar (Judicial) of this Court who will forthwith place the same before an appropriate Bench.

These appeals shall be placed on Board immediately
after receipt of the report.

(ANITA MALHOTRA)
AR-CUM-PS

(AVGV RAMU)
COURT MASTER